
The Newsletter of The Economic History Society

Issue 38
August 2005

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The Newsletter is distributed to individual members of the Economic History Society with each issue of the Economic History Review. Items for inclusion in the Newsletter should be sent to the Society's Administrative Secretary, preferably by e-mail (see inside back cover for details). The copy dates are 1 September, 1 December, 1 March and 1 June. Inclusion of items is at the discretion of the Honorary Secretary and subject to the availability of space. The Economic History Society cannot accept responsibility for the accuracy of information submitted for publication. The Newsletter does not accept commercial advertising.

THE SOCIETY: NEWS FROM THE 2005 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The Society's Annual Conference, attended by 190 delegates, was held at the attractive Gilbert Murray Conference Centre, University of Leicester, 8-10 April. Local arrangements were handled by Professor Peter Fearon and the conference office staff at Leicester. The programme, compiled following a call for papers, had generated sufficient proposals for six parallel sessions in each of the academic slots and four in the new researcher slots. There was, among both delegates and speakers, a welcome number of non-British scholars. Professor Barry Eichengreen, University of California, delivered an excellent Tawney Lecture on: *Sterling's Past, Dollar's Future? Historical Perspectives on the Dollar's International Currency Role*. Twenty-three bursaries were awarded to assist the attendance at the conference of postgraduate students.

The T.S. Ashton Prize – awarded biennially to the author of the best article accepted for publication in the *Economic History Review* in the previous two calendar years (who satisfies at least one of three conditions at time of submission, see website for details: http://www.ehs.org.uk/society/grants_awards.asp) – was awarded to Dr Ben Dodds, University of Durham, for his paper, on: *Estimating arable output using Durham Priory tithe receipts, 1341-1450*.

Thanks to the generous donation by Professor Deirdre McCloskey of her 2003 Tawney Lecturer fee and expenses, there was an additional prize available for the best New Researcher paper presented at the conference. Such was the calibre of papers that three prizes were awarded. The prize winners were: Matthew Badcock (University of Central England) for his paper entitled: *Winning the local vote: the changing geographies of constituency campaigning in late 19th century British General Elections*; David Chambers for his paper on: *How well did the Stock Exchange treat industry? Evidence from initial public offerings on the London Stock Exchange* and to Natalia Mora-Sitjà (University of Oxford) for her paper entitled: *Women's wages and earnings inequality during industrialisation*.

The Conference Dinner and Reception (the latter sponsored by the University of Leicester) were attended by Professor Robert Burgess, Vice Chancellor, University of Leicester.

A public relations initiative, approved by Council to raise the profile of the Society, had resulted in newspaper and TV coverage of certain of the conference papers, including those by Matthew Badcock and Judith Spicksley (*Women, accounts and numeracy in 17th century England*). Further information can be found by following the links from the new 'Media Briefings' button on the website: www.ehs.org.uk/media/media.asp

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At the Annual General Meeting, the Society – following the procedures laid down in the Standing Orders – approved Council’s nominations of Professor Mike French (Honorary Treasurer, re-elected for a second three-year term), Professor Bob Allen (chair, Conference Committee), Dr Roger Middleton (chair, IT Committee), Professor Mark Overton (chair, Publications Committee) and Professor Anne Laurence (chair, Women’s Committee); the outgoing chairs – Professors Avner Offer and Maurice Kirby (respectively Conference and Publications Committee) – were thanked for their hard and enthusiastic work on behalf of the Society. Council members re-elected for a second three-year term were: Dr Francesca Carnevali, Professor Avner Offer, Professor Jim Tomlinson and Professor Chris Wrigley. No ballot was required. Those members who retired were thanked for their efforts while serving on Council: Professors John Hatcher and Bob Morris.

The spring meeting of Council approved the Executive Committee’s recommendation that an additional fellowship be awarded. Interviews to select four candidates for the Society’s fellowships for 2005-6 took place at the Institute of Historical Research on 31 May; a report will be made in a future issue of the newsletter.



ESRC LAUNCHES NEW WEBSITE FOR SOCIAL SCIENCES ESRC SOCIETY TODAY

The Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) has launched a brand new online initiative for social sciences research.

ESRC Society Today (www.esrcsocietytoday.ac.uk) offers academics, students and researchers unrivalled, free access to high quality social and economic research available, planned and in progress.

As well as bringing together all ESRC-funded research, the website provides a gateway to other key online resources from the UK such as Social Science Information Gateway (SOSIG), the UK Data Archive and the Office of National Statistics – as well as international coverage from services such as Europa and Social Science Research Network (SSRN).

It includes early findings, full texts and original data sets and allows users to establish online discussion fora, track down researchers in their key subject fields or find details on ESRC funding and training opportunities. There will also be the facility to register for regular news bulletins and e-mail alerts on areas of interest and to stay abreast of the latest research efficiently and effectively.

GIFT AID SCHEME

The Inland Revenue has ruled that the Economic History Society can reclaim the tax paid by members on their subscription to the Society under the Gift Aid scheme. This means that we can recover 28p for every £1.00 you have paid in subscriptions to the Society since April 2000; (a subscription of £21 can be turned into £26.88).

In order to claim this money the Revenue require a declaration from you. If your subscriptions are eligible to be treated as Gift Aid and you wish the Society to claim the tax paid, please, either:

Contact the administrative secretary (whose contact details can be found on the inside back cover of this publication), who will be happy to provide either a hard or electronic copy of the declaration; or:

Download the declaration on the website (<http://www.ehs.org.uk/ehs/membership/assets/GiftAidDeclaration2005.doc>), complete and return (either by e-mail or post) to the administrative secretary.

Please note that under the Gift Aid scheme:

- You must pay an amount of UK income tax and/or capital gains tax at least equal to the tax that we reclaim on your subscriptions in the tax year.
- You can cancel your declaration at any time by notifying us.
- If in the future your circumstances change and you no longer pay tax you can cancel your declaration.
- If you pay tax at the higher rate you can claim further tax relief in your Self-Assessment tax return.

I do hope you will be able to help the Society take advantage of this opportunity to increase its income.

◆ FUTURE CONFERENCES AND SEMINARS

ECONOMIC HISTORY SOCIETY FUTURE ANNUAL CONFERENCES

Discussions for possible venues for 2007 are currently ongoing.

Venues are being sought for 2008 onwards. Much of the organisation is carried out by the administrative secretary, who would be happy to answer queries from prospective hosts.

A detailed brief and timetable are available outlining specific requirements in terms of accommodation and responsibilities.

ECONOMIC HISTORY SOCIETY ANNUAL CONFERENCE 31 MARCH – 2 APRIL 2006 • UNIVERSITY OF READING

CALL FOR ACADEMIC PAPERS

The 2006 annual conference of the Economic History Society will be hosted by the University of Reading from 31 March to 2 April. The conference will run concurrently with that of the Social History Society, whose call for papers can be found on page 7 of this publication.

The conference programme committee welcomes proposals in all aspects of economic and social history covering a wide range of periods and countries, and particularly welcomes papers of an interdisciplinary nature.

The committee invites proposals for individual papers, as well as for entire sessions (3-4 speakers, 1.5 hours duration). The latter should include proposals and synopses for each paper in the session, although the committee reserves the right to determine which papers will be presented in the session if it is accepted. If a session is not accepted, the committee may incorporate one or more of the proposed papers into other panels.

For each proposed paper, please send (preferably by e-mail) a brief c.v. and a short abstract (including name, postal and e-mail addresses) of 400-500 words to: Maureen Galbraith, Economic History Society, Dept of Economic & Social History, University of Glasgow, 4 University Gardens, Glasgow G12 8QQ Scotland, UK. E-mail: ehsocsec@arts.gla.ac.uk

For full consideration, proposals must be received by 19 September 2005. Notices of acceptance will be sent to individual paper givers by 18 November 2005.

It is the normal expectation that speakers who submit a proposal for a paper to the Conference Committee should be able to obtain independent financial support for their travel and conference attendance. However, a very limited support fund exists to assist overseas speakers who are unable to obtain funding from their own institution or from another source. Details of this fund and an application form can be obtained from the Society's administrative secretary, Maureen Galbraith (ehsocsec@arts.gla.ac.uk). It is important that a completed application form is included with the paper proposal and the brief c.v. which are submitted to the conference committee for the September deadline. Only in exceptional circumstances will later applications for support be considered.

ECONOMIC HISTORY SOCIETY ANNUAL CONFERENCE 31 MARCH – 2 APRIL 2006 • UNIVERSITY OF READING

CALL FOR NEW RESEARCHERS' PAPERS

The 2006 annual conference of the Economic History Society will be hosted by the University of Reading from 31 March to 2 April.

The annual conference opens with papers presented by new researchers. They offer those completing doctorates the opportunity to present their work before professional colleagues and to benefit from informed comment.

The session will be held on the afternoon of Friday 31 March 2006. Those wishing to be considered for inclusion in the programme at Reading must submit a synopsis by 19 September 2005. This should provide a firm title, a succinct summary of the principal themes and methodology of the paper, and an outline of probable conclusions.

The synopsis should be of not more than 500 words. It must be accompanied by a clear statement of the progress of research, intended date for submission of thesis, and a statement of support from the supervisor. Please note that proposals from researchers at an early stage of their work will not normally be accepted.

Those selected for inclusion in the programme will be asked to submit a paper, not exceeding 2500 words, by 3 January 2006 for circulation in the Conference booklet. Each new researcher will have the opportunity to speak for twenty minutes, followed by ten minutes of discussion. The student's supervisor will normally be expected to chair the session. Two prizes of £250 will be awarded for the best papers presented at the Conference by new researchers.

The Economic History Society is able to offer limited financial support to enable new researchers to attend the Conference when this is not available from their institution.

Synopses (including name, affiliation, postal and e-mail addresses) and any enquiries should be directed (preferably by e-mail) to: Dr Margaret Yates, School of History, University of Reading, Whiteknights, Reading, Berkshire, RG6 6AA. E-mail: m.h.yates@reading.ac.uk

SOCIAL HISTORY SOCIETY ANNUAL CONFERENCE 31 MARCH – 2 APRIL 2006 • UNIVERSITY OF READING

CALL FOR PAPERS

The Social History Society annual conference will take place 31 March - 2 April 2006 at the University of Reading, moving for the first time to an Easter date, and running concurrently with the Economic History Society's annual conference, in the same location.

Proposals are welcomed from a wide range of backgrounds and disciplines, including scholars interested in reflecting on policy and practice in cultural and social history. This could include interdisciplinary offerings as well as those from backgrounds in cultural studies, history of art and the visual arts, literary studies, law and criminology, anthropology and the social sciences in general. Papers given at the Conference can be considered for publication in *Cultural and Social History*, the Society's Journal. Proposals from postgraduate students are particularly welcomed. Submission of sessions or panels of three related papers (plus chair, if wished) are encouraged, and especially those for panels which would signal engagement between historians working on different historical periods, or panels exploring links between history and other disciplines. Suggestions for alternative forums of debate are also invited.

The six thematic strands, listed below, may be viewed in more detail by following the hyperlink to their individual sections on the Society website (<http://www.socialhistory.org.uk/>). For further information about the strands and to discuss possible submissions, please contact the Strand Organisers:

Cultures, Identities and Representations (Matt Houlbrook or Fionna Barber)
m.houlbrook@liverpool.ac.uk; f.barber@mmu.ac.uk

Deviance, Inclusion and Exclusion (David Nash or Anne-Marie Kilday)
dsnash@brookes.ac.uk; akilday@brookes.ac.uk

Life Styles and Life Cycles (Mary Clare Martin or Mark Freeman)
m.c.h.martin@greenwich.ac.uk; m.freeman@arts.gla.ac.uk

Production and Consumption (Barry Doyle) barry.doyle@tees.ac.uk

Spaces and Places (David Hopkin) dmh@arts.gla.ac.uk

States and Bodies (Tony McElligott) anthony.mcelligott@ul.ie

continued ...

For further conference details, including the co-locational operation of the conference, see the Society's website or contact the Society's Honorary Secretary, Judith Rowbotham. E-mail: Judith.Rowbotham@ntu.ac.uk

Proposals are invited for papers in any historical context, period, place or culture. Please fill in the Abstract Submission form, downloadable from the Society website, giving title and abstract (around 350-500 words maximum). There will be two submission dates for abstracts: 15 September 2005 (notification of acceptance by 15 October) and 1 December 2005 (notification of acceptance at the beginning of January 2006).

NB: All proposals *must* be sent to: Mrs Linda Persson, Administrative Secretary, SHS, Furness College, Bailrigg, Lancaster, LA1 4YG. Tel: 01524-592547 Fax: 01524-846102 E-mail: l.persson@lancaster.ac.uk

Proposers are encouraged to indicate the strand(s) they feel most appropriate for their papers, but the ultimate decision will be made by the conference committee.



CONSECRATED WOMEN: TOWARDS A HISTORY OF WOMEN RELIGIOUS OF BRITAIN AND IRELAND 16 – 17 SEPTEMBER 2005 • UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

A conference on the theme, 'Consecrated Women: Towards a History of Women Religious of Britain and Ireland', will take place 16-17 September 2005 at the University of Cambridge. Exploring the history of consecrated women from medieval to modern times papers will focus on four themes:

- material culture in the convent;
- missionary ministry;
- oral history methodology;
- the authorial voice of consecrated women.

Guest lecturers will include: Dr Barbra Mann Wall (Purdue University) and Dr Ann Matthews (University of Ireland, Maynooth).

Further information is available from: Liz Jacobs, Margaret Beaufort Institute of Theology, 12 Grange Road, Cambridge CB3 9DU. Tel: 01223 741766
E-mail: ecj27@cam.ac.uk Website: www.margaretbeaufort.cam.ac.uk

**BUSINESS HISTORY CONFERENCE ANNUAL MEETING
8 – 10 JUNE 2006 • TORONTO, CANADA
POLITICAL ECONOMY OF ENTERPRISE**

CALL FOR PAPERS

The 2006 annual meeting of the Business History Conference (BHC) will take place 8-10 June in Toronto, Canada, at the Munk Centre for International Studies of the University of Toronto.

The theme for the conference is ‘Political Economy of Enterprise’. Business, the political system, and government have influenced one another from time immemorial. This year’s programme theme invites us to reflect on those interactions. What institutional frameworks have been more, and less, conducive to business enterprise? What has been the relationship of political leadership to business success and failure? How has government promoted business and innovation? How have regulation, taxation, and subsidies affected business? In what areas of business has government taken the most interest, and why? When does business corrupt government, and vice versa? How have globalisation and multi-national corporations affected traditional business-government relations? What have been and are the effects on business enterprise of free trade areas such as NAFTA, of customs unions such as the EU, and of international organisations such as the WTO, the IMF, and the World Bank? The programme committee invites proposals exploring such questions and the general theme of political economy of enterprise in a variety of historical contexts. Given that the meeting will be in Canada, proposals for papers on Canadian business history and on the extent to which Canadian and U.S. scholarship on political economy differs are particularly encouraged. (In keeping with longstanding BHC policy, the committee will also entertain submissions not directly related to the conference theme.)

Potential presenters may submit proposals either for individual papers or for entire panels. Individual paper proposals should include a one-page abstract and a one-page curriculum vitae (c.v.). The abstract should summarise the argument of the paper, the sources on which it is based, and its relationship to existing scholarship. Each panel proposal should include a covering letter stating the rationale for the session, a one-page abstract and author’s c.v. for each proposed paper (up to three), and a list of preferred chairs and commentators with contact information.

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Proposals also are invited for the Herman E. Krooss Prize for the best dissertation in business history. The Krooss Prize Committee welcomes submissions from recent PhDs (2003-6) in history, economics, business administration, history of science and technology, law, and related fields. To participate in this competition, please indicate this in a covering letter, and include a one-page c.v. and one-page dissertation abstract. Semi-finalists will be asked to submit copies of their dissertation after initial review of proposals. Finalists will present summaries of their dissertations at the Toronto meeting.

Doctoral candidates who would like to have their dissertations discussed can participate in special dissertations-in-progress sessions. Submit a covering letter to this effect, along with a one-page c.v. and one-page dissertation abstract, clearly indicating the submission is a dissertation abstract.

BHC also awards the K. Austin Kerr Prize for the best first paper by a PhD candidate or recent PhD (2003-6). If you wish to participate in this competition, please indicate this in your proposal. Proposals accepted for the Krooss Prize panel and the dissertations-in-progress sessions are not eligible for the Kerr Prize.

The deadline for receipt of all proposals is 15 October 2005. Notification of acceptances will be sent by January 2006. Presenters will be expected to submit abstracts of their papers for posting on the BHC website. In addition, presenters are encouraged to post electronic versions of their papers prior to the meeting, and to submit their papers for inclusion in the on-line proceedings publication, *Business and Economic History On-Line*. The BHC also offers graduate students who are presenting papers grants to offset some of the costs of attending the conference.

Please send all proposals to: Dr Roger Horowitz, Secretary-Treasurer, Business History Conference, P. O. Box 3630, Wilmington, DE 19807, USA. Telephone: (302) 658-2400 Fax: (302) 655-3188 E-mail: rh@udel.edu

The programme committee comprises: Mark Rose (chair), Florida Atlantic University; Rick Halpern, University of Toronto; Pamela Laird, University of Colorado-Denver; H.V. Nelles, McMaster University; Rowena Olegario, Vanderbilt University; and Richard Sylla (BHC president-elect, 2004-5), New York University.

XXXIX SETTIMANA DI STUDI
23 – 27 APRIL 2007 • PRATO, ITALY
THE FISCAL SYSTEM IN EUROPE (13TH-18TH CENTURIES)

CALL FOR PAPERS

Between the Lower Middle Ages and the end of the eighteenth century, the fiscal system played an important role in Europe in the life of cities, communities, states and the class of great landowners which, depending on the case, exercised the rights of public law over the land under their control. This was a type of fiscal imposition, however, that was profoundly different from what has since become familiar in contemporary society.

While today there is a prevalence of DIRECT TAXATION of a periodic and individual character, in the societies of the Ancien Regime, there was a prevalence of INDIRECT TAXATION through customs, duties, taxes, imposts, etc. In the case of DIRECT TAXATION, there was a profound difference between direct taxes in contemporary economics and direct taxes in the economics of the Ancien Regime, which was neither periodic nor individual. It was occasional, that is, applied in times of war, natural calamities, etc. Also, it was applied to *guilds*, cities, the clergy, the territory, etc., which were required to pay the tax by means of a system of tax collection from the people who made up the *guilds*.

The fiscal system was a complex factor, with many facets. The unifying theme was the need to collect revenues: taxes could be applied in various ways within the economic system in its diversified elements: agriculture, crafts, services, and at different times in its life and development like public finance, the infrastructures, currency, consumption. Economic historiography on fiscal systems is rich in specific and original contributions as well as attempts to explain them in an organic way.

The 2007 Study Week that the “F. Datini” International Institute of Economic History devotes to the subject will attempt to bring out, through an examination of specific cases, comparisons among the fiscal systems of the medieval and early modern States.

Potential participants are invited to consider this, and the proposed themes for the Settimana, and to send a proposal for a conference paper, no later than 15 September 2005, including a short abstract and a brief curriculum vitae.

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The proposal should indicate the following:

- how their contribution would fit into the central ideas of the Settimana;
- in which specific part of the programme their contribution would best fit;
- the clearly defined theme they plan to develop;
- the area and period taken into consideration;
- the type of paper proposed: if it is a *paper* it should cover the subject matter amply and discuss the problem in comparative terms citing specific examples. If it is a *communication* it should be an original contribution, the result of new research on a specific theme.

The proposals must be received at the following address: Istituto Internazionale di Storia Economica “F. Datini”, via Muzzi 38, I - 59100, Prato, Italy. E-mail: datini@istitutodatini.it

The Executive Committee of the Datini Institute will make its decisions concerning the acceptance of proposals by 31 October 2005.

Participants are expected to produce the full version of their papers, for presentation on the Datini Institute’s web-page (password protected), well before 15 March 2007; and at the Settimana they will present only a summary presentation: 20 minutes for the *relazione*, and 10 minutes for the *comunicazione*. Papers may be presented in Italian, English, French, or German. During the conference there will be a concurrent translation of the papers presented and of the ensuing discussion, into these four languages. Papers written in Spanish will be accepted; but at the conference, the authors must speak in one of these four languages.

All papers must be original and not previously published or translated from previously published papers, with a maximum of 70,000 keystrokes for the *relazione* and 30,000 keystrokes for the *comunicazione*. To accommodate those lacking access to the internet, some copies of the papers will be circulated at the conference, without footnotes and bibliography. The revised, complete papers will be published in the annual proceedings of the Istituto Datini.

The Istituto Datini will pay the following costs for all officially invited participants:

- travel by railway (first class) or by aeroplane (in tourist or economy class, up to the specified limits indicated in the formal invitations);

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- accommodation, including breakfast, up to five nights, in Prato hotels selected by the Istituto;
- 20 euros per day for meals through special arrangements that the Istituto makes with selected Prato restaurants (with vouchers);
- one official banquet;
- no honorarium.

PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME

Monday 23rd April

Introductory Plenary

Fiscal imposition in European economy. 13th-18th centuries

Comparative evolution of tax systems /1

- Taxation: subjects and goals

Tuesday 24th April

Comparative evolution of tax systems /2

- Fiscal imposition (policies):

Direct taxes

Indirect taxes

Special taxes

Taxes on luxury goods

Wednesday 25th April

Fiscal policies

- Administration and taxation forms: seigneuries, cities and villages, central states (including exemptions, evasion, conflicts)

Thursday 26th April

Positive and negative effects on the European economy /1

- Taxes and public finance
- Taxes and infrastructure
- Taxes and the primary sector
- Taxes and the secondary sector
- Taxes and the tertiary sector

Friday 26th April

Positive and negative effects on the European economy /2

- Taxes and monetary systems (inflation)
- Taxes and consumption

**WOMEN'S COMMITTEE OF THE ECONOMIC HISTORY SOCIETY
SIXTEENTH ANNUAL WORKSHOP
18 – 19 NOVEMBER 2005 • INSTITUTE OF HISTORICAL RESEARCH**

GENDER AND BUILT SPACE

The sixteenth annual workshop of the Economic History Society's Women's Committee, organised by the Gender & Built Space Research Group at the University of Brighton, will take place 18-19 November 2005 at the Institute of Historical Research, University of London.

The workshop will begin on the Friday evening with a selection of films on the theme of 'Gender and Built Space' chosen from the collections of the South East Film and Video Archive (SEFVA) at the University of Brighton, introduced by Ine van Dooren, Moving Image Archivist at SEFVA.

The programme will also include:

The housewife and the home in early modern rural England

Jane Whittle, University of Exeter

Self-made men and the civic: histories of people and places in the late nineteenth century

Donna Loftus, The Open University

Tea for two in the second city of the Empire

Eileen Yeo, University of Strathclyde

A woman's place? The communalisation of the kitchen and changing gender identities in early Soviet Russia, 1923-1926

Viv Groskop, Independent Scholar

The Fennells build their dream house: furnishing family in 1930s America

Shirley Teresa Wajda, Kent State University, Ohio

Promoting Catholic family values and modern domesticity in Belgium, 1945-1957

Fredie Floré, University of Ghent

Further details are available from: Elizabeth Darling

E-mail: e.darling@brighton.ac.uk

**ECONOMIC & BUSINESS HISTORICAL SOCIETY ANNUAL
CONFERENCE
27 – 29 APRIL 2006 • PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA**

CALL FOR PAPERS

The Economic & Business Historical Society welcomes proposals for presentations on all aspects of business and economic history at its 31st annual conference. In keeping with the traditions of the society, the Society seeks proposals for both individual papers and panel sessions. Graduate students are invited to apply, and may qualify for reduced registration fees.

Papers presented at the conference may be submitted for publication in the Society's peer-reviewed journal, *Essays in Economic and Business History*, edited by David Whitten of the University of Auburn.

Composed of some three hundred North American and international members, the Economic & Business Historical Society offers participants an opportunity for continuing intellectual interchange within a modest-sized collegial, interdisciplinary group. The Society holds its annual convention in locations of historical significance. Both the annual membership (\$30) and conference registration fees are modest. Final arrangements with the hotel are being concluded and the details will be posted in the very near future.

Proposals for individual papers should include an abstract of no more than 500 words, a brief c.v., postal and e-mail addresses, and telephone and fax numbers. Panel proposals should also suggest a title and a panel chair. Graduate students and non-academic affiliates are welcome. Submissions imply that at least one author will register for the conference and be present at the time designated in the conference programme. Proposals must be submitted by 15 January 2006.

Proposals may be submitted in one of three ways:

- On line submission using the form located at: <http://www.ebhsoc.org/papers.html>
- By email to: hsmvn@sunset.backbone.olemiss.edu
- Via conventional mail to:

Dr Michael Namorato
Department of History
The University of Mississippi
Mississippi MS 38677
USA

**URBAN HISTORY GROUP ANNUAL CONFERENCE
30 – 31 MARCH 2006 • UNIVERSITY OF READING
URBAN RENEWAL: CONCEPTS AND CONSEQUENCES 1666-2000**

CALL FOR PAPERS

The Urban History Group Annual Conference will take place 30-31 March 2006 at the University of Reading, on the theme: ‘Urban Renewal: Concepts and Consequences, 1666-2000’.

Taking the long view of towns and cities can we talk of “urban renewal”? In the context of endemic urban poverty and social malaise, broken communities, housing projects with in-built obsolescence and high rates of physical and mental disease, is urban “renewal” a useful concept? If so, what do we mean by “urban renewal” and should we term this “urban replacement” since it often reproduces the errors of one age on a larger scale in a subsequent era? From the aftermath of the Great Fire of London in 1666 to the present, “urban improvement” or “renewal” has been justified in the name of modernity and enlightenment. The costs and benefits, gainers and losers, have rarely been explicit.

Some issues that the conference will consider include:

- Under what imperatives has urban redevelopment taken place historically? What has been the impact, for example, of fire, war, planning, boosterism?
- How far is it possible to discern specific historical cycles of urban decline and renewal within or across societies? What is the historical relationship between urban renewal and economic regeneration?
- What have the effects of renewal been on different urban communities over time? What evidence is there of its social, cultural, political and/or psychological impact? Are urban problems resolved by “renewal” or just moved on, like the residents?
- What has the role of public art and culture been in urban renewal historically?
- What examples are there of urban renewal as the result of grassroots or community initiatives?
- How have renewal programmes been projected or ‘marketed’ politically – with what rationalities or appeals? How has popular support been mobilised?
- How far has urban renewal been a result of social conflict and violence?

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The Urban History Group (UHG) conference committee seeks one-page proposals on these and other themes related to the topic. The UHG has a record of encouraging comparative papers – thematically, chronologically, and geographically. Non-British perspectives are welcome; a focus on the pre-1800 period is also welcome. It is intended that the programme should have a strong international representation, and the UHG has consciously involved graduate students in the conference programme with modest contributions to travel expenses.

Please submit one-page proposals, by 1 October 2005, to:

Professor Richard Rodger
Centre for Urban History
University of Leicester
Leicester LE1 7RH
E-mail: rgr@le.ac.uk

Professor Bob Morris
School of History and Classics
University of Edinburgh
Edinburgh EH8 9JYT
E-mail: rjmorris@ed.ac.uk



METROPOLIS AND STATE IN EARLY MODERN EUROPE (C.1400-1800)

27 – 28 MARCH 2006 • INSTITUTE OF HISTORICAL RESEARCH

An international conference, organised by the University of Amsterdam and the Centre for Metropolitan History (University of London), will take place 27-28 March 2006 at the Institute of Historical Research, London. The conference aims to investigate, from a comparative point of view, the peculiar relationship between European metropolises (not necessarily all serving as capital cities) and the central state during the early modern period. A recent study supported by the University of Amsterdam and the Dutch National Organisation of Scientific Research has compared Amsterdam and Antwerp in terms of their autonomy *vis-à-vis* the central state. The Centre for Metropolitan History in London has similar research interests and is keen to promote the comparative approach.

Further information is available from the organisers: Derek Keene (derek.keene@sas.ac.uk) and Marjolein 't Hart (m.c.thart@uva.nl).

**ASIA-PACIFIC ECONOMIC AND BUSINESS HISTORY
CONFERENCE
16 – 18 FEBRUARY 2006 • BRISBANE, QUEENSLAND
LEARNING, DISCOVERY AND INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

CALL FOR PAPERS

Papers and proposals for sessions are invited from management scientists, historians of business and society, archivists, economists, and others on the theme above as well as other topics in economic and business history. The conference organisers are particularly interested in attracting papers that examine developments within the Asia-Pacific region broadly defined and/or papers that provide an international comparative perspective.

The main theme for the 2006 conference is the relationship between learning, the discovery of new technologies and products, and institutional development. Innovation in products, technology, routines, systems, and business processes that shape corporate strategies are important sources of competitive advantages for firms. The proliferation of these improvements as well as incremental gains from learning affects patterns of international specialisation.

At another level, human capital formation has long been recognised as a vital ingredient to improving efficiency, creating enhanced innovative capacity, and sustaining broader economic development at the national and international levels. Formal education, vocational training, and the nature of supporting institutional arrangements have a direct and indirect impact on skill development. Skills are imparted through various means, including primary-secondary-tertiary instruction, professional education, experiential learning, and on-the-job training. Organisational learning has produced improved managerial and procedural practices and team-based capabilities. Learning and discovery also unfold across the boundaries of many organisations within the private, public, and non-profit sectors. Historians and economists have long recognised that human capital is a source of important comparative and competitive advantages on the international stage. Yet, sustaining these strengths depends upon continuing investment, sustained innovation in teaching techniques, and a deep commitment from society at large to improving the capabilities of future generations.

continued ...

Paper proposals of up to 7,000 words (not synopses) may be submitted at any time up to 1 December 2005. All submissions will be independently refereed and accepted papers published in full in the conference proceedings.

Session proposals may be submitted any time up to 1 November 2005 in the form of a 500-word statement outlining the main objectives of the session. Papers presented to accepted sessions should be submitted for refereeing in the manner described above.

Proposals should be sent to:

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Further information can be found at: www.bus.qut.edu.au/schools/international/EHSANZCover.jsp

GRANTS AND AWARDS ◆

ECONOMIC HISTORY SOCIETY FACILITY GRANTS FOR UNDERGRADUATE PROJECTS

The Society will consider applications for small grants, not normally over £150, to assist undergraduate students with expenses incurred in the preparation of economic and social history projects for final degree examinations in United Kingdom colleges and universities. Applications should be made by students, through supervisors, advisers or tutors, to the administrative secretary, who can be contacted as indicated on the inside back cover of this publication. The application, and supervisor's statement of support, should clearly indicate how the research relates to economic and/or social history.

Further information may be obtained from the administrative secretary. There is no application form. Requests, supported by a supervisor's letter, should indicate the nature and proposed title of the project, the extent of its contribution to final degree classification, and details of anticipated expenditure and of the need for that expenditure. Applications may be submitted at any time.

ECONOMIC HISTORY SOCIETY INITIATIVES AND CONFERENCE FUND

The Economic History Society maintains a fund to encourage otherwise unfunded workshops, special meetings and other interesting initiatives in economic and social history. Activities which might encourage wider participation in the Society, in research (especially by those who are not full-time university academics) or generate research articles for submission to the *Review* may be particularly eligible for support from the Fund. The Society is especially keen to encourage one-day workshops which might provide sessions at the annual conference or articles for the *Review*.

The Society will not make grants from the fund for more than £1,000 (£500 for a one-day workshop). Whatever the sum granted, there must be a specific prominent acknowledgement of the Society's support in any publicity, meeting materials or publications. Any events held with support from the fund must be open equally to all interested economic and social historians. Successful applicants will be encouraged to propose papers or sessions at the Society's annual conference.

Questions concerning the objectives and criteria of the fund should be directed to the Honorary Secretary. Applications, which may be submitted to the administrative secretary at any time, will be considered by the Society's Awards Committee by 1 February and 30 June each year. An application form is available from the Society's website (www.ehs.org.uk/sub_sub/initiativesfund.asp), or from Mrs Maureen Galbraith.



ECONOMIC HISTORY SOCIETY TRAVEL GRANTS FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS

The Economic History Society will consider applications for grants – normally of up to £250 – to assist postgraduate students in United Kingdom colleges and universities with travel expenses incurred in the undertaking of research into any aspect of economic and social history. Applications should be made, supported by a supervisor's statement, to the administrative secretary. Information concerning any attempts to obtain matching support from other sources should be submitted.

Applications, which may be submitted at any time, will be considered by the Society's Awards Committee as soon as possible after 1 February and 30 June each year. An application form is available from the Society's website: (www.ehs.org.uk/sub_sub/postgrad_grants_awards.asp), or from Mrs Maureen Galbraith.

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