



Past and Future 2005

The Newsletter of the Friends of the Institute of Historical Research

Letter from the Chair of the Friends

I was extremely sorry to miss the Friends AGM this year, which no chair should do: a bad back, which is now quite recovered, pinned me down at home for a few weeks, so that I not only missed the opportunity of meeting and chatting with Friends but of hearing what I was told was an exceptionally fascinating lecture by Caroline Barron on Doing Historical Research in Medieval London. Professor Barron has supplied a summary of what she said for those Friends like me unfortunately unable to attend, and this is printed on p10.

Friends who have come into the England room since last September may have noticed that the librarians managed to fit the new Oxford Dictionary of National Biography, which we bought for the Institute, on to the right shelves there within a week of its publication. It is, with its electronic version, a great resource and already much consulted. This year the Friends resolved to get the library the *The Iwakura Embassy 1871-3* and the electronic edition of Niermeyer's *Mediae Latinitatis Lexicon Minus*, and to support its acquisition of new print and electronic editions of the medieval rolls of parliament. We also ordered a few minor bits of furniture including a couple of projectors; said we would pay for the production of a comprehensive IHR booklet and another, in print and online, for postgraduate students; and agreed to fund some bursaries for postgraduate students to attend the 2005 summer conference of the Centre for Contemporary British History. Speaking impartially, since I was not there to join in these decisions, I think the approximate £6,500 they cost was well spent. At the time of writing this (in July) everything has been bought, two bursaries have been awarded, one booklet is ready, and the other is under way.

Meanwhile we have put aside £8,000 from our 2003-4 income and committed another £8,000 for 2004-5 for the great rearrangement and improvement of IHR space which still hovers some time in the future. The position has been complicated by changes that are being discussed and negotiated in the relationship between the Senate House (University) library and the libraries of the various institutes that make up the School of Advanced Study, more details of which are given by the Director in his letter on page 2. Friends can be reassured that nothing that is proposed threatens the existence of the IHR, but, even if the plans made earlier could be afforded, which at present they can't, changes in its use of its own space have to wait until arrangements all around it are decided.

Felicity Jones, who edits Past and Future, has had a very busy year looking after the Development Office and all the Friends' business with only part-time and temporary help since Helen Cornish left us last summer. In July, however, she was joined by Kathryn Ayres (from August after her wedding Kathryn Dagless) as her new full-time assistant.

Finally, since the association of the Friends was formed in 1986, we shall come of age in 2007. If anyone among us has any ideas about celebrating the occasion maybe they could tell Felicity and your committee will consider the suggestions – or should we wait to be the more mature twenty-five? Of course, if any Friend knew of a million pounds wanting to be spent to promote the production of good history, and could see that it was given to the IHR to get that long-planned rearrangement done, the rest of the Friends would celebrate him or her with enthusiasm, anniversary or no anniversary.

Susan Reynolds

Letter from the Director of the IHR, Professor David Bates



The last few months have been a period of intense activity and notable achievements at the IHR. I will turn to the latter later in this article, but it is, I think, best to first share thoughts with our many Friends about impending changes, both decided and potential. I am particularly aware of the need to do this because important forthcoming changes may affect the IHR's library, to which the Friends have been especially generous over the years.

Many among you will have been aware for a long time of the project to achieve a convergence of the Senate House library and the various institute libraries to create a more cohesive structure of management and collection development. The forces driving these changes originate outside the central University of London and are manifestly crucial to the long-term survival of many of the resources housed within Senate House. The launch of the new body, the University of London Research Library Services (ULRLS), is now imminent. Within the larger framework, the intention is to improve the facilities of the IHR library and to develop further the IHR's capacity to raise funds in support of its many activities, and it is to achieve this that the IHR's Librarian, Robert Lyons, I and other members of the IHR's staff have laboured. At this stage, it is fair to say, specific outcomes are not entirely clear. From 1 August the IHR's library staff will be merged into the larger staffing structure of the ULRLS. The broad structure for change is one which should leave the IHR with plenty of room to develop its own policies within the larger entity, but details of line management

and funding are currently in the process of being settled. We will of course keep Friends fully informed of developments and hope to be able to report further at next year's AGM.

Having myself been a regular visitor to the IHR since 1967, I am only too aware of the significance of what is proposed. It is therefore with some relief that I turn to some remarkable recent achievements. It is an immense pleasure to report that the fund-raising campaign initiated by my predecessor as Director, David Cannadine has now reached its first target of £10 million – at the time of writing the sum raised is actually now over £10.2 million. Our plan is to hold a celebration of this achievement in the autumn, where we will be able to thank the many supporters, notably including the Friends and American Friends of the IHR, who have made this possible.

In an age when electronic resources and digitisation take an increasingly central role in historical research, it is splendid to be able to report that the IHR, in partnership with the Royal Historical Society, has obtained a grant from the Arts and Humanities Research Council to define the standards for peer review of digitisation projects in the humanities. This is a massive achievement, a project which will influence the conduct of historical research in the UK for years to come, and one which owes a great deal to the work of our Head of Publications, Jane Winters.

Also of great importance is the Heritage Lottery Fund award of just under £3.4 m. to the VCH to develop England's Past for Everyone - a full account of which is given on page 6. The aim is to produce new VCH publications in both traditional and electronic form, to involve many more people in VCH activity than heretofore, and to expand VCH activity in as many counties as possible. I would like to use this opportunity to pay tribute to the hard work of VCH central office staff in developing this project over recent years.

We have also secured funding to address a subject of perennial concern to historians, namely our perceived collective inability to make

politicians and public figures in general take sufficient notice of the importance of history and the historical profession. The History and Public Policy Unit, housed within the Centre for Contemporary British History, and developed in collaboration with colleagues in the University of Cambridge and the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, will be up-and-running from 1 January 2006, with generous support from an American donor, who wishes to remain anonymous, having made this possible.

I want finally to express my gratitude to the Friends for the support they have given to postgraduate student activities. The arrival of an increasing number of postgraduates within the IHR is a relatively recent development, but one which makes the IHR a much livelier place and which is central to bringing younger scholars into the IHR community. The postgraduates are already doing a great deal of networking on our behalf, and indeed are developing The History Lab as a forum for postgraduate exchange among historians (see page 16). In addition, as well as our existing MA in Contemporary British History, a new taught course, the MA in Metropolitan and Regional History, a joint venture between the Victoria County History and the Centre for Metropolitan History, has recruited well and starts in October.

David Bates

Past and Future is edited by Felicity Jones in the Development and Friends' Office of the IHR. Please send your comments and suggestions to felicity.jones@sas.ac.uk or Development and Friends' Office, IHR, Senate House, Malet St, London WC1E 7HU.

The Committee of the Friends of the IHR comprises: Susan Reynolds (Chair), Michael Thompson, Stephen Taylor, David Bates (Director, IHR) and Felicity Jones. Please contact Felicity if you would like to get in touch with the Committee.

News from Around the IHR

Publications

The Institute's Publications Department produces printed resources for and about the historical profession as well as online primary and secondary materials. Here we highlight some of these, all available through the IHR website at www.history.ac.uk. For more information, or to obtain a Publications Catalogue, please contact Frances Bowcock in the Publications Department on frances.bowcock@sas.ac.uk, tel 020 7862 8780, or pop in to see her in the IHR Bookshop on the ground floor. Don't forget, Friends may claim a discount of 10% on IHR publications.

Reviews in History, the free online reviews journal of the IHR, currently features over 450 reviews of scholarly works, as well as reviews of textbooks, documentaries, reappraisals of major works, and in-depth review articles. The extended review length of 3000 words offers the opportunity for real engagement with the work under review, and gives all authors the right to reply, creating a forum for debate and discussion. To subscribe to the free weekly email alert, please contact ihr.reviews@sas.ac.uk.

History in Focus is a twice-yearly online publication aimed at undergraduates and the wider public, although its use extends to historians of all levels. Each issue focuses on a historical theme and includes details of archives, current research and online resources relevant to the field, plus a select bibliography, reviews and original articles. The autumn 2005 issue of *History in Focus* takes 'The Sea' as its topical theme in this year of Trafalgar commemorations, and presents resources appropriate to scholars of maritime, naval, or oceanic history. In addition, a review article of the recent Nelson biographies and a review of the National Maritime Museum's exhibition 'Nelson & Napoléon' have been commissioned. Forthcoming issues of *History in Focus* will look at the Cold War, race and ethnicity, and rebellions and uprisings.

The Royal Historical Society Bibliography of British and Irish History is an authoritative guide to publications on the history of Britain and Ireland from Roman times to the present day, which now includes over 387,000 entries. Expert academic historians advise on items for inclusion, and the bibliography provides seamless access to materials in its partner projects, Irish History Online and London's Past Online. Recent developments include links to materials in British History Online where appropriate, as well as direct links from many journal article listings to the EDINA GETCopy service now available in many academic institutions. A visit is highly recommended for all those wishing to keep abreast of the latest research in all aspects and periods of British History.

British History Online, the IHR's ever-expanding collection of digitised sources, has just come to the end of the first year of the full project. There are 220 volumes now online at www.british-history.ac.uk, including the Calendar of Letter Books of the City of London - a key source for the economic, political and social history of medieval London, and the full Ordnance Survey County Series maps of England, Scotland and Wales, at scale 1:10,560, which may be browsed using the interactive county maps. The project will also be hosting a conference on Humanities Beyond Digitisation at the end of September. Over two days, speakers from around the UK will examine the impact of digital resources on humanities research, focusing on the challenges and opportunities facing researchers.



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The Centre for Metropolitan History

The Centre is host to a number of active research projects, including 'People in Place: Families, households and housing in early modern London', funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council and involving colleagues at the Centre and in Cambridge. Having completed the entry of this data for Cheapside for 1660-1710, the London team is now gathering and analysing relevant information for the earlier sample periods of 1540-70 and 1600-40 alongside continuing work on the St Botolph Aldgate sample and developing property narratives for the post-Fire period. The Cambridge team has begun work on the family reconstitution of Clerkenwell for the period 1540-1720. Two papers are currently in preparation detailing the project's analyses of the material and dealing with issues such as household and family composition, patterns of residence, and contemporary perceptions of the family in late 17th-century Cheapside.

The Centre is also looking forward to a busy autumn, with the start of its new MA in Metropolitan and Regional History, in collaboration with the Victoria County History, and a number of academic and public events. Beyond Shakespeare's Globe: People, Place and Plays in the Middlesex suburbs, 1400-1700, a conference organised jointly with Dr Eva Griffith to mark the 400th anniversary of the building of the Red Bull Playhouse, Clerkenwell, will be held on Saturday 15 October at London Metropolitan Archives. Also in October, Albie Sachs, Justice of the Constitutional Court of South Africa and actively associated with the Truth and Reconciliation Commission in post-apartheid South Africa, will be delivering a public lecture on Archives, Truth and Reconciliation. The lecture, sponsored by the School of Advanced Study and The National Archives, and supported by the Arts and Humanities Research Council, will be held in Beveridge Hall in Senate House on Monday 24 October at 5.30 pm. Both the lecture and the reception afterwards are open to all and we hope that many Friends will be able to join us for this occasion.

The Centre is also organizing, with the University of Amsterdam, an international conference on Metropolis and State in Early Modern Europe (c.1400-1800), which will be held at the IHR on 27-28 March 2006. Speakers will investigate the peculiar relationship between European metropolises and the central state during the early modern period. Meanwhile, Phil Baker, one of the researchers on the People in Place project, is co-organising a conference on Rediscovering Radicalism in the British Isles and Ireland, c.1550-c.1700: movements of people, texts and ideas. This interdisciplinary conference, which seeks to explore the role of migration and the exchange of ideas, images, and texts in the history of radical events, ideologies, and movements, will be held at Goldsmiths College, London, on 21-23 June 2006.



Finally, Heather Creaton, Deputy Director of the Centre, will retire at the end of August. Heather, who first came to the IHR in 1976 as editor of *Writings on British History*, has made an immense contribution to the Centre since its foundation in 1988. As well as her lectures and courses on sources and methods, she has been responsible for the Centre's bibliographical and information services, producing a number of books and guides which have become indispensable tools for researchers. Foremost among these is the prize-winning *Bibliography of Printed Works on London History to 1939*. Heather has also served for 26 years as Hon. Secretary of the London Record Society, has been Vice-Chairman of the British Records Association, served on the Royal Society of Arts' History Panel and the London Archives Regional Council and been a member of the Greater London Archives Network, the London Archive Users' Forum and Friends of the National Archives Council. She will be very greatly missed by everyone at the Centre, the IHR, and the archives and local studies community, and we are sure Friends will join us to wish her well in her retirement and in her travels around Europe.

Details of all these activities can be found at www.history.ac.uk/cmh, or please contact Olwen Myhill on olwen.myhill@sas.ac.uk or 020 7862 8790.

Centre for Contemporary British History

The Centre's annual summer conference took as its theme the History of the Media in Twentieth Century Britain, and, thanks to the generosity of the Friends, the Centre was able to award six bursaries to postgraduate students to allow them to attend and to hear fifty speakers from across the UK and the United States. Among these, Sir Robert Worcester gave an entertaining history of the media's use of opinion polls; Professor Jean Seaton offered a fresh perspective on the relationship between the BBC and Margaret Thatcher's governments; and Professor Ian Christie led a panel that sketched out new directions in the study of early film history.

As part of the conference, a witness seminar was held entitled *Regulating The Press: The Calcutt Report and the Establishment of the Press Complaints Commission*. The seminar provided a forum to explore the controversy over the tabloid journalism of the late 1980s, the question of statutory regulation of the press, the demise of the Press Council and the creation of the PCC. Witnesses included Sir Louis Blom-Cooper QC, the final chairman of the Press Council, Sir Simon Jenkins, former editor of *The Times*, Peter Preston, former editor of *The Guardian*, Kenneth Morgan, former director of the Press Council and the PCC, and Jacob Ecclestone, former deputy general secretary of the NUJ. The transcript of the seminar will be published on CCBH's website, www.icbh.ac.uk.

For more information on the Centre's activities, please contact Liza Filby on liza.filby@sas.ac.uk or 020 7862 8751.

Victoria County History

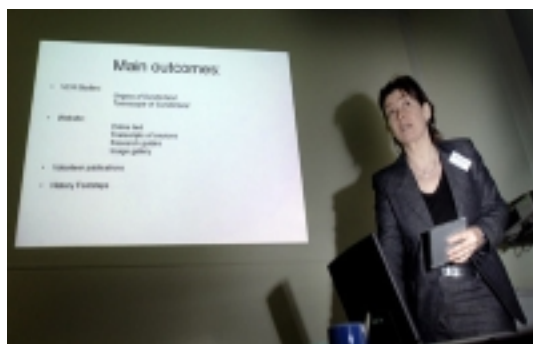
On 15 September, the VCH will welcome Professor John Beckett as its new Director, on secondment for four years from his position as Professor of English Regional History at the University of Nottingham. The secondment has been generously supported by the University of London, and the Centre is looking forward to benefiting from Professor Beckett's extensive experience in local and regional history.

Other highlights of the VCH's year have included television historian Michael Wood delivering the annual Marc Fitch lecture in June, and the launch in July of the second volume of the history of Chester. Finally, and perhaps most momentously, the VCH was awarded over £3.3 million by the Heritage Lottery Fund earlier this year, as part of its five-year, £6 million project, England's Past For Everyone. The project was launched in May with a reception hosted by the Vice Chancellor of the University of London, Sir Graeme Davies. England's Past for Everyone is a five-year project focusing on studies of fifteen particular localities across ten VCH counties, with research teams working in partnership with universities, local councils, and in one case a national park. Studies look at everything from ethnic populations in Bristol over the last 1,000 years, to the history of Parham House in West Sussex and settlement in the unpopulated landscape of Exmoor.

This ground-breaking venture incorporates the VCH's distinctive use of a combination of documentary sources, topography and architecture. It aims to produce affordable and accessible resources in paperback and online to help researchers, students and the wider public to explore the history of the places and communities in which they live, work, travel, or have family ties. It will be produced by VCH county teams in partnership with local universities and county councils, English Heritage, the Heritage Lottery Fund, local trusts and societies and the Exmoor National Park Authority.

Education and skills are key elements of the project, with the development of exclusive 'History Footsteps' websites linked to the national curriculum requirements for history. In addition, ongoing support and input from local volunteers are combined with a focus on local buildings and the historic environment, with research work managed by VCH Architectural Editor, Elizabeth Williamson, and carried out by locally-based consultants and volunteers wherever possible. Finally, each project will produce an illustrated paperback on a local theme or a location of great resonance, with many of the colour images generously provided by English Heritage. They will cover topics including the Cornish fishing communities of Newlyn and Penwith, the origins of Sunderland, and the buildings and development of medieval Ledbury in Herefordshire.

More details are available on the VCH's website www.englishpast.net, which has links to each county, and we look forward to telling you about progress over the next five years. For more information on all VCH activities, please contact William Peck on 020 7862 8776 or william.peck@sas.ac.uk.



At the Launch of EPE: (Top) Gill Cookson, VCH Durham, (Bottom) Elizabeth Williamson, VCH and Maurice Howard, University of Sussex. All pictures © Richard R Grange

Events

The Institute is continuing to develop a varied and full events programme and the past year has been exceptionally busy.

In February 2005, the IHR hosted a conference on History in British Education, developed in conjunction with the Historical Association, the Royal Historical Society, and the History at Universities Defence Group. Speakers including David Starkey, Michael Wood, Tracy Borman of English Heritage and David Eastwood explored the curricular and broader contexts of the place of the study of the past. The support of the Linbury Trust also allowed us to include participation from four secondary schools from around Britain, with pupils providing incisive commentary on the discussion.

The 2005 Anglo-American Conference, on the theme of States and Empires, welcomed over 200 delegates to hear plenary lectures by among others, Linda Colley, Romila Thapar, and Susan Reynolds, Chair of the Friends of the IHR. The experience of the conference was disturbed, however, by the bombings in London on Thursday 7 July and the difficult and upsetting circumstances following these. Remarkably, all our plenary speakers managed to deliver their papers on both Thursday and Friday, and we would like to thank them and the many Friends and other delegates attending for their forbearance and determination to ensure the conference programme could proceed.

The following week, the Institute also hosted a joint three-day conference with the National Maritime Museum on the Trafalgar Campaign in Context. Speakers from the UK, Europe, and North America enthralled over 200 delegates, many of whom were also able to enjoy the Museum's new exhibition on Nelson and Napoléon. The conference also saw Professor Paul Kennedy, now of Yale University, deliver the Caird Medal Lecture in the heart of maritime Greenwich, followed by an enjoyable reception in the Queen's House in Greenwich. Many Friends of the IHR and of the Museum were able to attend to enjoy a glass of Kentish wine on a

hot summer's evening and to be entertained by Roy Clare, Director of the Maritime Museum, and David Cannadine, our own Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother Professor of British History. The event encapsulated the Institute's strengths in developing partnerships across the world and with a variety of institutions, to bring the best academic history to the widest possible audience, a focus we intend to continue next year and beyond.

For more details on our exciting programme of forthcoming events - highlights of which are included on page 16, please contact Richard Butler on 020 7862 8779 or richard.butler@sas.ac.uk.

The Trafalgar Conference Reception, The Queen's House, Greenwich, July 14th 2005



L to R: Nigel Rigby, National Maritime Museum, David Cannadine, IHR and Colin White, Director of Trafalgar 200



Above: Felicity Jones, IHR and Agustin Guimerá, CSIC Madrid and IHR Friend. Below: The Queen's House, Greenwich



With special thanks to John Renshaw, newly recruited IHR Friend, for kind permission to use his pictures

**Sir John Goronwy Edwards
(1891-1976)
Director of the IHR 1948-60**



Geoffrey Barrow continues our series on the former Directors of the IHR with his profile of the fourth holder of the post.

My most vivid and enduring memory of Goronwy Edwards comes from the late summer of 1965, when we both attended the International Congress of Historical Sciences at Vienna. To my delight he and his wife Gwladys were booked on the same flight as I was. Gwladys having found a friend to sit with, Goronwy, carrying a substantial piece of hand luggage, and I had to take our places in a bank of three seats, where a distinguished-looking male passenger had established himself comfortably in the window seat. His extensive hand luggage occupied all the lockers above our seats, and Goronwy was momentarily non-plussed. Addressing the stranger, he said 'There's no room for my bag, you've taken all the space!' The stranger grunted and stared out of the window. 'There's no room for my luggage', protested Goronwy, 'Fair play, you know - fair play'. At this the stranger - a Viennese psychologist, as it turned out, long naturalized and established in Britain - said, with barely a trace of Austrian accent, 'Fair play? Fair play? I haven't the slightest idea what you mean!' Luckily a stewardess solved the luggage problem

and I squeezed into the middle seat. Just as I was thinking what a difficult flight this was going to be, my two companions, ignoring me completely, began a lively conversation across my bowed head which lasted all the way to Vienna. That (I thought afterwards) was very much Goronwy, as an eminent student of parliaments and a good-natured man of common sense.

By this time Goronwy had been retired from the Directorship of the IHR for five years, but was still an active and prominent figure in the world of medieval and constitutional history. He and Gwladys had come to the Institute in 1948 as a result of what must have seemed a severe personal misfortune. Goronwy matriculated at Oxford in 1909, having won a Welsh Foundation Scholarship at Jesus College, and graduated with first class honours in 1913. Allowing for a short spell at Manchester under T.F. Tout and war service in the Royal Welch Fusiliers, he was to be firmly embedded in Jesus College from 1919 to 1948, serving in turn as Librarian, Junior Bursar, Dean, Senior Tutor and Vice-Principal. With all respect to Sir Frederick and Lady Ogilvie, who were preferred to Goronwy and Gwladys, the decision of the governing body of Jesus not to make Goronwy head of the college must be judged a grave injustice and was undoubtedly a severe disappointment.

Jesus College's loss was the Institute's gain - Goronwy at the height of his powers, already in his later fifties but full of ideas and energy. Goronwy Edwards was the first Director I knew personally. He had his finger on the pulse in respect of all the many projects and activities for which the Institute was responsible or with which it was closely associated. He edited the *English Historical Review* from 1938 to 1959.

In those years J.G.E. seemed to be quite tireless, though in fairness it must be recalled that he had two admirable lieutenants in Jock Milne and Cynthia Hawker, not to mention other indefatigable members of staff. An unmistakable post-war optimism pervaded the Institute and it was not uncommon to have as visiting speakers individuals who were to make their names as

the outstanding historians of their time. Lewis Namier was also a familiar figure in the Institute - so familiar in fact that he even had his own towel in the men's loo, labelled to show his knightly title.

Goronwy vigorously maintained the Director's monthly evening conferences (as re-established by Galbraith), at which historians, more or less eminent and covering a very wide spread of topics and periods, delivered themselves of fixed and mature opinions (Sir Charles Webster comes to mind) or adumbrated opinions not yet firmly received (R.H. Tawney for example). It was all enormously stimulating and could be amusing. On one memorable occasion Baron Meiendorf, unknown to most of us, gave a talk on the work and fate of Kerensky and the Menshevik parliament of 1917. When he sat down, to the usual polite applause, a young student in the audience suggested that the speaker had got one bit of the story wrong. The baron replied politely that he was sure of his facts: 'You see, I was a member of that *duma* - I was there'.

In the midst of all this activity Goronwy nevertheless pursued his studies of the early English parliaments. He had already set his authoritative stamp on the subject with his essay in the *Festschrift* presented to H.E. Salter: 'The *Plena Potestas* of English parliamentary representatives'. But throughout his years as Director, Goronwy persisted with his theme of the essential importance of the place and role of the Commons. His term as President of the Royal Historical Society (1961-4) and his Ford Lectures in 1961 allowed him further opportunities to consolidate his masterly interpretation of the purposes and functioning of the English parliament from the thirteenth to the sixteenth century. An important spin-off from these studies was his pioneering and enduring work on the emergence of majority rule, both in parliamentary elections and procedure.

As an English constitutional historian Goronwy Edwards may be seen as an heir of the Manchester School. But although born in Salford he was a Welshman through and through. Taken to Flintshire at the age of two, he spoke no

English till several years later, and was probably not fluent in the language till he was about ten or eleven. His Welshness was reflected in the fact that his earliest published work of history dealt with Wales, and that more mature work on Wales was to follow later. In 1940 the Public Record Office published his edition of *Littere Wallie*. In 1944 Goronwy devoted his Sir John Rhys Memorial Lecture to Edward I's castle-building in Wales, while in 1955 he gave the Raleigh lecture on The Normans and the Welsh March, a brilliant analysis which remains a necessary starting point for the historian of Welsh-Norman relations.

His Welshness was reflected in even more fruitful ways. In 1925 he married Gwladys, eldest daughter of the Rev. William Williams, the clergyman who had married Goronwy's father and mother. Gwladys was the perfect hostess, kind, friendly, hospitable to the core, and happy to talk with anyone from the most eminent to the humblest junior. She also acted as longstop for papers her husband had drafted - if the reasoning did not convince her, the work went back for revision. Gwladys's popularity was enthusiastically demonstrated on 5 July 1960 when she and Goronwy returned to the Senate House from Buckingham Palace where the Queen had conferred a knighthood upon Goronwy: the MacMillan Hall was packed to bursting with cheering supporters.

Goronwy's style was not to everyone's taste. He was a true Mancunian in rejecting frills or flights of fancy. His method was to build an argument as if it were a length of masonry, each piece of evidence fitted in carefully so that the conclusion, at least as far as it went, was unchallengeable. As a young man, Goronwy had had serious thoughts of becoming a scientist. He saw history as a scientist might see it, as a series of problems to be solved. By the end of his life he had solved many problems in medieval history.

Geoffrey Barrow

Doing Historical Research in Medieval London

Caroline Barron summarises her fascinating lecture, delivered to the Friends in March 2005

In thinking about the talk I had been invited to give to the Friends of the IHR, I decided to bring together my interest in medieval London with my experience of the crucial role of the IHR in encouraging the work of present-day historians. So, how did medieval Londoners set about studying or writing history? What facilities were available to them? I identified at least four of the essential characteristics of the IHR: a library for research; rooms for discussion; training courses... and food. To consider these in reverse order may be appropriate.

Certainly there seems to have been no shortage of ready-made food available in medieval London, even for those who had only farthings to spend. From the twelfth century a range of dishes was available in cookshops by the Thames. Conversations about politics (or history) probably took place, however, not in the cookshops, but in taverns where wine was sold, and in ale houses.

Skills training of a sort was also available in the medieval city. William Fitz Stephen described the three schools (probably at St Paul's, St Martin the Grand and St Mary le Bow) which existed in twelfth-century London. By the end of the medieval period there were many more to be found in the city and, by the fifteenth century, not all the Latin grammar schools were run by churchmen. One lay schoolmaster, John Sewarde, wrote Latin verses, exchanged witticisms with the humanist prior of St Alban's, Simon Southery, had a real love of the classics and taught young men to read and write fluent Latin. He was but the most learned of a number of London schoolmasters. Demand outstripped the supply. Some of this demand was met by scribes, like William Kingsmill, who also taught young men the skills of writing, not only in Latin but also in French and English.

Books were expensive and private libraries were rare among medieval Londoners, although there were some notable exceptions such as the remarkable personal collection which John Carpenter, the common clerk of the city, bequeathed to the fledgling Guildhall Library at his death in 1444. By the fifteenth century many of the city's hundred parish churches had small chained libraries which included not only the ubiquitous Golden Legend of Saints in English, but also a French Bible at St James Garlickhythe and a copy of Higden's Latin *Polychronicon* at St Peter Cornhill.

Sermons were, in effect, the public lectures of medieval London. Many Londoners left money to endow these and to bring university men to preach in city churches at particular festivals. On occasion these sermons developed into public debates attracting large crowds, as when in the 1460s the Carmelite friar Henry Parker preached on the absolute poverty of Christ and was challenged by Dr William Ive, the master of Whittington College. Then, as now, lively intellectual debate attracted the crowds.

Lay Londoners like Arnald FitzThedmar in the thirteenth century, or Andrew Horn fifty years later, were able to write historical accounts of the city which drew on Latin sources as well as their own experience. By the fifteenth century Londoners were writing history for themselves in English. Most of these 'London chronicles' were imitative and, by our standards, plagiarized. They were also largely anonymous - the products of London workshops. But the chronicle (first printed in 1511) written by Robert Fabyan, a London draper and alderman, who borrowed books from Guildhall Library and resigned his aldermanry in order to devote more time to his scholarly writing, demonstrates how good a historian a medieval Londoner could be even without the facilities we enjoy at the IHR. But a review of what was available to medieval Londoners serves to remind us of just how fortunate we are to enjoy the rich resources of the Institute.

The Institute pays tribute here to three of its most stalwart Friends and supporters, Conrad Russell, Rees Davies and Nicolai Rubinstein.

CONRAD RUSSELL (1937-2004)



Conrad Sebastian Robert Russell was the younger son of the philosopher and Nobel prize winner Bertrand Russell and his third wife, Patricia 'Peter' Spence. They married in 1936, when Russell was already 64, and Conrad was born

on 15 April 1937. He spent much of his early life in the USA but when his family returned to England after the war he was sent to Dartington Hall, which he disliked, then to Eton which he mostly enjoyed. There he acquired his lifelong love of cricket, which together with swimming, both on holiday in the Mediterranean and in Hampstead Heath ponds, formed his chief recreation. The influence of his father was immense: he treated Conrad from an early age as an equal whose ideas deserved serious consideration, and taught him precision of thought and language. However, the bitter break-up of his parents' marriage cast a shadow, for his mother gained custody and refused to allow Conrad to see his father again. Later, when he achieved a successful reconciliation with Bertie, she broke off the relationship with her son.

Conrad went up to Merton College, Oxford, where he made many friends and campaigned to allow women to join the Union. He graduated with a First in 1958, but his two years of research did not produce the expected DPhil and he became a lecturer, then reader, at Bedford College London in 1960. He remained there until 1979 when he moved to Yale. He returned to Britain in 1984, as Astor Professor of British History at UCL, but the 1980s saw many changes in the organization of London University, and he was strongly opposed

to those who wanted to break up its federal structure in teaching and examining. This caused friction at UCL, and Conrad transferred to King's as Professor of British history in 1990, remaining there until his retirement in 2002. He delivered the Ford Lectures at Oxford in 1987-8 and was elected FBA in 1991.

Conrad started his life's work on the early seventeenth century as a postgraduate, but became dissatisfied with the usual list of the causes of the English Civil War, because, as he later wrote, 'they did not appear to be anchored by any logical link with the events which led up to it'. He added 'It took me thirty years to come to terms with this insight'. He wrote articles in the 1960s probing various aspects which struck him as particularly problematical. It was not until 1971 that he published his first book, *The Crisis of Parliaments: English History 1509-1660*, in the 'Short Oxford History of the Modern World' series. This was followed by more articles, two of them contributed to his own edited volume, *The Origins of the English Civil War* (1973), which was well received. The book that really made Conrad's name was his 1979 monograph, *Parliaments and English Politics 1621-1629*. 'Revisionism', as it became known, attacked the twin contentions that the explanation for political crisis lay in long-term social and economic change, and that as a result, the breakdown of the English polity was pre-determined and inevitable. Conrad's argument emerged from a detailed narrative of the parliaments of the 1620s, but also incorporated a full understanding of the county and local studies that were pre-occupying other rising historians such as John Morrill. His conclusion was that, as inflation eroded the value of the Crown's income, and as the costs of continental war spiralled steadily upward, the localist outlook of most MPs made them unwilling and unable to comprehend the genuine problems faced by royal government. This was the real 'functional breakdown' (a phrase borrowed from Gerald Aylmer) rather than the classic Whig account of a House of Commons aggressively defending English liberties or the neo-Marxist class struggle that led to victory for the rising 'middling sort'.

After re-working the 1620s, Conrad spent the next twelve years tackling the 'Everest' as he described

it, of the origins of the Civil War. Two books resulted. *The Causes of the English Civil War* was published in 1990 and was a revised version of his Ford lectures. It emphasised growing religious division as well as political conflict and in many ways offered some conclusions to the magisterial narrative of *The Fall of the British Monarchies 1637-1642* (1991). This argued precisely what its title suggested: that it was the novel and perhaps insoluble problems of managing a multiple monarchy that explained the outbreak of war in 1642. The Scots rebelled first, the Irish next, so the English were the last of Charles I's subjects to defy him. In other words, this was not an 'English civil war' at all.

Conrad continued to publish scholarly articles until 2002, and also found time to write dozens of letters to the newspapers as well as publishing *Academic Freedom* (1993), an attack on current policies towards higher education, and *An Intelligent Person's Guide to Liberalism* (1999), his last book. He joined the Liberal party in 1974, and on succeeding his half-brother in 1987 as the fifth Earl Russell he took the Liberal Democrats' whip in the Lords. He was elected in 1999 as one of the surviving hereditary peers and served in the Upper House until his final illness.

In 1962 Conrad married Elizabeth Sanders, one of his students at Bedford College, and their happy marriage helped him to overcome the memories of his early life. In accordance with the strict attitudes of the day, Elizabeth had to move from Bedford to Westfield College to complete her degree. Conrad thought this was splendid: she would have tutorials on medieval history with May McKisack. Later, both of them were great devotees of the IHR and never missed the Tudor-Stuart seminar. In 1975 Conrad became a convenor alongside Joel Hurstfield, and returned happily to the seminar after his years at Yale. Unfailingly courteous to speakers, he could nevertheless be a formidable presence; his crumpled appearance was at odds with his aristocratic profile and distinguished stoop, while his questions were occasionally disconcertingly oblique. However, the retirement dinner that the seminar held in his honour in June 2002 was, he said, one of proudest events of his life. Sadly, Elizabeth was already suffering from cancer and

her death in 2003 worsened Conrad's precarious health. They were both heavy smokers, and his emphysema increased until he was dependent on his oxygen inhaler. He died in October 2004. The fund which he founded to commemorate Elizabeth will shortly be re-launched as the Conrad and Elizabeth Russell Fund, and will become a general hardship fund for graduate students at the IHR.

Pauline Croft



**SIR REES DAVIES
(1938-2005)**

Rees Davies, the finest and most influential historian of medieval Britain of his generation, died in May 2005. Although throughout his life his closest ties were with his native Wales, and in the last ten years he was based at Oxford as Chichele Professor of Medieval History, he was a member of the IHR for 45 years and the London connection meant much to him.

He was an undergraduate at UCL from 1956 to 1959; in his third year he took May McKisack's recently introduced special subject on the reign of Richard II. Years later he observed that 'historical perception may be heightened and made more vivid by the confrontation of two alien or at least different societies' – a reflection surely of the impact London must have made on a Welsh-speaking eighteen-year-old brought up on his parents' hill farm near Cynwyd in Merioneth, in what he himself called 'Glyn Dwr country'. His own perceptions were certainly heightened. He won every prize that college and university had to offer - the Pollard Prize, the Bryce Memorial Scholarship and the Derby Studentship. He then went to Oxford where he was supervised by K.B. McFarlane, whose guidance, friendship, and example he never forgot.

In 1963 he returned to University College London as a lecturer in history, and to a ten year

stint as Assistant and Review Editor of *History*. For a while his main field of research was on English rule in medieval Wales, the impact of that rule on Welsh law and on relations between the two peoples, but wider interests were already signalled by articles, in both Welsh and English, on the great French medievalist, Marc Bloch. It is impossible not to apply to Rees words he wrote about Bloch back in 1967. 'We surely do right to salute his memory, for his life and work are a reminder to us that, however scientific some of our historical methods may be, it is at our peril that we forget that history is also the first of the humanities.'

Most of the research and writing for his first big book, *Lordship and Society in the March of Wales, 1282-1400* (1978) was done during these London years. In London too, at the Welsh Presbyterian Church, he met Carys Lloyd Wynne. They were married in 1966. To them both his appointment in 1976 as Professor of History at the University College of Wales, Aberystwyth, meant far more than just promotion. It was a welcome opportunity to bring up their two children in Welsh Wales.

As head of the Aberystwyth history department, a post he held without a break until 1992, Rees demonstrated that remarkable combination of meticulous administrative and gentle managerial skills which resulted in him being deluged with chairmanships and presidencies, above all in Wales, where his contribution to history and culture, at both school and university level, was incalculable. A term's leave in the session 1983-4 allowed him to return to what he called 'the tranquillity of London away from the bustle of Aberystwyth' and write the early chapters of his greatest book – winner of the 1987 Wolfson Literary Award for History - *Conquest, Co-existence and Change: Wales 1063-1415*, reprinted in 1992 as *The Age of Conquest*. In the preface he recalled that 'Michael Thompson and his colleagues at the Institute of Historical Research and my former colleagues and friends in London were kindness itself during those months'.

In his case, love for his country only sharpened his sense of the value of getting away from traditional nation-centred historiographical approaches. One of the more significant developments in recent decades in the writing and teaching of history in British universities has been the move away from an anglocentric version of 'our island story' – in effect the discovery that the Irish, Welsh, and Scots had cultures and histories of their own which interlocked with, but were also far more than simply responses to, English influence and invasion. At the same time departments of Irish, Welsh and Scottish History in Ireland, Wales and Scotland have come out of their intellectual ghettos, and have been willing to see their own national histories as part of a wider whole, both a European whole and a 'two islands' whole. This breaking down of barriers owes more to Rees Davies than anyone else. In 1986 he brought together a group of like-minded historians from Scotland, Wales, Ireland, and England. The title of the resulting volume, *The British Isles 1100-1500: Comparisons Contrasts and Connections* (1988), summed up the approach that, as he put it, allowed him 'to ride one or two favourite hobby-horses'. In 1988 he gave the Wiles Lectures in Belfast, published as *Domination and Conquest. The experience of Ireland, Scotland and Wales 1100-1300* (1990); in 1998 the Ford Lectures in Oxford, published as *The First English Empire. Power and Identities in the British Isles 1093-1343* (2000), for which he was awarded the British Academy Book Prize.

His sense of duty both to students and to the subject of his life's work meant that he undertook an awesome burden of teaching, committee work, administration, and high academic office, and not just in Wales. His roles as Convenor of the History at the Universities Defence Group (1990-2) and then as President of the Royal Historical Society (1992-6) brought him frequently to London – as did archival research for *The Revolt of Owain Glyn Dwr* (1995). At least those long train journeys from Aberystwyth to London – five hours on a good day – gave him time for the ideas that went into his *Presidential Addresses on The Peoples of Britain and Ireland, 1100-1400*.

Although he scaled the heights of the historical profession in Britain, in consequence earning first a CBE and then a knighthood, there was never the slightest whiff of self-importance. Self-deprecating humour was a characteristic mode of expression, and remained so even as, with his family's help, he endured the pains of cancer and its treatment. Somehow he always found time for others, whether in person or by letter. If you asked him to comment on a draft, in no time at all you would get a reply, often a long one - I once received one that covered 11 foolscap pages - written in a hand which seemed to flow over the page, idea after idea, and with such clarity of thought that there never was, or so it seemed, a phrase or word crossed out. His ability to listen to students and to give them unstintingly of his time earned their respect and affection. Whenever friends, colleagues or students found themselves in difficulties, of whatever sort, they discovered that he was the kindest of men.

John Gillingham

**PROFESSOR NICOLAI RUBENSTEIN
(1911-2002)**

The first of three eagerly awaited volumes of the late Professor Nicolai Rubinstein's collected papers in English and Italian, *Studies in Italian history in the Middle Ages and the Renaissance. Political thought and the language of politics. Art and politics*, ed. Giovanni Ciapelli (Rome, 2004), has recently been published. It bears witness to his great powers, to his lifelong academic energies, and to his international reputation. The sixty articles chosen for the collection were approved by the author before his death, and he made minor revisions to a few papers in the first volume, for example his influential 1958 article on 'Political ideas in Sienese art: the frescoes of Ambrogio Lorenzetti and Taddeo di Bartolo in the Palazzo Pubblico'. His classic book, *The government of Florence under the Medici, 1434-1494*, first published in England in 1966, was republished with his minor revisions in 1997. In 1995 he broke fresh ground with *The Palazzo Vecchio 1298-1532. Government, architecture and imagery in the civic palace of the Florentine republic*, and in 2002 he was planning a new book on the history

of Florence, traced through buildings chosen to illustrate the stages of its development.

When he died at the age of ninety-one on 19 August 2002, Nicolai Rubinstein had been intimately connected with the IHR as the convenor of the influential seminar in Italian history for half a century and as a longstanding honorary fellow. It comes as something of a surprise to find that among the many obituaries and tributes in England, Italy, and Germany (the fullest being Professor Daniel Waley's in *Proceedings of the British Academy*, 124, pp. 313-30), none has yet been paid to him in these pages; this short notice is intended to make reparation.

He was born in Berlin in 1911 to Jewish parents, and grew up in the cosmopolitan climate of the Weimar republic. His mother was Hungarian and his father, who came from Riga, was the successful publisher of Russian authors in translation, among them Maxim Gorky, whom Nicolai and his younger sister remembered clearly. He attended the Französische Gymnasium and was sent in late adolescence for a long stay in a Swiss sanatorium where Thomas Mann was also a patient, a Proustian experience.

In 1930 he began university in Berlin, attending the seminar of the Renaissance scholar, Hans Baron. In December 1933, thanks to their Hungarian passports, the family was able to emigrate to escape persecution. Nicolai went to Florence, the others to Paris, where his sister still lives, she alone having escaped the Gestapo. He graduated from the University of Florence in 1935, encountering the incomparable Archivio di Stato under the guidance of Roberto Davidsohn and beginning an already promising academic career as *assistente* to the Russian historian of Florence, Nicola Ottokar. In the summer of 1938 he left fascist Italy for England, at first staying in London with a friend, William Buchan, the future Lord Tweedsmuir, then moving to Oxford, where he obtained some teaching. From 1942 to 1945 he was a lecturer at University College, Southampton, in a department of two. Alwyn Ruddock taught all the English history and Nicolai all the European

history from 476 to 1914. In wartime Southampton he experienced firewatching and learnt to contend with food rationing; to the end of his life he remembered as a triumph a dish he regularly concocted from powdered egg.

In 1945 he was appointed to Westfield (now part of QMUL), then still a woman's college, where he remained as lecturer, reader, and professor until his retirement in 1978. Among the courses Nicolai taught was his special subject, Florence and the Renaissance, 1464-1532, studied in Italian texts. In 1954 he married the art historian, Ruth Olitsky, a supremely happy partnership. With Professor Christopher Brooke, who came to Westfield in 1967, he also founded and fostered the new and very successful art history department.

The 'Italian' seminar at the IHR – which met under Nicolai on Thursdays for two terms of each year, and still meets under its present convenors, Trevor Dean, Kate Lowe, and Alison Wright – is officially entitled, according to its current attendance register, 'Italian History, c. 1250-1600'. The seminar began under Nicolai's aegis in 1949 and became enormously influential as a filter for new work. He directed it for forty-six years until 1995 and himself last attended in his ninetieth year in February 2001. Originally confined to very few members and dedicated to the close study of texts, it grew to become a centre for all those interested in this period of Italian history, historians and art historians. Beside residents in London (senior academics as well as current Ph.D students), who made up the nucleus of regular attenders, many visitors from abroad are recorded in the seminar book. Some ninety names, regular and occasional, are entered over the session 1986-7, for example. Every three years or so, Nicolai himself would give a paper, attracting an exceptionally large audience. His standards, based on an extraordinarily wide knowledge of original sources, were rigorous, but he was always kind and encouraging to beginners. Visiting speakers, almost all of them eventually becoming dear personal friends, would be taken home to dinner with Ruth, always a delicious and heart-warming experience.

After 1978, the Warburg Institute, where already Ruth worked in the Photographic Collection, became his second home. There he produced the continuing flow of papers and books and there he assembled the materials for the ongoing edition of the letters of Lorenzo de' Medici. This project, mooted in 1938, was revived in the 1950s. Nicolai himself edited the two volumes (1977, 1981) covering the years of the Pazzi conspiracy. As a genial and active general editor he meticulously checked everything written by his collaborators, the printed sources mainly in London and the documents on repeated visits to the archives in Florence and elsewhere in Italy. Professor F. W. Kent has taken over as General Editor of the project. The archive of the edition as well as Nicolai's working papers is now housed in the Monash University Centre at Prato. His notes, if not typewritten on an antiquated machine, are written in a clear but minute hand, reflecting his continual search for the perfect fine pen. In 1971 Nicolai became a Fellow of the British Academy. Many other honours were awarded to him, among them the Galileo Galilei prize (1985). None gave him greater delight than his honorary citizenship of Florence (1991).

Jenny Stratford

Besides the authors of the many elegant tributes to Nicolai Rubinstein, too numerous to mention, this notice is particularly indebted to Kate Lowe for her help with information about the Italian seminar.

Do you know that you can become a Life Friend of the IHR with a minimum donation of £500?

If you would like further information on this, or how to offer an annual or lifetime affiliation as a gift, please contact Felicity or Kathryn in the Development and Friends' Office who would be delighted to discuss your requirements.

Tel 020 7862 8764 or 8791
E-mail felicity.jones@sas.ac.uk or
kathryn.dagless@sas.ac.uk

American Friends of the IHR

The most recent Board meeting of the American Friends of the IHR was held in October 2004, during the NACBS conference at Philadelphia. The Directors voted there to devote \$7,900 of the funds raised by the 2004-5 Appeal to replace the IHR Library's ageing security system, which needed updating urgently. The balance of funds raised will be applied to purchase print and electronic reference materials. The Directors also voted to elect to their ranks Professor Lynn A. Botelho to replace Professor Angela Woollacott, now based in Sydney. Professor Dan Baugh also stepped down as President, after many years at the helm of the organization that he was instrumental in founding, and was succeeded as President by Professor J. Sears McGee of University of California Santa Barbara. All at the Institute would like to thank Professor Baugh for his unstinting support in establishing the American Friends as a vibrant illustration of the international dimensions of the Institute's community of friends and supporters.

The History Lab

Two current IHR students, Kate Bradley and Liza Filby, have received support from the Vice-Chancellor's Development Fund to establish a postgraduate history network, The History Lab. Named and developed in the spirit of A.F. Pollard's original vision for the IHR, it will be based around the IHR's fortnightly Thursday postgraduate seminar and annual conference. It will offer termly workshops and discussion groups to provide an opportunity for students to forge new contacts, broaden their understanding of the historical discipline and break down superficial disciplinary divisions. The official launch will be on October 13 2005 and IHR Friends are most welcome to attend. Please email history.lab@sas.ac.uk.



Above: (L) Kate Bradley and (R) Liza Filby

Forthcoming Events at the IHR

Join us in the Beveridge Hall on **Monday 24 October** at 5.30pm for a public lecture on **Archives, Truth and Reconciliation** by Albie Sachs, Justice of the Constitutional Court of South Africa. All are welcome to attend this free event and reception, sponsored by the School of Advanced Study and The National Archives, and supported by the Arts and Humanities Research Council.

The IHR's Winter Conference on **History and the Public** to be held on **13-14 February 2006** will explore the involvement of the public in the production and consumption of history. Speakers include Charles Saumarez Smith, Director of the National Gallery, and Liz Forgan, Chair of the Trustees of the Heritage Lottery Fund.

The 2006 Anglo-American Conference on the theme of **Religions and Politics**, will be held on **5-7 July 2006** and will explore the global historic dimensions of such questions as religious change as an agent for political change, and the differences across time and between faiths of such connections. This year's conference will be the 75th gathering of historians from around the world and we hope that many Friends will be able to join us in July to celebrate the conference's long-standing and immense contribution to the international historical community.

And finally, don't forget the annual **Friends' AGM, Lecture and Party**, to be held on Wednesday 8 March 2006 from 5pm onwards. This year's speaker will be Professor Pat Thane, the Leverhulme Professor of Contemporary British History here at the Institute of Historical Research. Professor Thane has published widely on topics including women in politics, the Welfare State and Old Age in Britain. We hope that many of you will be able to join us to celebrate the Friends' coming of age with an informative lecture and a glass of wine. We will circulate full details with the AGM papers in early 2006.