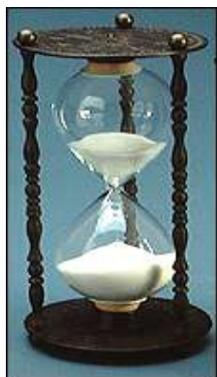


Historical Geography Research Group

(ROYAL GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY with THE INSTITUTE OF BRITISH GEOGRAPHERS)



<http://hgrg.nuigalway.ie>

HGRG Newsletter, Autumn 2004

In this issue:

- ◆ New HGRG committee, 2004/2005
- ◆ Call for sessions for RGS-IBG 2005
- ◆ Other upcoming conferences and events
- ◆ HGRG AGM 2004 minutes

Copy for the HGRG newsletter should be sent to:

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HGRG Honorary Publicity Officer
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Copy should be submitted either on floppy disc (PC or Mac, MS Word files preferred) or via e-mail to j.morrissey@nuigalway.ie.

Copy deadlines are: **1 February** for the spring edition, **1 June** for the summer edition, and **1 October** for the autumn edition.

HGRG Electronic Mailing List: if you would you like to be added to this list, please contact the Membership Secretary, David Lambert, d.lambert@rhul.ac.uk.

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Forthcoming Conferences:

RGS-IBG Annual Conference 2005

"Call for sessions"

**31 August - 2 September 2005
at the RGS-IBG, London**

"Flows and spaces in a globalised world"

Chair of Conference: Allan Williams, University of Exeter

The RGS-IBG encourages a call for sessions for the following types of papers/abstracts/submissions for any of the listed areas:

- Research papers - Completed papers
- Abstracts of completed or proposed research
- Student papers - research by students
- Poster sessions (informal presentations)
- Work in Progress reports - Proposals for future projects
- Panel discussions
- Practitioner Forums

Each Research Group can submit proposals for up to three sessions. Additionally you can submit a proposal for up to two joint sessions (e.g. joint with another research group or joint with the postgraduate community). We also invite submissions for proposals for one session from individuals or groups of individuals within the community who can provide good justification for their session. Sessions and modules can be convened in various ways. We are encouraging the use of 15-minute blocks to allow delegates to transfer during sessions should they so wish. This means that eight papers could be presented within one module, leaving 15 minutes for general questions/discussion/ poster presentations. Sessions where the whole module consists of a panel discussion are also welcomed. Whatever the structure of the session, the convenor must make their intentions clear with the RGS-IBG from the outset.

1. Submissions may be made directly to the RHED at the RGS-IBG by COMPLETING THE PROFORMA (available online at: <http://hrg.nuigalway.ie/events.html>).
2. Submissions made electronically are preferred (rhed@rgs.org or AC2005@rgs.org).
3. Correspondence regarding receipt of submission will be made by email, unless another mode of correspondence is requested.
4. Notification of acceptances will be made as soon as the review process is completed. We will aim to get back to everyone no later than 30 November, and if possible earlier. We will also post your session on the website as soon as possible after acceptance so that you can then invite abstracts for papers.

Deadline for Research Groups call for sessions: **15 November 2004**
Deadline for abstract submission: **31 January 2005**
Deadline for early registration: **5 May 2005**

For further information, visit www.rgs.org/AC2005 or e-mail AC2005@rgs.org.

British Agricultural History Society
Institute of Historical Research, Senate House, London
Winter Conference - Saturday 4th December 2004

FARMING IN UPLAND BRITAIN

10.30 REGISTRATION AND COFFEE

10.45 Althea Davies (Stirling) Farming systems and communities in the Scottish Highlands over the last 1000 years: case studies integrating pollen and historical evidence

11.45 Angus Winchester (Lancaster) Manor courts and common land in upland northern England 1450-1700

1.00 LUNCH

2.00 Diccon Cooper (Cambridge) Fatalistic conservatism or risk aversion? Upland farming in south west Wales, 1650-1850

3.00 Mark Riley (Exeter) Farming in the post-war Peak District: possible lessons from agricultural history for nature conservation

4.00 TEA

4.30 CONFERENCE ENDS

The cost of the conference is £20 (with lunch) or £10 (without lunch). If you would like to attend, please contact Dr. Jane Whittle, History Department, University of Exeter, Amory Building, Rennes Drive, Exeter EX4 4RJ, UK. E-mail: j.c.whittle@exeter.ac.uk. For further information, see the BAHS website at <http://www.bahs.org.uk/>.

Social History Society Annual Conference
Dublin, 7-9 January 2005

‘Mapping the Past: Boundaries, Communications and Transnational Exchanges’

This is one of six strands running at the Social History Society Annual Conference, 7-9 January 2005, University College Dublin, Ireland. It explores the shape of the past, the specificity of place, the influence of environment, the nature of boundaries, and the impact of travel. It maps divisions – whether they be urban-rural, centre-periphery, north-south, metropole-diaspora – and the communications that flow between them. It is concerned with the exchange of people, materials and ideas whether through migration, trade, wars and other conflicts. It will also examine the historical role of imaginary places, and the cultural contribution of wanderers and flâneurs.

The strand organiser is Dr David Hopkin, Department of Economic and Social History, University of Glasgow (e-mail: dmh@arts.gla.ac.uk, tel.: +44 (0)141 3302786. Further details about the conference are available at: <http://sochist.ntu.ac.uk>.

Minutes of HGRG Annual General Meeting 16th August 2004

IGU Glasgow

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Dr Alan Lester, Dr Georgina Gowans, Dr David Lambert, Dr John Morrissey, Dr Yvonne Whelan, Dr Craig Young.

2. Minutes of last meeting

Minutes were published in the October 2003 newsletter and were accepted as an accurate reflection of the last meeting.

3. Matters arising not on the agenda

There were none.

4. Chair's Business

a. Report on activities (September 2003 – August 2004)

Dr McEwan presented the following report to the AGM:

Over the past 12 months the HGRG committee and members continued to be active in a number of different areas, organising meetings and supporting research in historical geography. This includes the work of the committee and members in organising the ninth annual undergraduate and postgraduate conference in historical geography, *Practising Historical Geography*, which was held in the Department of Geography, UCL in November 2003. The conference was funded by HGRG and a grant (£300) from the Research and Higher Education Division of RGS-IBG. HGRG was able to maintain a policy of keeping the conference (including lunch and refreshments) free of charge to those in attendance. There were over 30 delegates, and students and staff participating commented positively on the success and usefulness of the conference. A report was included in the February Newsletter.

The committee has been actively involved in the organization of the RGS-IBG Annual Conference at the IGU 2004 meeting, and the group will be strongly represented there. In addition to our usual Postgraduate Research sessions organised by the Committee, sessions sponsored by HGRG are:

- Historical Geographies of Morality and Leisure (convenors: Elizabeth Gagen and Fiona Smyth)
- Historical Geographies of Art and the Environment (convenors: Sarah Cant and Nina Morris)
- Geographies of Collecting (convenors: Pippa Biltcliffe, Starr Douglas and Jude Hill)

The Committee was also successful in its application to RGS-IBG for a grant of £300 to support postgraduate attendance at the conference.

Two applications were received for the Small Conference and Seminar Funding scheme in 2003. A grant of £250 was given to the *London Group of Historical Geographers Seminar Programme*. The funds were used to support postgraduate attendance.

As always, much of the work of the committee this year has been in administering postgraduate support and supporting undergraduate and postgraduate work in historical geography. In addition to the £300 from RGS-IBG, HGRG also made £300 available to fund postgraduate attendance at IGU. Four awards of £150 were made to: Briony McDonagh (University of Nottingham), Claire Townsend (University of Leicester), Pippa Biltcliffe (Royal Holloway, University of London), Charles Travis (Trinity College Dublin). We hope to be able to publish their conference reports in forthcoming issues of the newsletter.

The Historical Geography Research Series continues. HGRG 38 was published in September 2003; this was John Morrissey's "Negotiating colonialism", a more substantial monograph than is usual thanks to the Publications Fund of National University of Ireland, Galway that gave a subvention to cover additional publication costs.

There was an unfortunate delay in awarding the 2003 Cambridge University Press and HGRG annual Undergraduate Dissertation Prize in Historical Geography, which meant that a final decision could not be made until January 2004. Eight entries were received. The prize was awarded to Sefton Laing (University of Edinburgh), for a dissertation entitled 'Late Victorian Science at the 'highest office in the United Kingdom': a contextual investigation of the Ben Nevis Observatory, 1883-1904'. HGRG is grateful to Dr Richard Dennis for chairing the adjudication again in 2003; the Committee judge was Dr Dan Knox. Six entries were received for the 2004 prize, which was awarded to Jennifer Scott (Oxford) for a dissertation entitled "Edinburgh's Lower East Side: Evaluating the Rhetoric of Sanitary Reform, 1861-1881". The entry by Alistair Gates (UCL) was also highly commended. HGRG is grateful to Dr Alan Baker for chairing the adjudication; the other judges were Dr Cheryl McEwan and Dr Alan Lester.

The Chair of HGRG was able to be present at most of the Research Division meetings of the RGS-IBG (except the one scheduled for 10am) and the work of the Committee has proceeded as usual without interruption. Three newsletters were circulated to members in March, June and October; hard copy is still essential for non-academic and independent members. The HGRG web-site continues to work effectively from Galway (<http://hgrg.nuigalway.ie>) and is an excellent source of information for members and other interested parties. The Committee also makes regular use of its email distribution list to consult members, particularly regarding matters arising from RGS-IBG.

b. Committee positions

The following nominations were approved by the AGM:

- Chair: Hayden Lorimer (nominated, by CM, seconded by AL)
- Secretary: Kate Brace (nominated by CM, seconded by GG)
- Treasurer: Jon Stobart (nominated by CY, seconded by CM)
- Publicity Officer: John Morrissey (nominated by CM, seconded by DL - one year extension)
- Newsletter Secretary: Nicola Thomas (nominated KB, seconded GG)
- Membership Secretary: David Lambert (nominated AL, seconded HL)
- Conference Officer: Yvonne Whelan (nominated GG, seconded CM)
- Ordinary Member: Pete Merriman (nominated by AL, seconded by HL)
- Ordinary Member: Liz Gagen (nominated by CM, seconded by GG)
- Postgrad Member: Diarmid Finnegan (unopposed; extension for 1 year)

The handover of posts will be on September 1st 2004 and full contact details will be recorded in the October newsletter and on the HGRG website.

c. RAE 2008 – nominations for panel members

In response to advice from members, HGRG nominated Professor David Livingstone a sub-panel member to represent historical/humanities-based side of the discipline.

5. Forthcoming meetings

a. HGRG conference, November 2004

Dr McEwan reported that the annual conference is due to be held at Nottingham University on Wednesday 3rd November. Progress is well underway in putting together a program of speakers.

b. RGS-IBG Annual Conference 2005

The RGS-IBG Annual Conference will be held at the RGS in London (31st Aug-2nd September 2005). An email request has been sent to HGRG members requesting suggestions for session bids. The deadline for these is November 15th.

6. Reports

a. Hon. Secretary

Nothing further to report, but the AGM formally recorded thanks to Dr Georgina Gowans for her work over the years on the Committee and best wishes for her future in Australia.

b. Hon. Treasurer

Accounts to July were circulated. There were no anomalies and the budget is balanced again for 2004. The AGM formally recorded thanks to Dr Craig Young for his work as Treasurer.

c. Hon. Editor

Dr Lester sent a written report. Volume 39, Alan Baker (ed) 'Home and Colonial: essays on landscape, environment and empire in celebration of Robin Butlin's contribution to historical geography', is currently in press and should be published and distributed to members by the end of October.

d. Hon. Publicity Secretary

Nothing further to report.

e. Hon. Conference Secretary

Nothing further to report. The AGM formally recorded thanks to Dr Dan Knox for his work on the Committee and for handing over (with the assistance of Mr Diarmid Finnegan) an almost complete schedule for the November conference.

f. Postgraduate Committee Member

Nothing further to report.

g. Membership Secretary

Dr Lorimer reported that membership currently stands at 391, which is slightly down on previous years, primarily due to retirements. However, postgraduate membership remains buoyant and numbers are expected to rise again in October.

h. Ordinary Member

Nothing further to report.

7. Any other business

Dr Lorimer formally thanked Dr McEwan for her work on the Committee over the past 10 years. Dr McEwan, in turn, formally thanked the Committee members during her term as Chair for their hard work and commitment, and wished the new Committee well.

8. Date of next AGM

Some time between 31st August and 3rd September 2005

Dr Cheryl McEwan

Chair (outgoing) HGRG

Conference Reports:

International Symposium on Bernhard Varenus, Herzog-August Library, Wolfenbuettel, Germany, 10-11 June, 2004

Denis Shaw, University of Birmingham, reports:

The international symposium on the great German geographer, Bernhard Varenus (1622-1650), was organised by Dr Margret Schuchard (Heidelberg) and hosted by the Herzog-August Library. This splendid library and research centre for early modern

European cultural history began life as the personal library of Duke August of Braunschweig-Lüneberg (reigned 1634-1666) who, by the time of his death, had accumulated no less than 135,000 titles in 35,000 volumes. The duke's collection together with his personal catalogue, and many other works, atlases and materials on early modern European history, make the library a major research resource for historians, historical geographers and similar scholars.

The symposium consisted largely of German scholars because, in the event, two invited foreign presenters were unable to attend. The first part was devoted to the life of Varenius and to his background. Anselm Steiger's (Hamburg) paper considered the defence by Varenius' father, Heinrich (the chaplain of Duke August), on Johann Arndt's pietist but possibly heretical book, *Four Books of True Christianity* (1605-10). The symposium then turned to the life of Varenius himself. Margret Schuchard (Heidelberg) surveyed the scholar's short life, his birth in Hitzacker on the Elbe, and education at Helmstedt, Hamburg, Königsberg and Leiden (where he wrote his doctoral dissertation in medicine). The paper also considered the bibliographical history of Varenius' works. Klaus Lehmann (Hitzacker) showed how Varenius had been influenced by his teachers Conring and Jungius and, in his groundbreaking *Geographia Generalis* (1650), benefited from the latter's sceptical approach to Aristotle as well as from his method of working.

The symposium's second part focused on Varenius' book *Descriptio Regni Japoniae* (1649) and associated travel literature. Wolfgang Griep (Eutin) discussed the rich Varenius archive and book collection of the scholar Karl Rohrbach (1861-1932) now in the Eutin State Library. Horst Blanke (Herford) considered the mode of knowledge transfer involved in the composition of Varenius' work, whilst Reinhard Düchting (Sandhausen) placed the book on Japan into the tradition of European travel literature. Completing the section on the Japanese book,

Folker Reichert (Stuttgart) analysed the literary sources on Japan available to Varenius (who never visited Japan). These included general geographical studies on Asia, the reports of Jesuit missionaries, and reports of the Dutch East India company's officials.

The symposium's last section was devoted to the *Geographia Generalis*. Denis Shaw (Birmingham) considered the impact of Varenius' book in Russia following its translation and publication there on the orders of Peter the Great (1718). The late Frank Richter's (Freiburg) paper on Varenius' philosophical position was read in his absence. The paper challenged William Warntz's view that Varenius was essentially Cartesian, pointing out the difficulties of establishing his true position in the absence of hard evidence. Ulrich Staffhorst (Karlsruhe) argued that the undoubted influence of Varenius' book stemmed from its systematic and pedagogic character, its basic support for the Copernican system, and its resort to causal connections.

In its closing session the symposium members agreed to seek publication of the papers and to set up a working party to translate the *Geographia Generalis* for the very first time into German.

IGC-UK 2004, Glasgow

Claire Townsend, University of Leicester, writes:

I was very grateful for a grant from the HGRG to assist with the substantial cost of attending the IGC, held in August 2004 at Glasgow's shiniest new landmark – the Scottish Exhibition and Conference Centre on the banks of the Clyde. What struck me most was the sheer size of the event: over 1800 delegates had assembled from across the globe, bringing with them a multitude of different approaches to doing geography, which was reflected in the great diversity of papers presented.

It was heartening to see that historical geography is very much alive and kicking. A fascinating cluster of sessions on historical geographies of collecting encompassed a range of sometimes unusual collectors' items, including vintage radios, maps, fruit, insects and mountains. Later in the week, two sessions on postgraduate research in historical geography afforded a good opportunity both to practise my own presentation skills and to glimpse into the research interests of fellow Ph.D. students. My paper used data from wills to address the under-researched topic of urban-based social connections in the eighteenth century, looking specifically at the relationship between testators and the people whom they chose to carry out the instructions in their will.

As a geographer currently working in a history department I was keen to catch up with some of the latest concerns in contemporary geography. After venturing into a cultural geography session on universalism and particularism I emerged feeling somewhat intellectually drained, but enlightened. I particularly enjoyed Stephen Daniels' paper on the depiction of British suburban landscapes in visual art.

For me, the key to the conference's success was its combination of academic stimulation and 'extra-curricular' activities. On a walking tour of Glasgow's many retail developments, I took the opportunity both to learn about the city's history and to indulge in one of my favourite pastimes – shopping!

Pippa Biltcliffe, Royal Holloway, sent this report:

The 30th Congress of the International Geographic Union proved to be a thoroughly enriching and memorable experience. As ever, the mind-boggling breadth of geography as a discipline was on display for all to see, the sheer diversity of the sessions, papers and plenaries reflecting the Conference's central

theme of 'One Earth–Many Worlds'. Particularly rewarding for me, were the three 'Geographies of Collecting' sessions convened by Jude Hill, Starr Douglas and myself (all at Royal Holloway). Grouped by the themes of display, networks and things, ten richly varied papers traced the spatialities of collecting and collections through a plethora of objects, sites and relations. Papers such as those by Diarmid Finnegan (Edinburgh) exploring natural history societies in Victorian Scotland, Rebecca Ellis and Anna Haywood (Essex) that discussed the internet collecting practices of the vintage radio community, and Hayden Lorimer (Glasgow) that mapped a collectable topography of mountain summits, attested to the exciting ways in which geography can contribute to understanding the intricacies of these inherently spatial practices. My own paper explored how art objects were made meaningful through strategic display with reference to the Victorian art collection of Ferdinand de Rothschild. Given my research interests, I was pleased to find further discussions of the fertile connections between art and geography being teased out in the Historical Geographies of Art and the Environment sessions.

The annual conference always provides a welcome opportunity for postgraduates to meet and showcase their work, but I was struck by the large number of exemplary postgraduate papers that I heard. The RGS-IBG Postgraduate Forum Sessions were a case in point. Spanning a wide spectrum of research topics, the papers were consistently innovative and well-presented. Impressive too was the massive turnout at the postgraduate social on the Tuesday night, emphasising the importance of such events for stimulating discussion and allowing intellectual and social exchanges across both the postgraduate, and academic community more generally.

Thesis Abstracts:

HGRG are keen to provide a forum for disseminating abstracts of recently completed doctoral theses in historical geography. We encourage all completed doctoral postgraduates in geography and related disciplines to consider submitting for publication in our tri-annual newsletter (there are no temporal or spatial limitations). Abstracts of no more than 250 words (with relevant contact details), as set out in the submitted format below, should be sent via e-mail to the HGRG Publicity Officer, John Morrissey, j.morrissey@nuigalway.ie.

Jude Hill, **Cultures and Networks of Collecting: Henry Wellcome's Collection**. Abstract of PhD thesis submitted to the Department of Geography, Royal Holloway, University of London, May 2004

This thesis examines the making and re-making of the collection of objects acquired by, and on behalf of, the pharmaceuticals magnate Henry Wellcome (1853-1936); in theory a collection dedicated to understanding 'the history of medicine and mankind' from an evolutionary perspective. It is proposed that in order to comprehend the making and re-making of the collection, it is necessary to consider the institutional and personal networks through which objects were acquired and interpreted, as well as the different stories the objects themselves may tell; whether during the period of its conception and establishment in Wellcome's lifetime, or its gradual dispersal and re-collection since his death. This involves detailed archival research considering: key figures besides Wellcome, such as curators and donors who shaped its scope and contents; auction houses and 'the field' as spaces of acquisition; the spaces of display within the Wellcome Historical Medical Museum; the dispersal of many objects within the collection to Los Angeles in the mid 1960s; and the analysis of selected objects within the Wellcome Collection, including a set of Medicine Chests, a group of amulets and a mask from Papua New Guinea. The conclusion discusses Medicine Man, an exhibition at the British Museum in 2003, which sought to consider the collection from a variety of contemporary perspectives.

The thesis thus explores a range of intertwined biographies and networks of objects, people and places, providing an account of cultural and historical geographies of collecting, museums and material culture. Through these foci it also pays particular attention to the relations between people and things, the biographies of objects and embodied materialities of collecting.

Contact Details: Dr. Jude Hill, Department of Geography, University of Exeter, Amory Building, Rennes Drive, Exeter, EX4 4RJ, UK. Email: Jude.Hill@exeter.ac.uk

AHDS History

In addition to providing researchers with advice and guidance on creating digital resources, Arts and Humanities Data

Service (AHDS) History manages and curates digital resources to ensure their long-term preservation and dissemination.

Its collection currently comprises over 600 separate data collections transcribed, scanned or compiled from original sources covering a period from the seventh to the twentieth century. Access to the collection has been facilitated by a new cross-subject catalogue.

Further details about AHDS History can be found on our new website at <http://history.ahds.ac.uk>.

Contact Details:

AHDS History
UK Data Archive
University of Essex
Colchester CO4 3SQ
UK

Tel: +44 (0) 1206 872326

Fax: +44 (0) 1206 872003

E-mail: info@history.ahds.ac.uk

J B Harley Research Fellowships

The Harley Fellowships - the only one of their kind in Europe - provide support of up to four weeks (normally at GBP 250 per week) for those, from any discipline, doing the equivalent of post-graduate level work in the map collections of the London area.

For details of past applications and awards, and comments from previous fellows see:

<http://ihr.sas.ac.uk/maps/harley.html>

The closing date for applications is **1st November 2004**.

Information about applying may be obtained from:

Tony Campbell
Hon. Sec. J B Harley Trust Fund
76 Ockendon Road
London N1 3NW
UK

Tel.: +44 (0)20 7359 6477.

E-mail:

t.campbell@ockendon.clara.co.uk.

Please indicate where you saw this announcement.

Seminars Series in the History of Gardens and Landscapes

Institute of Historical Research

Senate House, London

All are welcome at the autumn term's series of seminars, which are held on alternate Fridays at 5.30 in the Wolfson Room. The theme of this series is 'The Small Man's Garden'. Join us afterwards in the Common Room for a glass of wine (£1).

2004

15 October *The Gardens of Stuart London*

David Marsh, Birkbeck, University of London

- 29 October *Nineteenth Century Rural Allotments*
Jeremy Burchardt, University of Reading
- 12 November *The New Arrivals: the Hackney Garden of Charles and Walter Butters c.1875*
Christine Lalumia, Deputy Director of the Geffrye Museum
- 26 November *The Art of the Small Garden*
Nicholas Alfrey, University of Nottingham
- 10 December *From Shirley Hibberd to World War I: the Gardens of London's Suburbia*
Rebecca Preston, Geffrye Museum

For further details, please consult the IHR website (www.history.ac.uk/ihrseminars). Alternatively, contact Dr Janet Waymark (janetwaymark@yahoo.co.uk) or Dr Alan Powers (pasquito@aol.com).

LONDON GROUP OF HISTORICAL GEOGRAPHERS

Seminar Programme, Autumn Term 2004

GOVERNING GEOGRAPHIES

- 19th October 2004 **Margo Huxley** (Open University)
The Intelligent Use of Nature's Laws: creative evolution, vitalist environment and the emergence of town planning
- 2nd November 2004 **Philip Howell** (Cambridge University)
Sexuality, governmentality and the British imperial network
- 16th November 2004 **Alexander Vasudevan** (University of Nottingham)
Governing performances: science and the everyday in Berlin, 1919-1933
- 30th November 2004 **Stephen Legg** (Cambridge University)
From colonial biopolitics to nationalist governmentality: congestion and calculation in colonial Delhi
- 14th December 2004 **Stuart Elden** (Durham University)
National socialism and the politics of calculation

These seminars are held on **Tuesdays at 5pm** in the Wolfson Room at the Institute of Historical Research, Senate House, University of London. For further details, contact David Lambert, Royal Holloway (01784 443640), Miles Ogborn, Queen Mary (020 7882 5407) or Jenny Robinson, Open University (01908 654522). We are grateful to Queen Mary, Royal Holloway, Kings, UCL, the Open University, Sussex University and the IHR for supporting this series.