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**Letter from the Chair**

Welcome to the Summer 2013 edition of the HGRG Newsletter. This summer represents what promises to be one of the busiest periods in the 40-year history of the research group. The many events (detailed below) offer an important opportunity for HGRG to showcase the work of the group and demonstrate the vitality of historical geography at large.

Before looking ahead, it is with great sadness that we mark the passing of our former chair Hugh Prince on 20 February. Not only did Dr. Prince serve on the committee of the HGRG from its inception as a research group in 1973 until stepping down in 1987, serving as chair from 1974 to 1977, but he also acted as editor of the *Journal of Historical Geography* from 1981 to 1986, and remained a leading light in historical geography well after his retirement from UCL in 1992. I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of HGRG to pay our collective respects. It seems apposite then that on the afternoon of **Tuesday the 27th August** we would like to invite all HGRG members to a celebratory event at the RGS marking our 40th anniversary as a research group (firstly affiliated to the IBG, more latterly the RGS-IBG). The event will also mark the launch of the 43rd volume of the *Historical Geography Research Series*, Robin Butlin's history of the development and evolution of the HGRG. Please add this date to your diaries – formal invitations will issued within the next fortnight.

The following day (28th August) marks the start of three days of HGRG-sponsored sessions – 18 in total – as part of the annual conference of the RGS-IBG, back in South Kensington after the sojourn to Edinburgh in 2012. Among the highlights will be the launch of volume 44 of the *Historical Geography Research Series*, an analysis of the collaborative doctoral award schemes of the AHRC and ESRC edited by HGRG committee members Innes Keighren, Ruth Craggs and Hilary Geoghegan. May I also bring to your attention two sessions devoted to the 'New and Emerging' research of historical geography postgraduate students. These sessions are at the heart of HGRG's mission, so, if you are attending the annual conference, please do your best to come along and support our postgraduate speakers. Our **Annual General Meeting** will be held directly after these sessions (lunchtime, Thursday 29th August), and, again, your attendance would be most welcome. At the AGM, we will be looking to elect two new postgraduate committee members to replace Kim Ross and Jake Hodder who will soon complete their terms of office. Thank-you Kim and Jake for your excellent service and for being such fine ambassadors for the work of HGRG. If would like to volunteer your services, please let me know.

As a final reminder, may I ask all members to **update their standing orders** to reflect current subscription rates (<http://historicalgeographyresearchgroup.wordpress.com/join/>). Needless to say, your continued support helps HGRG to support the work of all historical geographers and that of our postgraduate members especially.

Best wishes,

Carl Griffin, Chair HGRG

## COPY FOR NEXT ISSUE:

27th September 2013

Please send to:

[oliver.dunnett@smuc.ac.uk](mailto:oliver.dunnett@smuc.ac.uk)



### ***Undergraduate Dissertation Prize***

The Historical Geography Research Group, in association with Ashgate, is pleased to offer a prize to the best undergraduate dissertation in any area of historical geography which is based upon original research and which demonstrates conceptual and/or methodological sophistication. The successful prize winner will receive £200-worth of Ashgate-published books, and will be invited to submit an article based upon their dissertation for publication in the *Journal of Historical Geography* (subject to the standard refereeing procedures of that periodical). The winner will also be invited to present their work at the annual HGRG 'Practising Historical Geography' Conference in November.

Dissertations should normally be of first-class standard and nominated by Heads of Department / Examination Boards / dissertation supervisors as appropriate. Departments should not submit more than one dissertation for consideration. Only dissertations submitted during academic year 2012/13, by students enrolled at a UK university, will be considered. Submissions (unmarked hard copy AND accompanying PDF) should be sent to: Dr Hilary Geoghegan, Department of Geography, University College London, Pearson Building, Gower Street, London WC1E 6BT ([h.geoghegan@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:h.geoghegan@ucl.ac.uk)). Deadline: 12 July 2013



### ***New Online Research Tool - Basel Mission Archive***

[www.bmarchives.org](http://www.bmarchives.org)

The new Basel Mission website contains digitised items from their collections of historical photographs and maps as well as the entire range of catalogue material to access our archives. The geographical coverage is extensive, including key foci on S-/SE Asia and West/West-Central Africa. It was publicly launched in November 2012.

For more information, contact Guy Thomas, [guy.thomas@mission-21.org](mailto:guy.thomas@mission-21.org), Head of Archives and Library of the Basel Mission in Switzerland.

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### **RGS-IBG Annual International Conference, 28th-30th August 2013, South Kensington**

The following sessions are to be sponsored or co-sponsored by HGRG. Timings are provisional, and more information is available on the RGS-IBG website: [www.RGS.org/AC2013](http://www.RGS.org/AC2013)

#### **1) New and Emerging Research in Historical Geography (Session 1, Thursday 29th)**

Convenor: Kim Ross (University of Glasgow)

#### **2) Historical Geographies of Internationalism 1900s-1970s: Negotiating the international, the imperial and the colonial (Session 2, Friday 30th)**

Convenors: Mike Heffernan (University of Nottingham), Jake Hodder (University of Nottingham), Stephen Legg (University of Nottingham)

#### **3) Connection, Engagement and Negotiation – When Geographers Collaborate with Museums (Sessions 3 and 4, Wednesday 28th)**

Convenors: James Wallis (University of Exeter) and James Fenner (University of Nottingham)

#### **4) The Future of Heritage as Climates Change: Loss, Adaptation and Creativity (Sessions 1 and 2, Thursday 29th)**

Convenors: David Harvey (University of Exeter), Jim Perry (University of Minnesota)

#### **5) Arctic Geographical Traditions? Practices, Politics and Institutions (Session 3, Thursday 29th)**

Convenors: Andrew Foxall (University of Oxford), Richard Powell (University of Oxford)

#### **6) Historical Geographies of Global Knowledge, c. 1780-1914 (Sessions 1 and 2, Wednesday 28th)**

Convenors: Diarmid Finnegan (Queen's University Belfast), Jonathan Wright (Queen's University Belfast)

#### **7) Participation in Science (Sessions 1, 2, 3 and 4, Friday 30th)**

Convenors: Hilary Geoghegan (University College London), Muki Haklay (University College London), Louise Francis (University College London)

#### **8) The Making of The English Working Class at Fifty: Space, Agency and History From Below (Session 1, Friday 30th)**

Convenors: David Featherstone (University of Glasgow), Neil Gray (University of Glasgow), Paul Griffin (University of Glasgow)

#### **9) Radical Geography in the Interwar Period: Disciplinary Trajectories and Hidden Histories (Session 3, Thursday 29th)**

Convenor: Alex Vasudevan (University of Nottingham)

#### **10) Discovering Britain: Walking through Environmental Change (Session 4, Wednesday 28th)**

Convenors: Lucy Veale (University of Nottingham), Georgina Endfield (University of Nottingham)

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### ***Practising Historical Geography***

The 19<sup>th</sup> Annual 'Practising Historical Geography' Conference for postgraduate and undergraduate students will be held at the **University of Central Lancashire** in Preston on **Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> November 2013**.

Organised by the Historical Geography Research Group, the day includes keynote lectures, workshops exploring research methods, a 'postgraduate voices' session and a short talk by this year's HGRG undergraduate dissertation prize winner. It will also be an excellent opportunity to meet other researchers in your field.

#### **Programme:**

- |       |  |
|-------|--|
| 09:30 | Conference registration and coffee   |
| 10:00 | Keynote lecture: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 'The Politics of Memory in the Black Atlantic'<br/><b>Alan Rice</b> (University of Central Lancashire)</li> </ul>  |
| 11:00 | Postgraduate voices  |
| 11:30 | HGRG dissertation prize winner   |
| 11:45 | Historical geography workshops: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 'Architectural Enthusiasm and the Twentieth Century Society'<br/><b>Hannah Neate</b> (University of Central Lancashire)</li> <li>• 'Fashioning Feathers: Material Archives in Historical Research'<br/><b>Merle Patchett</b> (University of Bristol)</li> </ul> |
| 12:45 | Lunch  |
| 14:00 | Historical geography workshops: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Architectural Enthusiasm and the Twentieth Century Society'<br/><b>Hannah Neate</b> (University of Central Lancashire)</li> <li>• 'Fashioning Feathers: Material Archives in Historical Research'<br/><b>Merle Patchett</b> (University of Bristol)</li> </ul>  |
| 15:00 | Coffee break   |
| 15:30 | Keynote lecture: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 'The Making of Counter-Global Networks'<br/><b>Dave Featherstone</b> (University of Glasgow)</li> </ul>  |
| 16:30 | Closing comments   |

This event is open to all. Please note that there will be a charge of £10, payable on arrival at the conference. To register please return the form overleaf to Lucy Veale, HGRG Conference Officer ([lucy.veale@nottingham.ac.uk](mailto:lucy.veale@nottingham.ac.uk)).



HISTORICAL GEOGRAPHY RESEARCH GROUP

PRACTISING HISTORICAL GEOGRAPHY

19TH ANNUAL POSTGRADUATE AND UNDERGRADUATE

ONE-DAY CONFERENCE

WEDNESDAY 6TH NOVEMBER, UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL LANCASHIRE, 09:30-17:00

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Please complete this form, save it with your name as the file name (eg. LucyVeale.doc) and return by email to [lucy.veale@nottingham.ac.uk](mailto:lucy.veale@nottingham.ac.uk)

Name:

Institution:

Email address:

Mobile phone number:

I am an undergraduate / masters / PhD student / member of staff / other (please delete as appropriate).

My research interests include (please write a sentence or bullet points outlining your research interests or PhD/ Masters topic):

Any dietary requirements:



### ***Maps and Society Lecture Series***

THE WARBURG INSTITUTE

University of London

Woburn Square, London WC1H 0AB

Lectures in the history of cartography convened by Catherine Delano-Smith (Institute of Historical Research), Tony Campbell (formerly Map Library, British Library), and Alessandro Scafi (Warburg Institute). Meetings are held on selected Thursdays at The Warburg Institute at 5.00 pm. Admission is free. Meetings are followed by refreshment. All are welcome. Enquiries: [tony@tonycampbell.info](mailto:tony@tonycampbell.info) or 020 8346 5112 (Dr Delano-Smith).

TWENTY-THIRD SERIES: 2013–2014

#### **2013**

**November 14** **Joaquim Alves Gaspar and Henrique Leitão** (Centro Interuniversitário de História das Ciências e da Tecnologia, University of Lisbon). Squaring the Circle: Rhumbs, Globes and the Making of the Mercator Projection (1569).

**November 28** **Dr Frederik Muller** (Antiquarian bookseller, Bergum, Netherlands). Recording the Discoveries: the Pacific and Tartary mapped by Lorenz Fries in early 1525.

{remainder to follow}

This programme has been made possible through the generous sponsorship of the Antiquarian Booksellers' Association, the International Map Collectors' Society, and Jonathan Potter of Jonathan Potter Ltd.



## ***Abstracts from Recently Completed PhDs in Historical Geography***

**Geoff Swinney**, University of Edinburgh and National Museums Scotland

### Towards an Historical Geography of a 'National' Museum: The Industrial Museum of Scotland, the Edinburgh Museum of Science and Art and the Royal Scottish Museum, 1854-1939

This thesis adopts a primarily process-based methodology to put a museum in its place as a site of knowledge-making. It examines the practices of space which were productive of a government-funded ('national') museum in Edinburgh. Taking a spatial perspective, and recognising that place is both material and metaphorical, the thesis explores how the Museum's material and intellectual architectures were produced over the period 1854-1939. The thesis is concerned to bring into focus the dynamic processes by which the Museum was in a continual state of becoming; a constellation of tangible and intangible objects constantly being produced and reproduced through mobility of objects, people and ideas. Its concern is to chart the flows through space which produced the Museum.

The thesis comprises nine chapters. An introduction and a literature review are followed by chapters concerned, respectively, with the built space of the museum and with the people who worked there. A further three chapters consider the nature of that work and the practices of space which constituted the processes of collecting, displaying and educating, whilst another focuses on visiting. The final chapter discusses how the analysis has constructed the museum as constituted through a complex diversity of material and metaphorical settings on a variety of geographical scales. This critical scrutiny of the museum has, in turn, brought to the fore the place of the Museum in contributing to civic and national identity.

Through a case-study of a particular museum, the concern has been to explore how critical geographies of science may be applied to the examination of a museum. In particular the thesis examines how contextual concepts developed largely in conscribed sites such as laboratories apply to a public site such as a museum. The thesis suggests that the ordering terms 'space' and 'place', combined with a focus on practice and performance, may have more general application in constructing an historical geography of museums as sites of production and consumption of scientific knowledge.

*Geoff's thesis was supervised by Prof. Charles Withers (Institute of Geography) and Dr. John Henry (Science Studies Unit) at the University of Edinburgh*

