

## **Kent History Federation Report – School of History, University of Kent.**

*Report made to the 1 December 2017 meeting of the Kent History Federation*

### **Recent Developments:**

- The term began with a prize giving ceremony for students who had achieved academic excellence.
- During September, the School celebrated Women's History as a team of historians from the department ran an event at Bromley High School.
- The event was attended by the Vice-President of the National Council of Women and began with a lecture provided by the Head of School, Dr Juliette Pattinson.
- To mark Black History Month, on the 25<sup>th</sup> of October, the School of History worked with our friends in the Special Collections to arrange a pop-up exhibition, showcasing some of the Templeman's rare source materials for the study of Black History.
- On the 17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> of November the School collaborated with St John's College, Cambridge for a conference covering new research in military history. Entitled 'The Many Faces of War – Changing Perspectives on Armed Conflict' the conference brought together early career historians to share various approaches towards military history with a global perspective. In addition, renowned Cambridge historian Brendan Simms gave a keynote lecture relating to his research on the Battle of Waterloo.
- In January, we will welcome a new member of staff, Dr Edward Roberts, a specialist in Medieval History.

### **Recent publications, include:**

- Dr Leonie James, *'This Great Firebrand': William Laud and Scotland, 1617-1645*, (Boydell & Brewer).

William Laud, Archbishop of Canterbury (1633-45), remains one of the most controversial figures in British ecclesiastical and political history. His rise to prominence under Charles I, his contribution to the shaping and implementation of contentious religious policies and his subsequent and catastrophic downfall are fundamental to our understanding of the religious and political developments which led to the collapse of royal authority in all three of the Stuart kingdoms. Events in Scotland were central to this chain of events, and this book presents Scotland as a case study for a fresh interpretation of Laud, his career and his working partnership with Charles I. Casting new and much-needed light on Laud's engagement in Scottish affairs, this book reveals that his agency in Scotland was broadly consistent with - although differing in detail from - his approach in England and Ireland. It represents a major contribution to key debates on the nature of religion and politics in the 1630s and early 1640s and enhances current thinking on the role of both prince and prelate in the formulation of ecclesiastical policy, the 'British problem', and, indeed, the causes of the British Civil Wars.

- Dr Mark Lawrence, *'The Spanish Civil Wars: A Comparative History of the First Carlist War and the Conflict of the 1930s*.

This book provides a comparative history of the domestic and international nature of Spain's First Carlist War (1833-40) and the Spanish Civil War (1936-39), as well as the impact of both conflicts.

The book demonstrates how and why Spain's struggle for liberty was won in the 1830s only for it to be lost one hundred years later. It shows how both civil wars were world wars in miniature, fought in part by foreign volunteers under the gaze and in the political consciousness of the outside world.

Prefaced by a short introduction, *The Spanish Civil Wars* is arranged into two domestic and international sections, each with three thematic chapters comparing each civil war in detail. The main analytical perspectives are political, social and new military history in nature, but they also explore aspects of gender, culture, nationalism and separatism, economy, religion and, especially, the war in its international context. The book integrates international archival research with the latest scholarship on both subjects and also includes a glossary, a bibliography and several images.

It is a key resource tailored to the needs of students and scholars of modern Spain which offers an intriguing and original new perspective on the Spanish Civil War.

**Future events:**

6<sup>th</sup> December 2017 - Lecture Theatre 2 (ELT2), Eliot College, University of Kent.

**School of History Research Seminar Series – ‘A Brief History of Colour’ – Dr Spike Bucklow.**

The sixth School of History Research Seminar of the 2017/18 academic year will be presented by the University of Cambridge's Dr Spike Bucklow on the subject of 'A brief history of colour'. A Q&A session and a wine reception will follow Dr Bucklow's paper.

All are welcome to attend.