

Kent History Federation Report – School of History, University of Kent

Recent Developments:

- New Vice-Chancellor – Professor Karen Cox will be starting her new post at Kent in August, replacing Dame Julia Goodfellow after a decade as Vice Chancellor. Professor Cox has extensive publications in the field of cancer and palliative care, including over 50 articles, impressive grant capture, with just under £5.5 million secured, was an RAE panellist in 2008 for her sub-discipline of Nursing and has been a Visiting Professor at Yale.
- Honorary Visiting Professor Anthony Beevor was knighted in the New Years Honours, for his services in support of Armed Forces Professional Development.
- In March 2017, the School was visited by Professor Sivachandralingam Sundara Raja and Dr. Abu Hanifa from the University of Malaya (Kuala-Lumpur) to help develop relationships between the two institutions.
- In April 2017, Dr Emily Guerry took fourteen students on a four-day fieldtrip to explore the material culture of medieval Rome. The students got the opportunity to visit the Forum to get a sense of the city of Rome, the Palatine Hill and the Capitoline Museo, followed by an afternoon in the Pantheon. They also examined the first major Rome house-church female cults located at Santa Pudenziana, Santa Prassede, and ended their day with a special private tour of the loggia atop Santa Maria Maggiore on the Esquiline. Amongst a number of visits and excursions, they were also given private visit of SS Quattro Coronati, followed by a pilgrimage to the Sancta Sanctorum. The last day was spent in the Vatican museums, where they came face to face with dozens of sacred and sublime objects from their course, including early Christian sarcophagi, cult statues, and even Michelangelo's wall paintings in the Sistine Chapel.

Recent publications, include:

- Dr Juliette Pattinson, *Men in Reserve: British Civilian Masculinities in the Second World War* (Manchester University Press)

For decades, Britain's story of the Second World War has focused on the men who served in the armed forces and the women who stepped up to replace them on the home front. This image, however, isn't very accurate. Not all men served in the armed services. Indeed, 10 million men (that's twice the number that served in the forces) were required to stay on the home front providing vital labour in a broad range of civilian jobs. *Men in Reserve*, written by Dr Pattinson in collaboration with Professor Arthur McIvor and Dr Linsey Robb, is the first study to comprehensively examine the lived experience of these men in reserved occupations.

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

The book presents Scotland as a case study for a fresh interpretation of William Laud, Archbishop of Canterbury (1633-45), his career and his working partnership with Charles I. The book demonstrates that Laud's involvement in Scotland was broadly consistent with, although differing in detail from, his approach in England and Ireland.

- Dr John Wills, *Disney Culture* (Rutgers University Press)

Over the past century, Disney has grown from a small American animation studio into a multipronged global media giant. Today, the company's annual revenue exceeds the GDP of over 100 countries, and its portfolio has grown to include Pixar, Marvel, Lucasfilm, ABC, and ESPN. With a company so diversified, is it still possible to identify a coherent Disney vision or message?

Disney Culture proposes that there is still a unifying Disney ethos, one that can be traced back to the corporate philosophy that Walt Disney himself developed back in the 1920s. Yet, as cultural historian John Wills demonstrates, Disney's values have also adapted to changing social climates. At the same time, the world of Disney has profoundly shaped how Americans view the world.

Wills offers a nuanced take on the corporate ideologies running through animated and live-action Disney movies from *Frozen* to *Fantasia*, from *Mary Poppins* to *Star Wars: The Force Awakens*. But *Disney Culture* encompasses much more than just movies as it explores the intersections between Disney's business practices and its cultural mythmaking. Welcome to "the Disney Way."

Future events:

- Lecture: 'Thomas Becket and the Medieval Cult of Personality', June 6th, Claggett Auditorium, Canterbury Cathedral Lodge, 18.30-19.30

The School of History and Centre for Medieval and Early Modern Studies (MEMS) of the University of Kent are delighted to welcome Professor Paul Binski (Cambridge). The title of his paper is Thomas Becket and the Medieval Cult of Personality:

This lecture will examine the art provoked by the drama of Thomas Becket's Life, Death and Sanctity. It will look at Becket's place amongst the other saints of England and Europe, and particularly at the idea of personality cult and charisma. How did such things impact on the way saints were represented in the Gothic age and what difference did Becket make?

- Conference: The 'British' churches 1603-1707: from dynastic union to Anglo-Scottish union

On 22 June 2017 the University of Kent's School of History and Centre for Medieval and Early Modern Studies will be hosting an international conference 'The 'British' churches 1603-1707: from dynastic union to Anglo-Scottish union'.

The two-day conference, timed to coincide with the 400th anniversary of the launching of the Five Articles of Perth by James VI & I in Scotland in 1617, is held in collaboration with Canterbury Christ Church University and its Centre for Kent History and Heritage.

All conference sessions will take place in Keynes College on the University of Kent's Canterbury campus and aim to bring together scholars with an interest in religion across the British Isles during the 17th century.

The Conference will also include the official launch party for Dr Leonie James's new book – '*This Great Firebrand*': *William Laud and Scotland 1617-45* (Boydell Press, 2017).

- Conference: Anglo-Dutch rivalry in its global context, The University of Kent at Medway and The Historic Dockyard Chatham, 30 June – 2 July 2017

An international conference at Chatham Dockyard commemorating the 350th anniversary of the Dutch attack of June 1667. The attack brought a speedy conclusion to the Second Anglo-Dutch War which marked the height of the naval struggle between England and the Netherlands from 1652-1674. Commercial and imperial rivalries lay at the heart of this struggle in the North Sea, the Atlantic and Asia, but the interplay of political, ideological and institutional differences was equally important. At a time when Britain's relationship with Europe is undergoing seismic and perhaps unpredictable change, the resolution of conflict and the resumption of new forms of cultural and economic co-operation between two historic allies surely deserve our renewed attention.

The conference will take place in the historic Royal Dockyard Church, recently transformed into a lecture theatre through partnership between the University of Kent and the Chatham Historic Dockyard Trust, the two bodies hosting the conference. Accommodation will be available in nearby university halls of residence at Liberty Quays.