

Women's History Scotland

Summer 2010

Please send items, which might include recent publications, conferences, calls for papers, seminars, workshops, dayschools, courses, exhibitions and announcements, to be publicised in the e-newsletter to:
juliette.pattinson@strath.ac.uk

1. Call for papers

Fabricating the Body: Textiles and human health in historical perspective

Date: 6-8 April 2011

Venue: Pasold Research Fund Conference, Centre for Medical History, University of Exeter.

Abstract deadline: 15 July 2010

This conference aims to bring together historians of textiles and clothing, and of health, with scholars of social, medical, cultural, and economic history to examine the rich connections between textiles, human health and welfare, environmental issues, and self expression (including 'sunlight seekers' and 'body culture' movements of the past 150 years). The conference welcomes papers that will address four main themes: Early modern and modern textiles manufacturing and the association of benign and malign influences in the growth of industry and the impact on the labour force, land and water use; The modern environmental costs of textiles production, from soil utilisation (and erosion) to the chemical manufacture of man-made fibres and the consequences of toxic minerals and chemicals for both workers and the wider community; The animal world and the costs of textile and skin production: hunting, farming, and human-animal health concerns. The rise of a new politics of health around animal utilisation; The textile sector in relation to future environmental degradation, bio-health and sustainability. To apply, please forward a 300 word abstract of the proposed paper, together with a one page CV, to: Professor Jo Melling (j.l.melling@exeter.ac.uk), Centre for Medical History, University of Exeter, Rennes Drive, EX4 4RJ.

Labour History: Class, Cultures and Communities in Action

Date: Saturday 27 November 2010

Venue: Huddersfield University

Abstract deadline: 31 July 2010 - 200 words to: k.laybourn@hud.ac.uk (paper); neil.pye@hud.ac.uk (roundtable discussion); stephen.etheridge@hud.ac.uk (poster)

The programme organisers welcome proposals for papers of 15 minutes from postgraduate researchers who are interested in labour history in its widest sense: in terms of class, culture and community. We welcome both a national and an international approach to research in aspects of cultural and institutional

identities. In addition proposals are welcome from potential panel members to debate the topic 'Politics or People' – the true history of labour identities? This debate forms part of wider interdisciplinary discussion. Panel members should be prepared to take a particular theoretical perspective on the study of labour history, such as: gender, nationalism, regional identities, biography, class, leisure and so on. Proposals should comprise of a statement of the case in no more than 200 words. Proposals for the Roundtable Discussion should be sent to: neil.pye@hud.ac.uk A third opportunity exists for newer postgraduate researchers, or those who are unable to submit a full paper, to display a poster outlining an aspect of labour history, and take part in a short presentation on the posters. Initial proposals for a poster presentation only need submit the proposed title. Proposals for posters should be sent to: stephen.etheridge@hud.ac.uk

Urban History Group: Leisure, pleasure and the urban spectacle

Date: 31 March – 1 April, 2011

Venue: Robinson College, University of Cambridge

Abstract deadline: 29 October 2010 - 500 words

For further information: s.ewen@leedsmet.ac.uk

This conference theme broadly explores the pursuit of "pleasure" in the context of the history of towns and cities. The conference organisers are interested in investigating the significance of specifically urban forms of pleasure and leisure for understanding the historical dynamics of social, economic and cultural relationships. Towns and cities have historically offered an array of pleasures to cater for ever larger concentrations of people. The types of leisure activities available to urban populations have never remained static; indeed, changing social and economic conditions have transformed popular leisure patterns over time as well as across urban space. The pursuit of pleasure, both licit and illicit, has adapted with the changing relationship between work and leisure. As working hours became increasingly rigid during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, so too did leisure time. The lack of free time was further exacerbated by growing pressures on land use. Thus, the pursuit of pleasure was increasingly set aside for specific buildings (inns, brothels, theatres, music halls and, more recently, fitness centres) or clearly delineated spaces (botanical gardens, public parks, public walks, gated communities and even the internet) where access could, in theory, be carefully managed. Cities, seaside towns and holiday resorts were also developed to specifically cater for a variety of tastes and pleasures. Once it was recognised that there was money to be made out of the pursuit of pleasure, cities became intertwined with the business of leisure and began to market themselves as centres of tourism, heritage and culture.

Some issues that the conference seeks to consider include:

- What do we understand by the terms 'pleasure' and 'leisure' in an urban context?
- How has the pursuit of pleasure differed between towns and cities, across national borders and over time?

- How has leisure been regulated, managed and delivered to urban citizens? How has regulation and service delivery differed between public and private authorities?
- How has urban pleasure been produced, marketed and consumed? How has this changed in light of the rise of mass tourism and the heritage industry?
- What is the relationship between leisure and place identity? In what ways have specific leisure activities (organised sport, for example) strengthened local identities where others might have weakened them?
- How have urban identities been conditioned by their relationship with defined pleasurable spaces and/or communities? To what extent has access to these spaces led to the exclusion of particular social groups or minorities?
- What contribution has the business of pleasure made to the spectacle of urban modernity?
- In what ways can the pursuit of pleasure be theorised in an urban historical context?
- How has urban leisure been represented culturally (through literature, film, television, etc.)? Has this influenced the diffusion of specific types of leisure internationally?

2. Conferences

Women's History Scotland 2010 Annual Conference Women in / on the Land (Scape) Gender, Space and Environment in Women's and Gender History

Date: 15-16 October 2010

Venue: UHI Centre for History, University of the Highlands and Islands, Dornoch, Scotland

Information: Karly Kehoe karly.kehoe@thurso.uhi.ac.uk

More information will be circulated in due course once the programme has been finalised.

WHN 19th Annual National Conference: Performing the Self: Women's Lives in Historical Perspective

Date: 10-12 September

Venue: University of Warwick

Information: sarah.richardson@warwick.ac.uk

Registration is now open.

http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/fac/arts/history/res_rec/conferences/whn/

44th Exeter Maritime History: Who Did They Think They Where?: The Sea and the making of Identities

Date: 17 - 19 September 2010

Venue: University of Exeter

For more information: <http://www.centres.ex.ac.uk/cmhs/conferences/>

A conference focusing on the relationship between the sea and identity in widest possible sense, naval or maritime; local, regional, national or international; gender and sexuality; fact, film or fiction. It will look beyond the usual nationalistic rhetoric to explore how identity has been moulded by attitude to and relationships with the sea. The conference will interrogate the idea of identity in its various manifestations in order to examine the importance of the sea to different audiences.

3. Events

Elsie and Mairi Go to War

Date: 4-20 August 2010

Venue: Dovecot (Venue 198), 10 Infirmary Street, Edinburgh EH1

For more information: www.dianeatkinson.co.uk or info@dianeatkinson.co.uk

tel: 07957 354 874

Diane Atkinson and well-known Scottish actresses Pauline Lockhart and Clare Waugh bring the story of Elsie Knocker and Mairi Gooden-Chisholm, the most famous women of the Great War, to life in a play at the Dovecot, Edinburgh. Diane Atkinson is the narrator, Pauline Lockhart plays Mairi and Clare Waugh plays Elsie. Marilyn Imrie is the Director. Elsie and Mairi were the only women to nurse on the Western Front from 1914 to 1918. Living just yards from the German trenches, they received many medals for their courage in retrieving wounded soldiers while under fire. Elsie was 30 and a woman with a past. A trained nurse and a divorced single mother, she cut a dash in her bike leathers made by Dunhill. Mairi was posh and Scottish, and eighteen when she went to war. Instead of going to tennis parties she preferred to race her motorbike. At the Front they were the only women for miles and they quickly became a man-magnet. It was not all gore and grimness: their first-aid post became famous for its parties; in 1916 Elsie married Harry, a dashing Belgian airman, Baron Harold de T'Serclaes. Mairi's boyfriend was Jack Petre of the Royal Flying Corps. He chucked out love tokens from his plane: boxes of chocolates, jewellery and a wooden model airman, attached to a parachute – which Mairi retrieved and cherished for the rest of her life. Jack was killed in 1917. In 1918 they were nearly killed in a gas attack. They were invalided back to England. At the end of the war they quarrelled and never saw each other again. Tickets will be on sale at the Edinburgh Fringe Box Office and also at Dovecot from 3.30 pm, before the performance begins at 4pm.

4. Studentships & lectureships

Terra Incognita: women in the expedition archives 1913-1986

AHRC-funded Collaborative PhD Studentship, Department of Geography and Environmental Management, University of the West of England, Bristol

Following the award of an AHRC Collaborative PhD Studentship, the University of the West of England, Bristol, in partnership with the Royal Geographical Society (with IBG), invites applications for a doctoral studentship commencing on 1 October 2010. This three-year doctoral studentship is on '*Women in the expedition archives 1913-1986*' and will examine women's participation in and leadership of geographical expeditions, their outputs, long and short term impacts. Research will focus on the archives of the RGS-IBG, other learned societies and universities.

For informal discussion about the studentship, please contact Dr Avril Maddrell (avril.maddrell@uwe.ac.uk) Further particulars and details of the application procedure are available at:

http://info.uwe.ac.uk/hr/vacancies/current_research.asp, or by contacting FET.researchdegrees@uwe.ac.uk

For application forms, please contact the Graduate School Office, Faculty of Environment and Technology via email FET.researchdegrees@uwe.ac.uk or telephone (+44) 0117 32 83149. Completed applications should be emailed to FET.researchdegrees@uwe.ac.uk by Thursday 22 July 2010. Please indicate that you are applying for the AHRC / Royal Geographical Society studentship.

If shortlisted, it is anticipated that interviews will be held on 27th July.

Wellcome Trust Masters studentship, Glasgow

The Centre for the Social History of Health and Healthcare Glasgow (Universities of Strathclyde and Glasgow Caledonian) has been awarded a Wellcome Trust Masters studentship which pays fees and an annual stipend of c. £18000. As such we are currently inviting applications from applicants considering study on the Masters in Health History in 2010-2011. Successful students on this degree can expect to be submitted for a Wellcome Trust Doctoral Award so those considering research careers may find this route of interest. See <http://www.jobs.ac.uk/job/ABF879/wellcome-trust-funded-msc-health-history-quota-award/>

6 Lectureships at the University of Strathclyde

The University is currently inviting applications for a number of posts in the new School of Humanities, including Lectureships in the History of Health/Medicine and in European History (France/Italy/Spain).

Lecturer in the History of Health/Medicine:

<http://www.mis.strath.ac.uk/Personnel/open/632010.htm>

3 Lecturers in European Literature/European History (France/Italy/Spain):

<http://www.mis.strath.ac.uk/Personnel/open/652010.htm>

2 Lecturers in English Studies:

<http://www.mis.strath.ac.uk/Personnel/open/642010.htm>

One year departmental lectureship in early modern history, St Hilda's college, Oxford

Applications are invited for a one-year, fixed-term Departmental Lectureship in Early Modern British History, tenable from 1 October

2010. The appointment is to fulfil teaching needs arising from a period of academic leave, resulting from the award of a Philip Leverhulme Prize, to a current postholder, and is non-renewable. Applications are invited from those with active research interests in any field of British history between 1500 and 1700. Salary: £28,983 to £30,747 per annum. The successful candidate will be appointed to a one-year, fixed-term Stipendiary Lecturership at Hilda's College and to a Departmental Lecturership in the Faculty of History for the same period. For the College the appointee will be required to provide a combined total of eight hours of tutorial teaching per week during term, and to participate in the pastoral care of students and the administration of History within the College, including admissions and marking college examinations. Further Particulars, covering both the College and the University posts, should be consulted before applying at <http://www.st-hildas.ox.ac.uk/index.php/vacancies/HistoryDL.html> , or in case of difficulty may be obtained from the Academic Office, St Hilda's College, Oxford, OX4 1DY (e-mail: college.office@st-hildas.ox.ac.uk) The closing date for receipt of applications, including Cover Sheet and Recruitment Monitoring Form is 5 pm on Thursday 15 July 2010.

5. Prizes

Women's History Scotland Essay Prize

A bi-annual £100 prize for a new essay in Scottish women's or gender history. The prize was established in 2002 to celebrate the work of Leah Leneman, one of the foremost historians of women in Scotland. A trail-blazer for women's history in Scotland, she produced innovative studies on the women's suffrage movement, on women in medicine, and on sexuality and divorce in the early modern and modern periods. Women's History Scotland wishes to acknowledge the important work of Leah Leneman and to encourage new women's & gender historians to publish their work and to continue researching and writing in the field of Scottish women's and gender history. Forms of work that may be submitted include: undergraduate dissertation, postgraduate work (e.g. Masters dissertation or chapter of PhD) or a piece of original research by an independent scholar. Please note the instructions for preparation below. The essay must be principally focused on some aspect of Scottish women's or gender history but may deal with any time period. No area of Scottish women's or gender history is excluded. The submission should be written in English and in a form suitable for publication. It should be between 8,000 and 10,000 words in length. Longer or shorter submissions will not be considered. The essay should not be under consideration for publication elsewhere. To be eligible to submit an essay to the competition the candidate must not be in permanent academic employment. The essay will be considered by a panel of judges set up by the Steering Committee of Women's History Scotland and the prize will be presented at one of the Scottish Women's History Network conferences. The winning essay may be put forward to be considered for publication in the *Journal of Scottish Historical Studies*. Queries about eligibility of the entrant or essay topic should be

addressed to Deborah Simonton (dsimonton@language.sdu.dk), English Studies, University of Southern Denmark, Engstien 1, 6000 Kolding, Denmark. An electronic copy (PDF) of the completed essay should be sent to Deborah Simonton at the above address by Friday, 17 December 2010. Please include full name and contact details.

Economic & Social History Society of Scotland: postgraduate Prize for a Research Essay on a Scottish Theme in the general area of economic, social and cultural history. The winner's or winners' essay(s) will be automatically considered for publication in the *Journal of Scottish Historical Studies*. The closing date for the next prize is 31 December 2010. Postgraduate researchers are encouraged to make submissions - see the ESHSS website for more details- www.eshss.co.uk

6. Publications

***Women and Citizenship in Britain and Ireland in the 20th Century: What difference did the vote make*, edited by Esther Breitenbach and Pat Thane, published by Continuum, May 2010.**

This edited collection examines women's involvement in political parties and formal political institutions and in women's organisations and movements which lobbied for political and policy change during the course of the twentieth century. It provides a comparative perspective of developments in Britain and Ireland, with chapters on UK politics at Westminster, and on England, Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland. The book is a timely contribution to the continuing debate on women's under-representation in political and public life. It considers evidence of the factors contributing to increased levels of political representation, especially within the devolved administrations, and maps women's participation as active citizens in a wide range of organisations, from the Women Citizen's Associations of the inter-war years to the Women's Liberation Movement. It also examines the strategies that women have adopted in the particular political circumstances and cultures which have prevailed in different parts of Britain and Ireland. The collection of essays includes contributions from Esther Breitenbach, Pat Thane, Lowri Newman, Catriona Burness, Mary E. Daly, Lindsey Earner-Byrne, Myrtle Hill, Margaret Ward, Rosie Campbell, Sarah Childs, Fiona Mackay, Meryl Kenny, Paul Chaney, and Nickie Charles. The book is available at the discounted price of £42 until 31 August, 2010. (Please see attachment)

Suffragettes and the Post by Norman Watson

Women's militancy during the Edwardian campaign for votes struck at a fundamental component of British life – the essential Post Office service of collecting, sorting and delivering the nation's mail. Suffragettes smashed post office windows, cut telegraph wires and set fire to GPO buildings. They caused fury during an extraordinary letter-destroying campaign which saw ink, treacle, tar, corrosive chemicals and combustible materials poured into pillar-boxes

across the country. They even posted themselves to Prime Minister Asquith, with demands for the vote written across them like human letters – all in an attempt to increase the momentum of their campaign and to ensure frequent media coverage. The GPO and the militant votes-for-women campaign were also drawn together by the decision in 1902 to allow one side of postcards to be used for illustration, whereas previously they were pictureless. As suffragette militants mobilised in 1905, their destructive campaign coincided with the Golden Age of the picture postcard when their popularity exploded. Postcards rapidly became tools to try to shape public opinion and mould thought. Yet just as soon as the women could hijack the propaganda potential of postcard images to work for their side of the argument, unflattering postcard representations began to parody suffrage supporters as a threat to family life and domestic stability. Now, one of the most extraordinary episodes in the 300-year-history of official posts has been researched and presented in a new book by the award-winning author and postal historian Norman Watson. *Suffragettes and the Post* uses rare and unique items of postal history to relate the women's stormy relationship with the Post Office and to bring to life to this hitherto hidden women's history. Illustrated in colour from the author's collection is a fascinating array of historical documents, letters and postcards, including spectacular examples of mail damaged in letter boxes, eyewitness accounts of militant action, the world's first suffrage postcard, propaganda material and contemporary poster stamps and labels. Several of the original items are currently on display at The Women's Library Fe: MAIL, Suffragettes and the Post exhibition in London, which runs until September. Dr Watson said, "Suffragettes sensed that attacks on Post Office buildings would burn at the very heart of British society and, if sufficient outrage was caused, the Government in the end would have to listen to their demands. It was at the same time a risky policy in that it affected all sections of society, women as well as men, and was just as likely to alienate female support as to win sympathy. "Previous militancy, mostly in the form of interruptions to meetings and attempts to gain access to and influence ministers, had been aimed exclusively at known Liberal supporters or prominent anti-suffrage sympathisers. Raids on post offices represented an indiscriminate escalation of action." *Suffragettes and the Post*, by Norman Watson (104pp, 80 colour illustrations), is available from the author at Halfway Up, The Brae, Auchterhouse, Angus DD3 0RE. It costs £10, plus £2 p&p. ISBN 09528762 6 4

***Behind Enemy Lines: Gender, Passing and the Special Operations Executive* by Juliette Pattinson (Manchester: MUP, 2007).**

Please see attachment for 50% discount which expires on 18 July. *Behind enemy lines* is an examination of gender relations in wartime using the Special Operations Executive as a case study. Drawing on personal testimonies, in particular oral history and autobiography, as well as official records and film, it explores the extraordinary experiences of male and female agents who were recruited and trained by a British organisation and infiltrated into Nazi-occupied France to encourage sabotage and subversion during the Second World War. With its original interpretation of a wealth of primary sources, it examines how

these ordinary, law-abiding civilians were transformed into para-military secret agents, equipped with silent killing techniques and trained in unarmed combat. This fascinating, timely and engaging book is concerned with the ways in which the SOE veterans reconstruct their wartime experiences of recruitment, training, clandestine work and for some, their captivity, focusing specifically upon the significance of gender and their attempts to pass as French civilians. This examination of the agents of an officially-sponsored insurgent organisation makes a major contribution to British socio-cultural history, war studies and gender studies and will appeal to both the general reader, as well as to those in the academic community.

7. Miscellaneous

The National Museums of Scotland are looking for trustees. National Museums Scotland is one of the leading museum groups in the UK and Europe. It is governed by a Board of Trustees, whose members are responsible for the overall strategy and for ensuring public accountability. We are looking for up to three new Trustees who can help lead and inspire the organisation, work enthusiastically and effectively as part of a team, and contribute to strategic decision making and the dynamic potential of the Museums. The minimum time commitment is ten days per year. The posts are not remunerated but reasonable travel and subsistence costs will be met. The closing date for applications is 16 July 2010. If you are interested, please see: <http://www.appointed-for-scotland.org/Current-positions/Trustees---National-Museums-Scotland/>