

(Report to the Kent History Federation: 4 March 2019)

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

### **Recent Developments:**

- Senior Lecturer at University of Kent, Dr Emily Guerry, has recently appeared on a BBC One documentary offering her knowledge and expertise on Medieval History. The documentary, 'Danny Dyer's Right Royal Family,' follows British TV actor and personality, Danny Dyer, as he discovers his royal ancestry. Dr Guerry reveals to Dyer that he is distantly related to the French King Louis IX, a devout religious leader who died in 1270.
- A major initiative aimed at raising the profile of green spaces in the Canterbury district has received a boost with the release of a new film by a Kent environmental historian. Dr Karen Jones of the University's School of History, working with Dr Eirini Saratsi of its School of Anthropology and Conservation, helped launch the Growing Canterbury's Green Heritage initiative in October 2018. The film provides a campaigning focus for those working on environmental and green space projects in the district.
- From 11–13 December 2018, Dr Emily Guerry led a group of twelve third-year students from her Saints, Relics, and Churches and Gothic Art modules on an exciting fieldtrip to Paris. She was joined by two of her PhD students, Mr Noah Smith and Mx Han Tame, who work as GTAs in the School of History and who provided invaluable support throughout the excursion. Together, they visited the Basilica of Saint-Denis, the cathedrals of Notre -Dame de Paris and Notre-Dame de Chartres, and the Sainte-Chapelle to marvel at medieval design and engineering. They also went to the Musée du Louvre, Musée du Cluny, and the Cité d'Architecture et du Patrimoine to examine dozens of medieval objects crafted in wood, stone, plaster, glass, gems, gold, and ivory. The fieldtrip was an astonishing success as it enhanced and enriched the students' understanding of the source material through close encounters with the sites and things we examined in our modules. We would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to the School of History and the University of Kent Internationalisation fund for supporting this once-in-a-lifetime educational experience for our third-year students.

### **Recent Publications.**

- Professor Mark Connelly and Dr Stefan Goebel – 'Ypres.'

Over the last century, Ypres has become an iconic city for the British Commonwealth, and the Germans during the mid-20th century, as well as its significance for the Belgians and French. In this this new book, the authors take a look at the image of Ypres as it was built up in wartime media coverage, through painting and photography, and in the post-war years to look at the memorial projects undertaken by the British and the Germans. It takes a look at

the way in which Ypres was also woven into Second World War public debate, and then the revival of a battlefield tourism industry after 1945.

- Dr Leonie James – The Household Accounts of William Laud, Archbishop of Canterbury 1635-1642.

The Lambeth and Croydon Palace accounts for William Laud, Archbishop of Canterbury, represent the only extant record of the archiepiscopal household during his tenure in office. Spanning the period from December 1635 to January 1642, they offer a unique prism through which to view the highs and the lows of Laud's controversial career. They provide a wealth of new insights into his formal role, his private life and his personal habits, while at the same time casting new light on his associations with men and women from across the social hierarchy, including courtiers, privy councillors, merchants, MPs and, of course, the king. Yet the document itself, lost between 1642 and 1912 and now housed in the National Archives, Kew, has almost entirely escaped the attention of modern scholars. This important manuscript is edited and analysed here in full for the first time. A lengthy introduction provides an overview of the ways in which the document brings to life both the household and its head, demonstrating how the household responded to its immediate social environment and the wider political context; interrogating the gifts and their givers to identify networks of people in social, political and religious terms; and, more generally, teasing out the relationship between material objects and political power. This is followed by a complete text of the manuscript, with contextual footnotes. Thus, the volume contributes to a deeper understanding not only of ecclesiastical power and politics, but of life in an *élite* household in seventeenth-century Britain.

### **Future events:**

#### **The School of History's research series.**

For any questions, please contact Dr John Wills on [j.wills@kent.ac.uk](mailto:j.wills@kent.ac.uk)

6<sup>th</sup> March 2019.

5:15pm.

Templeman Lecture Theatre 1.

*Dr Jim Endersby – 'The Arrival of the Fittest: Biology's Imaginary Futures, 1900-1935.'*

7<sup>th</sup> March 2019.

4:00pm.

Darwin Lecture Theatre 1 (DLT1).

*Professor Alicia Decker – 'Mothers of the Nation': A Gendered History of the Uganda Police Force.'*

13<sup>th</sup> March 2019.

4:00pm.

Darwin Lecture Theatre 1 (DLT1).

*Dr Chris Kempshall – ‘A digital retrospective: Computer games and the First World War Centenary.’*

27<sup>th</sup> March 2019.

4:00pm.

Darwin Lecture Theatre 1 (DLT1).

*Professor Miri Rubin – ‘Ecclesia, Synagoga, and the Passage of Time.’*

The School of History at the University of Kent greatly regrets the need to wind up the KHF, and sympathises with the situation and difficulties that the society (and others like it) has faced in recent years. We would like to thank the organisation and particular its current officers for their long and important contribution to sustaining interest in the field, and helping communities and societies to connect with their history and to integrate the people and heritage of the county. Should the dissolution be approved, we will hope in future to play a part in supporting (through our libraries, scholars, students, and spaces) any new means or formats whereby local history societies choose to come together to pursue their interests and share their research and activities.

Sincerely,

Dr Ben Marsh, Senior Lecturer in American History, Deputy Head of School (History),  
Director of Graduate Studies (American Studies).

Professor Mark Connelly, Professor of Modern British History, Director of Gateways to the First World War (AHRC-funded centre for public engagement with the First World War centenary). Centre for War, Propaganda and Society.

Dr William Butler, Outreach Officer/First World War Schools Legacy Project, School of History.