

FRIENDS OF THE CENTRE FOR WEST MIDLANDS HISTORY

SHARING THE PAST WITH THE FUTURE

LEAVE THE PIG'S BLADDER AT HOME! BANTOCK HOUSE AND PARK

by Roger Bruton

Back in the mists of time, once a year a few stubble-chinned chums and myself trekked up to Bantock Park to kick a pig's bladder about. Well how times have changed! Not just my ability to kick said bladder more than five yards but the conversion by Wolverhampton City Council of Bantock House and its parkland into a delightful urban museum experience.

Built around the 1730s by the Pettits, an immigrant Huguenot family, the then New Merridale Farm was not lived in by the family but leased as a working farm. It was in 1864 when Thomas Bantock and family moved into a house that had been extended in 1810 and the current layout of the house owes much to Thomas's son Baldwin, like his father to become mayor of the town.

The ground floor is presented in the style of the Edwardian Arts and Crafts movement which was favoured by Baldwin and his wife and the decorative ceilings were moulded in papier-maché, as can be seen in the accompanying photograph. It is entirely appropriate therefore that products of one of the City's principal former industries that owed much to the use of papier-maché, japanned ware, is displayed on the first floor. Around 200 japan works functioned in the city and the local Manders company developed lacquer used in the process.

Outside three gardens and 43 acres of parkland offer a great setting, particularly on a beautiful early-summer's day such as the Friends enjoyed. So leave the pig's bladder at home and spend a charming few hours at Bantock.



Photographs taken by Roger Bruton

Six Hours on the Birmingham Canal Navigations: Saturday 30 June 2012

by Guy Sjögren



At 10 o'clock on the last day of June the narrowboat Jericho slipped her moorings and pulled gently away from the ICC wharf before chugging her way into the Birmingham Canal Navigation (BCN) system. Manned by a crew of three, the Jericho carried a cargo of some thirty Friends, whilst in the bow stood the distinctive figure of self-confessed 'Black Country kid' Graham Fisher MBE – author and broadcaster, coracle maker and narrowboat skipper, raconteur and an undoubted future winner of Mastermind specialising in 'canals, carriers and their craft'. For six hours the boat plied her way along the canals, through water that was at times crystal clear and strewn with lily pads whilst at others it resembled molten chocolate complete with beer cans, polystyrene tiles and the inevitable supermarket trolley.

In 1783, William Hutton noted that the road from Walsall to Birmingham was 'rather below indifferent', whilst that from Dudley was 'despicable beyond description'. The deterioration of these and other roads in and around Birmingham and the Black Country had been caused not only by a considerable expansion of the transport of raw materials and manufactured goods but also of the greater volume of passenger traffic. A solution to the problem was found with the building of canals. The Birmingham Canal Act was passed in 1768 and authorized the construction of a canal from Birmingham through the Black Country to Aldersley. The first cargo was carried on the new canal in 1770 and its construction completed in 1772. By the time the period of 'canal mania' was over in the mid-1830s, Graham Fisher told us proudly, the BCN system exceeded the length of its Venetian counterpart.

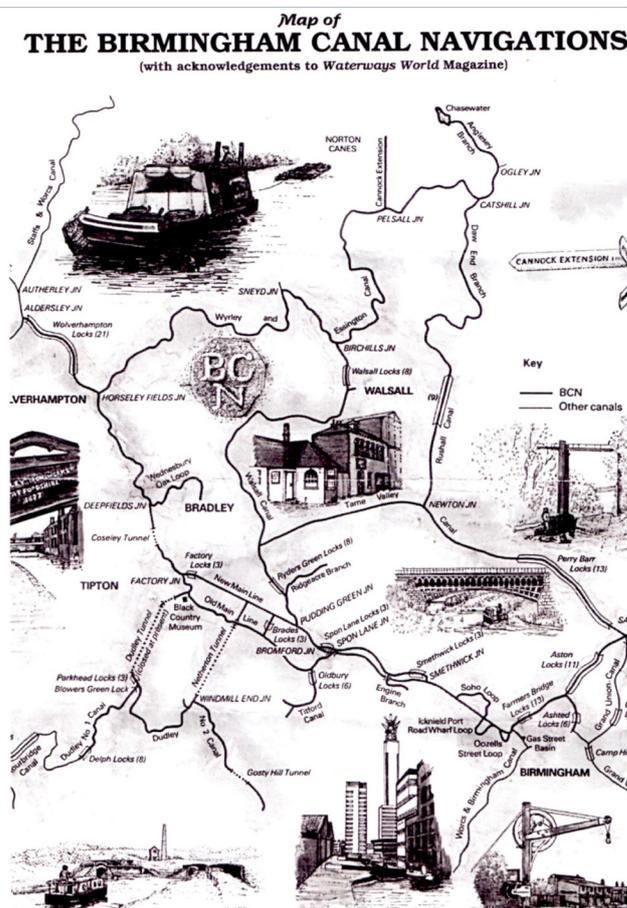
Six Hours on the Birmingham Canal Navigations (cont.)...

With the slow rhythmic beat of the engine in the background, we headed west: past the sites of famous manufacturers (such as Avery's and Chances), through the three locks at Smethwick, and on to the new Smethwick pumping station, where we disembarked to stretch our legs. The original engine was made by Boulton and Watt at the nearby Soho Foundry and entered service in 1779. With local water sources insufficient to supply water to operate the six locks either side of the canal's original summit, the engine was used to pump water back up to the summit level of the canal. Back on board, we continued along the old main line of James Brindley's canal. At times, the water lilies, herons, ducks and coots made it difficult for us to appreciate that we were travelling through the heart of the industrial Black Country. But not only was the trip of interest to ornithologists and local historians alike but also to transport historians. At one point Brindley's old line is carried by aqueduct over Thomas Telford's new line, whilst the M5 runs above both and the Wolverhampton to Birmingham railway line passes a few yards away. Useful pub-quiz question: How can you tell the difference between the Brindley- and Telford-built canals? Answer: Brindley's old line has only one tow path; Telford's new line has two.

Transferring to the Telford new line, the *Jericho* entered the only set of staircase locks on the entire BCN network and, as she did so, a splendid buffet lunch appeared as if from nowhere. Well-fed, we headed back along the new line, passing under the Galton Bridge, built by Telford in honour of his Finance Director Samuel Galton and, like so many of the bridges that span the canals, cast by the Horseley Ironworks at Tipton. Nearing the end of our journey, we took a detour onto the tranquil Icknield Port Road Loop before returning to the ICC wharf. We had spent six hours on the water, had covered some fourteen of the one hundred or so miles of the BCN system, and had seen and learned about the industrial Black Country from an unusual perspective.

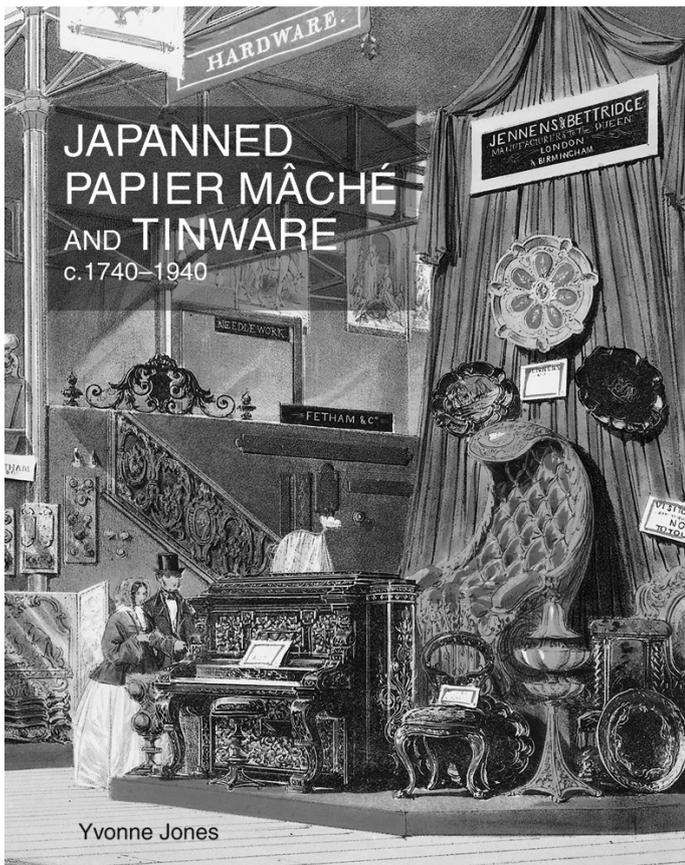


(Above) Graham Fisher MBE



*One last canal trivia question:
What is a 'toccya' brick?
(Answer on last page!)*

The Joys of Japan: 'Japanned Papier Mâché and Tinware, c1740-1940' by Yvonne Jones



Yvonne Jones

The story of japanning and its significance to modern Midlands industrial and consumer history is here masterfully crafted by Yvonne Jones in more than 300 pages. Japanning originated as the attempt to replicate the Japanese or eastern style of lacquer work by the decoration of tinplate with a varnish that required baking, or stoving, to achieve the requisite hardening, largely as a protection against rust. It evolved into a decorative art form that also encompassed papier mâché, slate, copper and leather items as base materials for japanning, which, in the case of papier mâché, became a significant element of the industry in its own right. The establishment of the japanning industry in the Midlands was largely focussed in the towns of Birmingham,

Wolverhampton and Bilston, which is where this story is primarily focused.

Despite the undoubted scholarship which underpins the content this is an easily readable work. The content is structured such as to allow alternative perspectives to the reader; reading from cover to cover; dipping in and out; and as a reference work. It contains a chronological history; detailed references to the processes; a historical directory of the manufacturers within each of the Midland towns involved in a major way in japanned ware production; a glossary of the products produced; known artists and decorators; and notes for collectors. Throughout, the book is suffused with pictures of highly decorated products, which, whether to the individual's taste or not, are eye-catching.

John Taylor, Stephen Bedford, John Baskerville, Henry Clay, Jennens and Bettridge, and Mander Bros are amongst the possibly more familiar names that the author discusses, but the full cast list runs into three figures. In addition the text is skilfully supported by the extensive use of contemporary references that are frequently fascinating in their own right. This beautiful book emerged from research that spanned more than twenty years and it surely will take its place as a standard reference on a previously poorly recorded Midlands industry.

Roger Bruton

If you would like to contribute to our next newsletter, please send editorial and news items to Connie Wan via cwmhrg@hotmail.com. Please note we do reserve the right to edit material.

JEWELLERY QUARTER DAY SCHOOL

BY SUE TUNGATE

As usual, the standard of speakers at the Centre for West Midlands History Day School held on 23rd June 2012 'The Birmingham Jewellery Quarter, Past, Present and Future' was extremely high. The day had been organised, and was introduced by Sally Hoban, Heritage and Training Officer at the Birmingham Assay Office, who gave a background history to the Jewellery Quarter.

Sally then discussed the present and past role of the Birmingham Assay Office. The testing and analysis of precious and non precious metals has been fundamental to its business since it was founded by Matthew Boulton in 1773. Now dealing with 12 million items per year, its future as the busiest in the world seems assured. Hallmarking was introduced to guarantee the quality of silver and gold items, and dates back as far as 1300. But its work has now extended to precious metal analysis, by a variety of methods including x-ray fluorescence spectrometry (XRF) analysis and ICP-OES (inductively coupled plasma optical emission spectrometry), of platinum, cadmium and other materials. The Assay Office also has an important educational perspective, promoting trading standards, and a voluntary code to ensure the correct handling of scrap gold.

The second speaker, Jez Collins talked about the 'Soundscapes of the Jewellery Quarter' in connection with Birmingham's rich musical heritage. Music, from heavy metal groups may have emerged from the banging of the hammers in the Quarter. In the 1960s, venues, such as the Cedar Club on Constitution Hill, were places to see up and coming stars such as The Faces, Rod Stewart, Status Quo, David Bowie and Cat Stevens. Apparently Jimi Hendrix dropped by one night and clambered on stage for a bit of a session! Jez spoke also of the West Indian influences on music, from Handsworth down the road from the Jewellery Quarter, and about Bhangra music coming from places such as the Ramgarhia Sikh Temple on Graham St. Bhangra combines traditional music and songs from immigrant Punjabi communities with Western instruments and rhythms.

Connie Wan talked about the Royal Birmingham Society of Artists (RBSA) and Contemporary Designers. The RBSA is located on Brook Street in the Jewellery Quarter, is an artist-led charity which supports artists and promotes engagement with the visual arts. It is one of the oldest Art Societies in the UK and was founded in 1821, to establish a museum for works of art, provide facilities for students, hold public exhibitions and extend art education in the city of Birmingham. The RBSA presents exhibitions of past and contemporary designers and artists, and holds workshops

and demonstrations. The RBSA has a strong tradition of encouraging young designers and also has a past history of involving both amateur and professional artists, such as Louisa Ann Ryland, Millais and Burne-Jones.

A very popular speaker was Stephen Millington who spoke about Silversmithing today: Challenges and Opportunities. He started in his family firm in 1978 as a metal spinner, working with his father and one metal polisher. The firm has changed from a company producing for the retail trade via intermediate wholesalers to one which dealt directly with the public via the internet. The firm increased to 16 employees and a turn over of £¼ million. Since 2001 the firm has been downsizing: foot and mouth reduced the market for agricultural show prizes, recession and the credit crunch followed, and bullion prices have risen from £100 per kilogram in June 2002 to £500 in June 2012. Stephen spoke about the loss of skills in the Jewellery Quarter, as individuals die and are not replaced, and the difficulties caused by to changes in hallmarking legislation.

The final speaker was Jack Kirby who is Collections Interpretations Manager at Thinktank, Birmingham's Science Museum. He has been responsible for raising public awareness of hallmarking and the concentration of small heritage collections in the Jewellery Quarter. Museums such as the Museum of the Jewellery Quarter and the Pen Museum in Frederick Street are open to the public. (3/4 of the world's pen nibs were made in the Quarter in the 19th century). There are also plans to open Newman Brothers, Coffin Fittings works, and JW Evans, a family silverware and plate manufactory, as museums. Of course there is also the collection at the Birmingham Assay Office, and the historic environment including the RBSA, St Paul's Church, the School of Jewellery and Key Hill and Warstone Lane Cemeteries. The official website of the Jewellery Quarter is www.jewelleryquarter.net where details of all these venues can be found.

Jack also spoke of the importance of keeping historical collections relevant. Thinktank are preparing a new gallery of manufacturing heritage to include how things are made, (packing machines, sweet wrapping etc.); treasure (precious metals, gemstones mineral ores) Birmingham hold collections of national significance including those of Matthew Boulton and William Bragg, of minerals, uncut gems and polished artefacts. Another display will show how gems can be tested using polarized light, colour filters and spectrometers which can distinguish items which look similar, but may be of vastly different quality. Jack concluded that it is skills which distinguish us as a nation, and these skills are deeply based in the Jewellery Quarter

Visit to Hartlebury Castle and the Hurd Library

by Sue Thomas



Fifteen members of the Friends joined a visit to Hartlebury Castle on 15th May. The Castle is set in attractive countryside and an unusually fine day for spring 2012 added to our enjoyment of the outing as did the expert talks given by our guides from the Friends of Hartlebury Castle and the Hurd Library.

Hartlebury Castle, for 800 years the home of the Bishops of Worcester, has medieval origins but has been extensively remodelled at various times. We were shown the Great Hall, with its early 15th century ceiling, and the delightful Chapel, and told about a number of the inhabitants and visitors. We moved on to the Hurd Library, a purpose-built library in the Adam style, which houses the large 18th century collection of Bishop Hurd.

We rounded off the afternoon with an excellent cream tea produced in the Castle Kitchen Cafe. Some members also took the opportunity to visit the Worcester County Museum which is housed on the same site as the Castle and Library.

The Friends of Hartlebury Castle and the Hurd Library are supporting the work of the Hartlebury Castle Trust which is trying to raise the money to buy the Castle and ensure it is saved for future generations to enjoy. You can find out more at www.hartleburycastletrust.org. You can also find out about the Worcester County Museum at www.museumsworcestershire.org.uk. A visit to both the Castle and Museum comes highly recommended.

CWMHRG RESEARCH SHOWCASE SEMINARS:
'BROKEN, SHATTERED AND MARGINALISED?'
BIRMINGHAM NON-CONFORMITY AND THE
IMPACT OF THE PRIESTLEY RIOTS OF 1791
WITH JONATHAN ATHERTON

Jonathan Atherton has very recently completed a PhD at Newman University College on the subject of the Priestley Riots of 1791. In recognition that his audience was unlikely to be as intimately familiar with the subject, he began by setting his research in context, portraying mid-eighteenth-century Birmingham as an expanding manufacturing town with an established and vocal non-conformist community who, despite being a minority group, enjoyed a disproportionately large amount of influence whilst maintaining cordial relations with the established church.

Jonathan proposed that the riots' origins lay in the arrival in Birmingham of outspoken Unitarian minister Joseph Priestley himself in 1870. The publication of his work entitled *An History of the Corruptions of Christianity* quickly soured relations between the town's non-conformists and the established church, and his continued outspokenness earned him the nick-name 'Gunpowder Joe'. A succession of further incendiary events and occurrences against the backdrop of the French Revolution fanned the flames of suspicion and discontent so that, on the eve of the riots, relations between non-conformists and the rest of the community were at an all time low. The distribution of an inflammatory handbill promoting revolutionary sympathies, coinciding with a dinner attended by a number of leading non-conformists as a celebration of Bastille Day, proved to be the final straw: on 14 July 1791, tensions finally erupted into the four days of civil disturbances that posterity has labelled 'the Priestley riots'.

Having described the causes of the riots, Jonathan then proceeded to the most controversial area of his work: their subsequent impact on the town's non-conformist communities. He explained that the current consensus amongst historians is that the aftermath of the riots was a disaster for the non-conformists, leaving them 'broken, shattered and marginalised'. Jonathan, however, argued strongly that there was far less devastation than has previously been suggested, that some non-conformist groups such as the Methodists were barely affected at all and that the Unitarians, who did subsequently suffer to

some extent, still recovered relatively quickly. Congregational sizes, the continued presence of high-profile non-conformist personalities, the composition of local government and the growth of Sunday schools, he maintains, are all indicative that the period from 1791 to 1820 was in fact one of graceful recovery, rather than disorder and decline, for the non-conformists of Birmingham.

The presentation culminated in an extremely lively and stimulating question and answer session where Jonathan displayed an excellent grasp of his subject, ably defending his arguments whilst elaborating on further research possibilities. A thoroughly entertaining and extremely well presented evening which was both thought-provoking and, particularly in light of last year's civil disturbances in Birmingham, a timely example of the relevance of historical study to the present day.

Pete Bounous

NEXT EVENT:

RESEARCH SHOWCASE AN EVENING WITH...

HARRY SMITH

**'LEARNING TO BE A GENTLEMAN:
THE GALTON FAMILY OF
BIRMINGHAM, 1780-1840'**

**THURSDAY 25 OCTOBER
6.30-8.30PM**

**LECTURE ROOM 3 (FIRST FLOOR),
THE ARTS BUILDING,
UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM**

**TO CONFIRM YOUR ATTENDANCE OR TO JOIN
OUR MAILING LIST PLEASE CONTACT
CONNIE WAN AT CWMHRG@HOTMAIL.COM**

CWMHRG RESEARCH SHOWCASE SEMINARS:

*The Influence of the Gardening Style of
William Shenstone with John Hemingway*

John Hemingway, previously a teacher and Archaeological Officer for Dudley, spoke on Thursday 28th June 2012 to an enthusiastic audience, on 'The Influence of the Gardening Style of William Shenstone'. This talk was followed by a long question and answer session. The topic of his research, William Shenstone (1714-1763) a poet, and one of the earliest practitioners of landscape gardening, was born at the Leasowes, Halesowen, near Birmingham. Shenstone was a key figure of the Enlightenment, and was educated in Halesowen, and then attended Pembroke College, Oxford. He published poems, rather than achieving a degree. His library included 700 books, including philosophy and poetry, but not many gardening books!

John's research has been based on a series of letters that Shenstone wrote to various correspondents about aspects of gardening, including those published by Robert Dodsley from 1764-1775. One volume contains Dodsley's description of the Leasowes. Other letters are preserved in the British Museum including the correspondence between Shenstone and Bishop Percy from 1757 to 1763. There are also several contemporary drawings of garden designs by David Parkes.

John gave a brief history of Shenstone's activities: Shenstone inherited the Leasowes estate, and retired there in 1745 to embark on elaborate schemes of landscape gardening which made the Leasowes widely known in the eighteenth century. His landscapes were created from a working farm, where he took out hedges, leaving a more open landscape than is present at Leasowes today. Shenstone gradually incorporated features such as cascades, temples and picturesque walks at Leasowes. He retained specimen trees to create a parkland, designed to give the impression of an idealised classical landscape, with follies, grottos and statuary. Such 'ferme ornée' gardens were fashionable in the mid-eighteenth century. Edmund Pytts (1729-1781) of Kyre Park, Worcestershire had a 'ferme ornée' in 1754, which had been laid down by Capability Brown. It is not clear if this was influenced by Shenstone, or vice-versa.

Leasowes had many visitors in the mid-eighteenth century, including at least sixty owners of medium to large estates. John likened this to visiting a theme park! Many came to admire the landscapes, and to take away ideas for their own estates. Shenstone had a large influence on several important gardens, including local Hagley Hall, where George Lyttleton, Lord Cobham (1709-1773), spent years

and a fortune developing the park which still contains many follies. Shenstone suggested the use of an obelisk in the garden at Hagley Hall, and it was installed around 1745-6. There is also a temple of Theseus, built by James Athenian Stuart, in 1756. Other examples include Hestercombe Gardens in Somerset which were created after a visit to Leasowes by Coplestone Warre Bampfylde. The cascade and the landscape garden, which lies in a valley to the north of the house, were created between 1750 and 1786. Sir Francis Dashwood (1708-1781) visited Leasowes in 1758 and rebuilt an 'eye-catcher' at his estate in 1763. Dashwood was an English rake and politician, Chancellor of the Exchequer (1762-1763) and founder of the Hellfire Club. The garden at his family home at West Wycombe are said to be among the finest and most idiosyncratic of the eighteenth century gardens surviving in England. Similarly Henry Hoar (1700-1785) of Stourhead, Lord Temple of Stow, and Edward Knight of Wolverley took ideas from the Leasowes. Even our local hero Matthew Boulton at Soho had ponds, cascades, temples and serpentine walks in his garden.

Philip Rose, horticultural advisor at Wisley, has been excavating the garden at Heligan in Cornwall, and has found a reference of 3rd July 1785 to Shenstone's Leasowes from Henry Hawkes Tremayne of Heligan. There are similarities such as the zigzag path or serpentine walk to the Temple and 'holy springs' which was an ancient feature found at Halesowen. Shenstone may have influenced gardens as far apart as France, Germany, and Poland. Even John Adams and Thomas Jefferson, future presidents of the United States, visited Leasowes in April 1786 after Shenstone's death. Adams wrote in his diary 'Stowe, Hagley, and Blenheim are superb; ...and the Leasowes are beautiful'. In turn, Jefferson's 'ferme ornée' at Monticello in the United States, influenced Frederick Law Olmstead (1822-1903), the originator of Central Park, New York and the National Parks movement. So as John Hemingway concluded, William Shenstone had a great influence on gardening styles. The Friends of the Centre for West Midlands History hope to have a guided visit the Leasowes at sometime in the future.

Sue Tungate

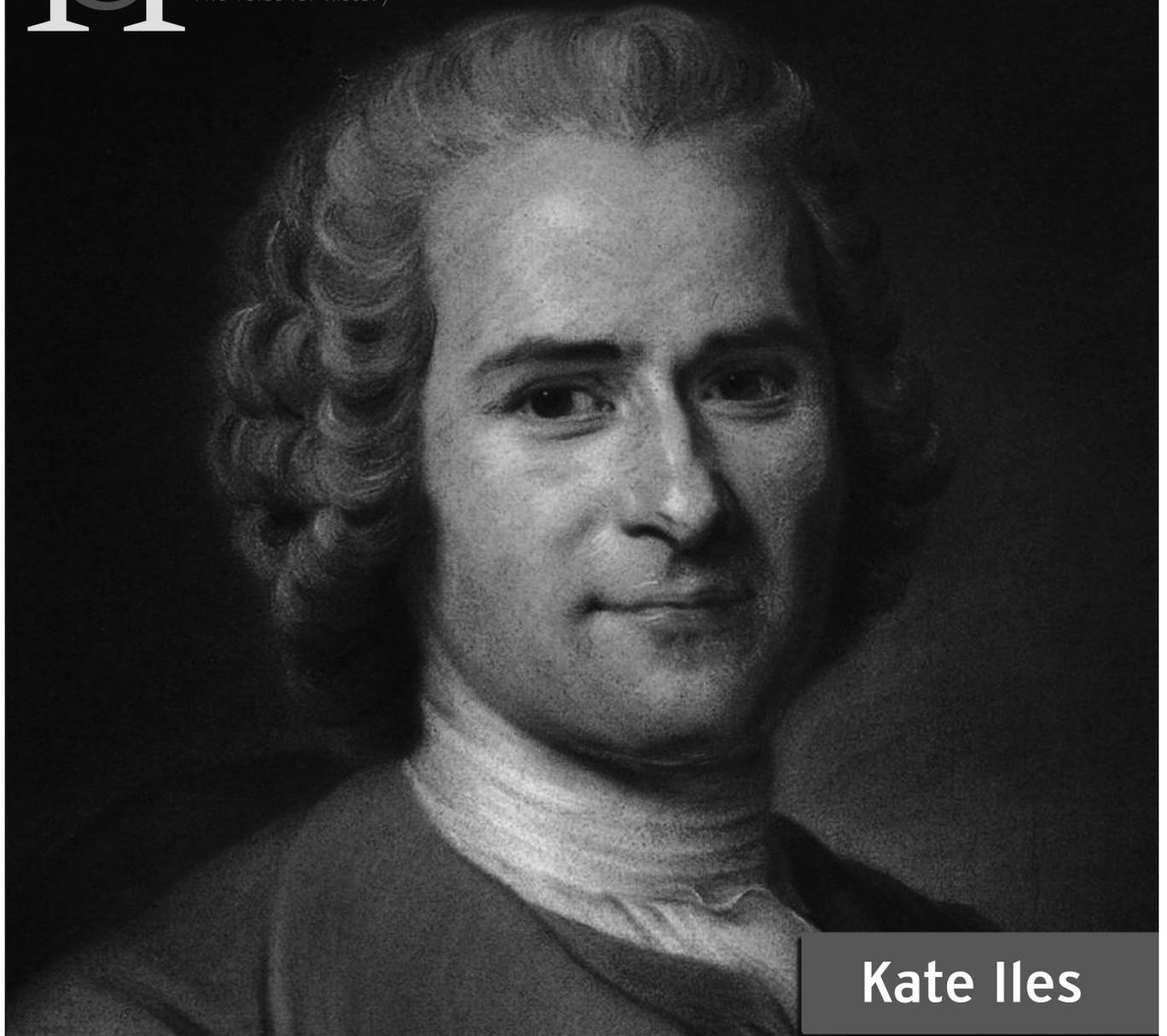
Have you got some interesting research that you would like to share? The Centre for West Midlands History Research Group is always looking for new speakers! If you're interested in giving a 20-45 minute talk about your research in an informal environment, get in touch with Connie Wan via CWMHRG@hotmail.com

SHARING THE PAST WITH THE FUTURE



The
Historical Association
The voice for history

Birmingham Branch
Eric Hopkins Memorial Lecture



Kate Iles

"The Personal is Political:

Rousseau and the Lunar Circle in the late Eighteenth -
Century West Midlands."

Wednesday 17th October 2012

6pm

Lecture Room 3 - Arts Building, Edgbaston Campus

UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM

Historical Association, Birmingham Branch

Seminar Series: 'Birmingham and Beyond'

The following talks are all held from 6.30pm to 8.00pm
at the following venue:

The Open University in the West Midlands
66 High Street,
Harborne,
Birmingham, B17 9NB

Car parking is available behind the building. For a location map see:
<http://www3.open.ac.uk/contact/maps.aspx?contactid=4>

Tuesday 9 October 2012, 6.30pm

Jahan Mahmood, 'Birmingham's Muslim Warrior Races and the Second World War'

Tuesday 13 November 2012, 6.30pm

Jonathan Atherton, "Nothing but a Birmingham jury can save them":
Prosecuting the Birmingham Priestley Rioters of 1791'

Tuesday 11 December 2012, 6.30pm

Sally Hoban, 'The Birmingham Girls: Women Designers of the Arts and Crafts Movement'

Tuesday 15 January 2013, 6.30pm

George Demidowicz, 'The Borough Rentals of 1296 and 1344-5.
A revolution in our knowledge of medieval Birmingham'

Tuesday 12 February 2013, 6.30pm

Guy Sjögren, 'From Nails to Nebulae or from Hero to Zero? John Reynolds & Sons,
1849-1949 - three generations of a Birmingham family firm'

Tuesday 12 March 2013, 6.30pm

Dr Malcolm Dick, 'Birmingham, the Slave Trade and Anti-slavery'

All are welcome. Tea and coffee provided. There is no need to book.

Birmingham and Midland Institute Day School

Midlands Maidens: Women in the Eighteenth and Early-Nineteenth Century

Saturday 6 October 2012, 10.00am to 4.00pm

The Birmingham and Midland Institute, Margaret Street, Birmingham B3 3BS

This day school explores the lives of four women who were significant individuals in the Midlands during the eighteenth and early nineteenth century. Sabrina Sidney is best known as a founding child, acquired by the Lunar Man, Thomas Day, to educate as his future wife. Kate Iles reconstructs Sabrina's life so that she emerges as more than a subject of an educational experiment. Marion Roberts presents the life history of Lichfield poet, Anna Seward, cultural critic and associate of Erasmus Darwin. Anne Boulton was the daughter of Matthew Boulton and Shena Mason presents the biography of a woman who was more than simply the child of a famous man. Sally Hoban and Jon Wood consider the significance of the photographic pioneer, Elizabeth Stockdale Wilkinson and situate her within the context of historical debates around gender and artistic and scientific practice in the period. The event is chaired by Malcolm Dick. **ADVANCE BOOKING IS ESSENTIAL. PLEASE CONTACT THE BMI (See phone number below) AND NOT THE UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM.**

Programme

- 10.00 – 10.10am: Malcolm Dick, Introduction
- 10.10 – 11.10am: Kate Iles
The Adventurous History of Sabrina Sidney
- 11.10 – 11.25am: Refreshments
- 11.25 – 12.25pm: Marion Roberts
Anna Seward (1742-1809): a Dynamic Woman
- 12.25 – 1.25pm: Lunch
- 1.25 – 2.25pm: Shena Mason
'An Amiable Female Character' - the Life of Miss Anne Boulton
- 2.25 – 2.40pm: Refreshments
- 2.40 – 3.40pm: Sally Hoban and Jon Wood
Elizabeth Stockdale Wilkinson: An Early Photographic Pioneer?
- 3.40 – 4.00pm: Final Questions to the Contributors, chaired by Malcolm Dick

*Tickets are available from the BMI at £27.00 to include coffee on arrival and buffet lunch.
To book telephone 0121 236 3591*

CWMH Forthcoming Events

Friends of the Centre for West Midlands History will be informed of further details when they are available. The best way of keeping in touch with events is via the Centre's website: <http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/research/activity/cwmh/index.aspx>

Tuesday 11 September
6.30pm-8.30pm

My little gardine at Dasset paled': Sir Thomas Temple and his garden at Burton Dasset in Warwickshire, c.1630

Friends of the Centre for West Midlands History Research Seminar with Jill Francis

Lecture Room 3, First Floor Arts Building, University of Birmingham, B15 2TT.
To confirm your attendance email
Connie Wan: cwmhrg@hotmail.com

Saturday 13 October
10.00am-4.00pm

Black Country History Day

Large Lecture Theatre (1st Floor), Arts Building, University of Birmingham B15 2TT.
Advance booking is essential. For a leaflet, contact Malcolm Dick on m.m.dick@bham.ac.uk or 0121 415 8253 providing details of your e-mail or address.

Wednesday 17 October
6.00pm-8.00pm

The Personal is Political: Rousseau and the Lunar Circle in the late Eighteenth-Century West Midlands

The Historical Association, Birmingham Branch, Annual Eric Hopkins Memorial Lecture, with Dr Kate Iles

Lecture Theatre 3, First Floor, Arts Building, University of Birmingham B15 2TT.
All Welcome. Booking is not required.

Thursday 25 October
6.30pm-8.30pm

Learning to be a gentleman: the Galton Family of Birmingham, 1780-1840

Friends of the Centre for West Midlands History Research Seminar with Harry Smith

Lecture Room 3, First Floor Arts Building, University of Birmingham, B15 2TT.
To confirm your attendance email
Connie Wan: cwmhrg@hotmail.com

Wednesday 7 November
6.30pm-8.30pm

Launch of the Baskerville Society, Talks by Drs Caroline Archer and Malcolm Dick and a performance of the 'Corpse in the Crescent', a play about Baskerville and written for the BBC in 1947.

Lecture Room 3 (1st Floor), Arts Building, University of Birmingham B15 2TT. To confirm your attendance, please contact Malcolm Dick, e-mail: m.m.dick@bham.ac.uk or phone 0121 415 8253

Saturday 24 November
10.00am-4.30pm

Birmingham History Day

Large Lecture Theatre (1st Floor), Arts Building, University of Birmingham B15 2TT. Advance booking is essential. For a leaflet, contact Malcolm Dick on m.m.dick@bham.ac.uk or 0121 415 8253 providing details of your e-mail or address.

Thursday 31 January 2013
6.30pm-8.00pm

The Industrial Enlightenment in the West Midlands: Some perspectives on eighteenth-century industrialization

The Birmingham Metallurgical Association Lecture with Dr Malcolm Dick

Metals and Metallurgy Building, University of Birmingham B15 2TT. Booking details TBC.

Saturday 8 March 2013
10.00am-4.30pm

Staffordshire History Day

Further details will be provided later in 2012.

Saturday 23 March 2013
10.00am-4.00pm

Art and the Black Country Study Day at Wolverhampton Art Gallery

£25 per person (includes lunch)
Booking details to be confirmed.

Email Connie Wan to register your interest at Connie.Wan@wolverhampton.gov.uk

Saturday 6 April to Sunday 7 April 2013

Conference: John Baskerville: Art, Industry and Technology in the Enlightenment

Woodbrooke Quaker Study Centre
Further details will be provided later in 2012.

Answer to the canal trivia question: 'Toccy bricks' were the blue engineering bricks, made from Staffordshire clay and baked to a very high temperature, that were commonly used in the construction of bridges and locks on Brindley's old line.