Centre for West Midlands History

The Emergence of the West Midlands: Culture, Communities and Change 1779 – 1918

Friday 30th March until Sunday 1st April 2012

Venue: Woodbrooke Quaker Study Centre, 1046 Bristol Road, Birmingham B29 6LJ. W: http://www.woodbrooke.org.uk/

Friday 30 March: Introduction to the Conference

6.30pm: Conference Meal
8.00pm: Keynote Lecture: Tristram Hunt MP

Saturday 31 March: Landscapes and Identities

Regional Identities
8.45am: Refreshments
9.10am: Welcome from Malcolm Dick
9.15am: Keynote Lecture. Peter Jones (University of Birmingham): The West Midlands: searching for a regional identity
9.55am: Questions
10.05am: Paul Elliott (University of Derby), Regions of Enlightenment: science and scientific cultures in the Midlands c. 1750 – c. 1918
10.35am: Questions
10.45am: Refreshments

Shaping the region: agriculture, spa towns and architecture
11.05am: James P. Bowen (Lancaster University), Shaping the West Midlands: aspects of agrarian change in the county of Shropshire
11.35am: Jane Adams (University of Warwick), Spas and water cure resorts in the West Midlands
12.05pm: G.J. Hyland (Pugin Society), Gothic revival architecture in the West Midlands: The works of A.W.N. and E.W. Pugin
12.35pm: Questions
12.55pm: Lunch

1.55pm – 3.45pm: A Sense of Place: Defining the Black Country
1.55pm: Chris Upton (Newman, University College, Birmingham), The green and the black: art, literature and the creation of the Black Country
2.25pm: Paul Quigley (Wolverhampton City Council), ‘An angry sea of shale’: dereliction in the Black Country
2.55pm: Janet Sullivan, Forging a community: place and identity in an industrial Black Country town
3.25pm: Questions
3.45pm: Refreshments

4.05pm – 4.55pm. Regional Identities

4.05pm: Keynote Lecture. Ruth Watts (University of Birmingham), Women, community and change, 1880-1914
4.45pm: Questions
4.55pm: Close

Sunday 1 April: Changing Conceptions of Politics and Culture

8.45am: Refreshments
9.10am: Dr Malcolm Dick, Welcome
9.15am: Keynote Lecture: Stephen Roberts (University of Birmingham), Constructing a life story: John Alfred Langford, LLD.
9.55am: Questions

Parallel Strands 10.05am – 3.45pm
Morning: Politics and Protest or Words and Images
Afternoon: Parliamentary Politics or Knowledge and Improvement

Politics and Protest

10.05am: Richard Jones (St John’s College, Cambridge), From civic gospel to an ideology of administration: the development of Chamberlain’s gas and water socialism
10.35am: Questions
10.45: Break
11.05am: Jonathan Atherton (Newman University College), ‘Nothing but a Birmingham jury can save them’: prosecuting the Priestley rioters of 1791
11.35am: Harry Smith (Trinity College, Oxford), ‘Birmingham Britishness’: The Nott family and reform, 1790-1832
12.05am: Paul Fantom (Birmingham City University and the University of Birmingham), The fight for the ‘bottom dog’: The 1913 Black Country strike
12.35am: Questions
12.55pm: Lunch
Parliamentary Politics

1.55pm: Henry Miller (History of Parliament Trust), Radicals, Tories or monomaniacs?: the Birmingham currency reformers in the House of Commons, 1832 – 67
2.25pm: Toshihiko Iwama (Tokyo Metropolitan University, Japan), ‘The most dangerous foreign politician in the country’ or ‘the greatest orator of modern times’?: John Bright and debating societies in Birmingham, 1857-1889
2.55pm: Pete Bounous (University of Birmingham), ‘A Bright week for Birmingham?’: a reassessment of the popularity of John Bright as MP for Birmingham, 1857-1889
3.25pm: Questions
3.45pm: Refreshments

Words and Images

10.05am: Caroline Archer (Birmingham City University), The Birmingham printers and the emergence of technical education in the printing industry
10.35am: Questions
10.45am: Break
11.05am: Sally Hoban (University of Birmingham) and Jon Wood (University of Aston), Elizabeth Stockdale Wilkinson, 1799-1871 and early photographic practice in Birmingham
11.35am: Val Loggie (Independent Scholar), ‘...both useful, elegant and ornamental’: James Bisset’s Magnificent Directories of Birmingham
12.05pm: Sian Everitt Vaughan (Birmingham Institute of Art and Design), More than just art and artists? History through the Birmingham School of Art Archive
12.35pm: Questions
12.55pm: Lunch

Knowledge and Improvement

1.55pm: Chris Penney (Independent scholar and Hurd Librarian), Worcestershire in the age of enlightenment: Bishop Richard Hurd and his library at Hartlebury Castle
2.25pm: Andy Vail (University of Birmingham), Evangelism or social action?: the early Brotherhood/ Pleasant Sunday Afternoon Association in the West Midlands
2.55pm: James Williams (Birmingham City University), The Bristol Street Evening School: an analysis of the headmaster’s log 1899 – 1910
3.25pm: Questions
3.45pm: Refreshments

Regional Heritage

4.05pm: David Callaghan (University of Birmingham), Telling hidden histories: how can early Black histories be presented within the region’s heritage?
4.35pm: Questions
4.45pm: Malcolm Dick and Stephen Roberts: final remarks
4.55pm: Finish

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