

The British International History Group

(under the auspices of the British International Studies Association)

NEWSLETTER

Number 4 - October 1998

1998 Annual Conference

The Tenth annual conference of the BIHG took place at the University of Leicester, between the 10th and 12th of September, with well over 50 members attending this year. As always, the conference was a successful mix of academic presentation and social inter-action, as well as an opportunity to meet friends we have not seen for some time. Many thanks to John Young for his work in ensuring the Conference ran smoothly, in such a lovely location.

The Committee would like to thank Dr Philip Towle for stepping in, at very short notice, to present the Guest Lecture this year, in place of Donald Cameron Watt, who is recovering from illness. The Plenary Session this year was entitled "1919 Revisited", and Mike Dockrill, Ruth Henig and Alan Sharp gave us some stimulating thoughts on the Treaty of Versailles and its aftermath. Special appreciation must be extended to our chairman who managed to make the subject of Reparations both interesting and amusing! Well done, Mike.

The Annual General Meeting of the Group, took place, as is customary, during the conference and the Committee took great pleasure in extending its congratulations to Mike Dockrill on his elevation to Professor of International History at Kings College, London.

One of the issues which was raised again at the AGM was the question of the representation of historians within BISA, and the Secretary again stressed the need for members of BIHG to ensure that this level of representation is increased. It is important for us both to ensure that the editors of the BISA Newsletter are informed of our publications and promotions for inclusion in the Newsletter, and for us to support the International History Panels at the BISA Conference. Concern has also been expressed over the predominance of theorist IR articles published in *The Review of International Studies*. The Review's Editorial team stress that they can only publish what is offered to them, and if historians do not offer articles they can not be published. So come on you historians, raise our profile by submitting to what is, after all, *our Review*.

Next year's conference will be held at University College, Worcester, between the 9th and 11th of September. We look forward to seeing you there.

Pauline Elkes

Carolyn Kitching

Forthcoming Events

A *Witness Seminar* will be held in the Map Room at the Foreign & Commonwealth Office, on a date to be arranged. The Seminar will be entitled *The Role of the Moscow Embassy in Anglo-Soviet Relations*, and will examine and re-assess the role and the work of Her Majesty's Embassy in Moscow. It is envisaged that the proceedings of this seminar will be published in the journal, *Contemporary British History*. A similar work on the role of the Washington Embassy, edited by Michael Hopkins, is due for publication in CBH shortly.

'A Peace to End Peace' - Britain, Versailles and the Legacy of the Paris Peace Conference A two day research conference to mark the eightieth anniversary of the Paris Peace Conference and ensuing treaties will be held at the Public Record Office on Friday 25 and Saturday 26 June 1999. The Guest Speaker will be the Rt. Hon. Lord Hurd of Westwell, CH, CBE, who will also host a reception at the House of Lords on the evening of Friday 25th. For further information contact James Guthrie, Public Events Manager, Public Record Office, Kew, Richmond, Surrey, TW9 4DU. Telephone 0181 392 5279, Fax 0181 392 5266 or e-mail events@pro.gov.uk

Alongside the above Seminar, the PRO and the Institute of Contemporary British History are staging a post-graduate seminar in international history, also at the PRO, on Thursday 24th June 1999. The aims of the seminar are firstly to help students to tackle post-graduate research among the PRO archives, and secondly to discuss research trends in International History. For further information contact James Guthrie, as above.

Forthcoming Publications

A new series on *Cold War History* is to be published by Macmillan, the main purpose of which is to make available to scholars and students the results of recent research on the development of the Cold War and its impacts on various nations and regions in terms of foreign policy/diplomacy, military and strategic, economic and societal issues. *Forthcoming Titles* include:

The Failure of Peace in Europe, 1943-1948

The Leverage of the Weak: Austria in the First Cold War, 1945-55

Wilson's First Act: Vietnam, the Pound and Britain's Decision to Withdraw from East of Suez, 1964-67

Germany during the Cold War and after, 1945-1990

Kennedy, Macmillan and Nuclear Weapons, 1961-1963

Churchill, Whitehall and the Soviet Union, 1940-45

For further information, please contact the **General Editor** of the series, **Saki Dockrill** at the Department of War Studies, King's College, London. (e-mail: saki.dockrill@kcl.ac.uk)

Publications by BIHG Members

Dr Saki Dockrill (ed) *Controversy and Compromise: Alliance Politics between Great Britain, the Federal Republic of Germany, and the USA*. Germany: PHILO publisher, 1997

Dr Martin Thomas (University of the West of England, Bristol): *The French Empire at War, 1940-45*, Manchester University Press, 1998

Dr Saki Dockrill (ed) with G Bischof: *Cold War Respite: The Geneva Summit Conference in July 1955*. New Orleans: Louisiana State University Press, forthcoming

Dr Carolyn Kitching (University of Teesside): *Britain and the Problem of International Disarmament, 1919-34*, Routledge, forthcoming

electronic Journal of International History

Historians are about to enter the 21st Century with the launch, in mid to late 1999, of the eJIH, the aim of which is to encourage research into the international policy of Great Britain since 1870. The editors welcome contributions from historians working on a wide range of areas, for example:

- * traditional diplomatic questions
- * studies of war and particular crises
- * British bilateral relations with other states and participation in wider alliances and international organisations
- * foreign trade
- * military and intelligence issues
- * cultural diplomacy
- * propaganda, information policy and psychological operations
- * the development of international law
- * ethical concerns such as the impact of technological change
- * historiographical debates

The eJIH will be published four times per year (in March, June, September and December) and include at least four substantial articles of 8,000-18,000 words in each issue, plus at least two shorter communications, or documentary pieces, of 4,000-5,000 words.

This will be an innovative publication, available only over the Internet and provided *free of charge* to readers. For authors it will provide the opportunity to publish an article, refereed by two or three external assessors, without the delays of established academic journals in printing the final version. Once a piece is accepted, and any necessary amendments made, it will appear in the next edition of the Journal.

Editors: Anthony Best (London School of Economics), Gillian Staerck (Institute of Contemporary British History), Glyn Stone (University of West of England) and John Young (University of Leicester) with two more editors to be advised.

Contributions should be sent in the first instance to:

Institute of Contemporary British History, Room 357, Senate House, Malet Street,
London WC2A 7HU. E-mail: icbh@icbh.ac.uk

Contributions should be in the form of e-mail or disk, preferably Word 6 or derivatives

The BIHG Thesis Prize

This year's BIHG Thesis Prize has been won by Renata Dwan, of the University of Oxford, for her work entitled *An Uncommon Community: France and the European Defence Community 1950-54*. Congratulations to Renata; we look forward to seeing her at next year's conference. Also well done to the other finalists; the choice was, once again, a difficult one to make because of the overall high standard of the submissions. Don't forget, if your thesis has been, or is due to be, submitted during 1998, send the details to Dr Glyn Stone at the Faculty of Humanities, University of the West of England Bristol, St Matthias Campus, Fishponds, Bristol, BS16 2JP

DON'S DAILY DIARY

A tribute to the sterling work of BIHG's Vice-Chair and indeed all those others whose efforts seem superhuman by comparison to our own.

- 7.30 Awoken by heavy weight of unwritten book pressing down on my brain.
By 7.40 Had relieved cranial pressure by drafting first three chapters of text on nuclear non-proliferation 1952-56.
- 7.41 Skimmed through and proof-read text.
7.42 Faxed draft to publisher.
7.43 Entered kitchen, put kettle on and sat down to breakfast.
7.44 - 8.00 Ate cornflakes and read the papers. Papers included 2 Phd dissertations (to externally examine), three journal articles (to referee), and a few friendly corrections to a short piece for the THES by a colleague in another institution. Mischievously drafted a letter challenging colleague's views which could be sent to THES once her piece had appeared in print.
- 8.05 Brushed teeth while contemplating whether I could get to an archive today.
8.06 Telephoned archive. *Quat D'Orsay* shut. *Tant pis!* Decided to go into the office and get on with Departmental admin. In any case, teaching all afternoon.
- 8.45 Arrived at work. Read latest report on how the next RAE is to be organised. Perceived a possible loophole to be exploited.
- 8.55 Made conference call to all other 27 John Young's publishing in IR/International History to ask whether we should consider making a communal entry in the next RAE.
- 9.00 - 4.00 Mixture of admin, teaching, banter with colleagues and students. Even had a pub lunch.
4.01 - 4.10 Telephone recently departed colleague who's now taken up a position in the States. Reflect upon how Clintonesque I've become as I make small talk with Erik about UN policies towards Angola in the 1970s whilst drafting a paper to give at the next SHAEFER conference.
- 4.11 - 4.20 Make revisions to paper and print-off final version during two other phone calls - albeit that one of them is only to an answer phone.
- 4.21 Toilet. I always need to go after the beep.
4.25 Driving home in car. For once I notice others' bad driving and feel my fingers moulding into V-sign. Most unexpected - I've experienced road rage!
- 5.00 - 9.30 Time disappears in round of domesticity - eating, watching BBC news - must keep up with events.
- 9.31 - 10.15 Mark assorted essays and undergraduate dissertations. Helpfully rewrite one or two of the foreign students' MA dissertations because of their poor English. Look again. Liza Smith and John Brown don't appear to be from overseas.
- 10.15 -11.58 Draft some book chapters, revise original proofs, amend and sign contracts with publishers, and start various other miscellaneous projects.
- 12.00 Make myself a nightcap
12.07-12.25 So impressed with the nightcap that I stay up making nightcaps as Christmas presents. Also make a nightgown and a pair of pyjamas. Consider briefly making matching pyjamas for all 27 John Youngs.
- 12.26-12.29 Make a few last minute transatlantic calls
12.45 In bed. Doze off to sleep counting the tins I used to stack in Safeway. Don't need an alarm. Thoughts of new book will awake me.

Don't forget, we need your input in order to keep the Newsletter running. Please send us details of your publications, completed thesis, forthcoming conferences - in fact anything which might be of interest to any international historians reached by the Newsletter.

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