

Call for papers and session proposals

Proposals may be made by all rural historians, including independent scholars and doctoral students, who are in sympathy with the aims of the conference. Papers should represent the best in current research. Whilst many will address local or regional issues, we are especially interested in papers which address international issues, or national issues in a comparative context. Papers may also be submitted which outline new methodological approaches or documentary sources.

Submissions should be made in the form of a short abstract of the paper (150–200 words) and a short CV of the applicant of about the same length.

We also invite proposals for two- or three-paper sessions or even linked sessions. In this event we require the names of the chairman and speakers, a short abstract of each paper (150–200 words) and a short CV of each participant including the chairman (150–200 words each). (The conference can, of course, supply a chairman if necessary.) We have made provision on the conference website for potential session organisers to canvass for others interested in contributing to their area of expertise.

The selection of papers and sessions will rest with an international scientific committee: in the first instance, proposals should be sent to the chairman of the committee, Professor Richard Hoyle, at r.w.hoyle@reading.ac.uk by **Monday 11 January 2010**. Fuller details can be found on the conference website, www.ruralhistory2010.org. Those interested are invited to sign up for our mailing list at <http://www.jiscmail.ac.uk/RH2010>

'Brighton' (Photo: C. Glover)



Cattle by C. F. Tunnicliffe: reproduced by permission of The Estate of C. F. Tunnicliffe



Rural History 2010

An international conference
University of Sussex, Brighton, UK
13–16 September 2010

Until now, there has never been an international forum dedicated to the study of rural history in all its forms. The British Agricultural History Society is aware of the diversity of work being undertaken in the field, sometimes in cognate disciplines such as gender or development studies or under the banner of rural sociology or environmental history, perhaps institutionally separated from the historical mainstream by being undertaken in social science faculties, agricultural colleges or NGOs. The Society also appreciates that the current difficulties in the world's agrarian economies – with the development of new markets, the sudden appearance of high prices, the spread of innovative and controversial technologies, the impact of land reform and the threat of long-term climatic change – may well draw renewed attention to the discipline. Within Europe, it now seems possible that the post-productivist countryside may be no more than an interlude rather

than the final stage in rural development. Perspectives and priorities change: there is much to be done. This seems a good time to start.

The Society has taken the initiative to convene the first international open meeting dedicated solely to rural history. This will take place on 13–16 September 2010 at the University of Sussex, Brighton, UK.

The conference does not accept that rural history has any single definition, nor does it admit any bounds, and the conference has no intellectual affiliation. It is open to those approaching rural history from any perspective, ranging from archaeology, anthropology and ethnography through rural geography, landscape studies and rural sociology to post-modern cultural approaches to the countryside. It will be equally concerned with the countryside as the locale where food is produced as with as the countryside as a place of consumption of leisure and the location of heritage and national memory. It also hopes to receive contributions from those primarily interested in viewing contemporary conditions and future developments with a knowledge of the past. Papers will be welcomed on all periods from the prehistoric to the very modern; nor are there any geographical limitations on the area of study. Comparative discussions which deal with rural society as a whole will be especially welcome, together with accounts which seek parallels between present day agrarian problems and those of the past.

Marianne North, "Tea drying in Mr Hole's establishment, Java"
(Reproduced with the kind permission of the Director and the Board of Trustees, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew)



'Children picking tobacco' (Library of Congress)

