

THE BIRKBECK
EARLY MODERN
SOCIETY

**Minutes of The Early Modern Society's second AGM
20 July 2007 6.30pm, Birkbeck Malet Street, Room 152**

Present: Karen Chester, Tony Kay, Daisy Shell, Mac Kachere, Moira Ashcroft, Timothy Alves, Nadiya Midgley, Robin Rowles, Nigel Carter, John Croxon, Sue Dale, Stephen Brogan, Karen Baston, Laura Jacobs

1. Apologies:

Stefania Crowther

2. Minutes of last year's AGM

Approved

3. Brief summary of the society's events and reports from officers.

The President noted the society's successful growth over the last year. He reported that we held 6 highly stimulating academic events. Audiences ranged from 30 to over 70 people. A wide range of speakers; Simon Burrows, Quentin Skinner, Carmen Fracchia, Munro Price, Brian Vickers, Filippo de Vivo, covered a wide range of subjects; Marie Antoinette, Machiavelli, Velasquez, The French Revolution, Othello, and Venice, respectively, in keeping with the society's inter-disciplinary ethos.

We also held a Xmas party, a trip to the Globe Theatre, two guided city walks, a visit to the Hogarth Exhibition, and a student conference, 'Centres and Margins', supported by Birkbeck's Department of History Classics and Archaeology.

We discussed the conference. It was felt that guidelines and a pre meeting for speakers would have been helpful. However, the papers all reflected the theme, and the overall range was impressive. There was lots of good feedback about this and our trans-disciplinary objective was met. The use of images was stimulating. The thorough preparation beforehand meant that the event 'ran itself' on the day. Attendance was impressive (approx 30). All speakers showed up, and the sole cancellation was given with a week's notice, as requested if possible. The audience participation and discussions were of a good

standard. Without wanting to exclude our tutors, it was a student event ran by and for students, and as such felt healthy / autonomous. The catering was good and well organised. The post conference reception was enjoyable. The programme did not over run and timescales were adhered to. The IT support from the college was good.

In addition to all the events, we produced a website, a Blog entitled 'Early Modern Intelligencer' and three issues of the Early Modern Society Bulletin, the committee members who produced these excellent resources, were congratulated.

The Treasurer's report was received and she was congratulated for closely monitoring and successfully managing our finances. We spent all of our Student Union funding and were on target to spend all of our income from membership and charges except for a small carry over.

The Secretary reported that membership stood at 86 and the email list was over 150. The Secretary was aware that some email address had failed to deliver therefore she urged that any corrections should be emailed to her at l.jacobs@english.bbk.ac.uk

4. Elections

4.1 Officers

President: Stephen Brogan
Treasurer: Sue Dale
Secretary: Laura Jacobs

4.2 Committee members:

Bulletin Editor: John Croxon
Webmaster/ Blog: Karen Baston
Liaison officer: Nadiya Midgley
Robin Rowles
Karen Chester
Nigel Carter

5. Forthcoming events

These will be discussed at our next planning meeting.

Potential Speakers and Potential Subjects for 2007-8 include:

Dr Vanessa Harding (BBK), research into the family in early modern London

Dr Laura Stewart (BBK), why did riots in Edinburgh in 1637 kick off a civil war in three kingdoms?

Dr Richard Williams (BBK), Holbein at the court of Henry VIII

Dr Susan James(BBK), Spinoza

Dr Malcolm Gaskill (Cambridge), witchcraft and mentalities / or the early modern emotions

Prof Sandra Clark(BBK) – Macbeth

Prof Ronald Hutton (Bristol) – subject tbc

Lady Antonia Fraser- Elizabeth I / M Q of Scots

Dr Roger Mettam (retired) (?) – Absolutism in early modern Europe

6. Membership Fees

It was agreed that society membership would remain at £5.

7. AOB

Mac Kachere circulated a paper with suggestions for future events. It was agreed to discuss these at our next planning meeting.