RECORDS OF SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC HISTORY – an overview for prospective contributions

Britain’s historical archives are unusually rich, voluminous and widely scattered. This Series publishes modern editions of manuscript sources that shed revealing light on any aspect of the social and economic history of Britain since the Norman Conquest. Social and economic are to be understood generously, covering rural and urban history, public and private life, the collective and the individual, and policy and practice. The series has published material about all parts of the economy and society, seen both from the perspective of lived experience and regulation.

In practice, the Series has published many different types of material including accounts, business correspondence, cartularies, censuses (civil and ecclesiastical), correspondence, diaries, estate records, inventories, journals, policy deliberations, poor law records, revenue rolls, and tax records. These have been drawn from pre-Reformation religious orders, businesses, individuals, parishes, the Treasury, and more. Sometimes volumes reproduce key documents in their entirety, but sometimes they bring together documents from several sources in relation to particular themes.

Geographically, the Series seeks to avoid overlapping with the great efforts made by local record series by focussing upon material which has extra-local if not necessarily British-wide implications. In practice, volumes have covered aspects of the island of Britain, including overseas trade and empire, in turn including Ireland. The Series’ organizing Committee is aware of the dangers of being unduly Anglo-centric and of the need to place Britain’s history in its widest international contexts.

Since the Series was revived in 1970, 67 volumes have been published, in recent years usually one or two a year. The Series has developed significantly over time, mainly in reaction to changes in the scope, methods, and sources of social and economic history – unsolicited proposals have led to most of the volumes. Such developments are often evidenced in the introductions Editors provide to each volume, or in the supporting footnotes to the texts. Texts vary considerably in length, sometimes requiring publication in two or more volumes.

The Series is seen as an attractive and important one, publishing valuable material to high editorial and production standards. That speaks to how the Series is managed and published. Advice is provided to those wishing to making proposals. If then accepted a contract with the Academy will be drawn up. Editors of contracted volumes work with a member of the Series’ committee and General Editor to ensure that a high-quality text is produced. Production is managed by the Publishing Department of the British Academy. All volumes are published in hardcopy and as eBooks. Distribution and marketing are undertaken by Liverpool University Press.

A full list of published volumes is available at: <https://www.thebritishacademy.ac.uk/publishing/specialist-scholarly-publications/records-social-and-economic-history/>

If you have an idea for a volume in this Series, in the first instance please contact its Chair, Julian Hoppit at [j.hoppit@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:j.hoppit@ucl.ac.uk).

Professor Julian Hoppit, FBA, Chair of the RSEH Committee

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