

LRS AGM

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Forthcoming London Record Society volumes publishing pre-1550 material

The Society's 2021 volume – *The Records of the Jesus Guild, c.1450-1550 (An edition of Bodleian Ms Tanner 221 and Associated Records)*, edited and with an introduction by Elizabeth New – will appear early in Spring 2022. It presents the records (mainly accounts, but with a variety of other statutes, deeds and miscellanea) that relate to the Guild of the Holy name of Jesus that met in the crypt of Old St Paul's before the dissolution of the fraternities in the late 1540s. This guild represented the corporate expression of a 'cutting edge' orthodox devotion that not only attracted members from the upper ranks of London society but also contrived to derive support from men and women of all degrees across the whole country. As well as shedding valuable light on aspects of the devotional life shared by some of London's most influential citizens, the guild's records also illuminate many aspects of the City's economy and on its citizens' interpersonal relations, as well as yielding a valuable impression of how a fraternity with a national appeal was in fact organised.

The next volume of medieval material, intended to appear in 2023, will be the first part of Caroline Metcalfe's two-volume edition of the Brewers' Book, publishing the materials compiled by John Porlond, the secretary of the Brewers' company, and reflective of the company's affairs between 1418-25 – the second volume will present the materials surviving until c.1440. As well as an introduction, index and glossary, the first volume will present the statutes of the company along with a miscellany of accounts and memoranda as drafted by Porlond, before the materials would have been copied into a (now lost) 'fair copy'; the surviving material nevertheless affords copious material that reveals much concerning both the management of the craft and the conduct of its members. If London's crafts constituted the bedrock both of the City's economy and of its political life, to have such a book revealing how such an association was managed, how its members behaved (or misbehaved) and how they conceived of themselves within the various competing elements of the contemporary townscape will be of immense interests and value.

Prospective post-1550 publications

The Society has a number of Modern Records in the prospective publishing programme. Professor Anna Vaninskaya of Edinburgh University is editing a collection of Russian journal articles describing life in the East End among Russian (mainly Jewish) migrants in the early years of the twentieth century; these are journalistic pieces never published in English before. We hope that this will be our volume for 2022. Subsequent projects include a new edition organised by Sarah Clarke of *The Giulianiad with the Guitarist's Companion and Musical Herald*, originally edited by the guitar virtuoso and teacher Ferdinand Pelzer, who made a major contribution to domestic music life in London in the 1840s; documents from the nightly watch of St James's Piccadilly from the end of the eighteenth century into the post-Napoleonic period, to be edited by Elaine Reynolds, offering insights into frontline policing in the late-Georgian 'West End of the Town'; and the diary of the Ordinary of Newgate in the 1820s and 1830s offering insights into life (and death) in London's most important prison, edited by Simon Devereaux.

Inevitably, progress in many of these projects has been adversely affected by the pandemic, which has interrupted travel arrangements and access to archive. The signs, however, are that things are slowly getting back to normal.

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