

**TWO SELECT
BIBLIOGRAPHIES
OF MEDIAEVAL
HISTORICAL STUDY**

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Two select bibliographies of mediaeval historical study by Margaret Findlay Moore

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MARGARET FINDLAY MOORE

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HISTORICAL STUDY**

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Two Select Bibliographies of Mediæval Historical Study

I.—A CLASSIFIED LIST OF WORKS RELATING TO THE
STUDY OF ENGLISH PALÆOGRAPHY AND DIPLOMATIC

II.—A CLASSIFIED LIST OF WORKS RELATING TO ENG-
LISH MANORIAL AND AGRARIAN HISTORY FROM THE
EARLIEST TIMES TO THE YEAR 1660

BY
M.A. 1913

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Carnegie Scholar in Palæography and Early Economic History

WITH A PREFACE BY

HUBERT HALL, F.S.A.

University Reader in Palæography and Early Economic Sources

AND A

DESCRIPTION OF THE MEDIÆVAL HISTORICAL CLASSES
AT THE LONDON SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS

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ACCOUNT OF THE CLASSES
IN MEDIÆVAL HISTORY AT
THE LONDON SCHOOL OF
ECONOMICS.

ACCOUNT OF THE CLASSES IN MEDÆVAL
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I.

It would perhaps be generally admitted by competent persons that down to a comparatively recent date, the study of Palæography in this country has been, for the most part, casually and fitfully pursued in the School of Self-Help which is characteristic of our individualistic methods, if it is not to some extent a national reproach.

For the most part, also, the object of the students has been to acquire the art of deciphering ancient writings without any regard for the significance of their comparative forms.

Quite recently the importance of a scientific study of the subject has been recognised in several British Universities; that is to say, instruction has been given in the theory as well as in the practice of the auxiliary studies.

The earliest teaching of this kind was given at Oxford, where the valuable results obtained by the classes held by Mr. F. Madan and Dr. R. L. Poole are well-known. Almost at the same time, the importance of these studies, in connection with practical research work in Early Economic History, was realised by the authorities of the London School of Economics, where Mr. Sidney Webb, the Chairman of the Governors, was already engaged, in conjunction with Mrs. Webb, upon the original investigations which have since appeared in the volumes of the "History of English Local Government and other works." Professor W. A. S. Hewins, at that time the Director of the

School, was also engaged in researches for the Economic History of the later and post-Mediæval periods in connection with the well-known publications, "Social England," and the "Dictionary of Political Economy."

Thus it befell that towards the end of the year 1895 a course of theoretical and practical instruction in Palæography and Diplomatic was determined upon by Mr. Webb and Professor Hewins, and was planned in communication with Mr. Hubert Hall of the Record Office in the first quarter of 1896. This course began in the April following, and has been continued ever since. Following the valuable suggestion of the late Professor York Powell, whose interest in the new London "School of Charters" was frequently manifested, instruction in "Historical Sources" was included in the new *curriculum* and the classification of MSS., together with the elements of Historical Bibliography, became a special feature of the Seminar work in this department of the London School of Economics.

The prospectuses of these courses, which may be found in the Calendars of the School, included systematised teaching in Palæography and Diplomatic with occasional courses in Historical Sources and Criticism, each of these courses being supplemented by practical instruction by means of Facsimiles of MSS. and exhibitions of MSS. and books, as well as by a Seminar in which the transcription and editing of some Historical text was carried out under the supervision of the lecturer. For academic purposes the usual discipline of essays and examinations was observed together with individual direction of the studies and researches of the students. Such was the useful but limited organisation that then provided the only systematic instruction in the Auxiliary Studies of History in the University of London or, perhaps, in any English university with the exception of Oxford. It was, however, obvious

that this organisation needed to be supplemented in the interests of a large body of post-graduate students resident in London, where the national archives and museums afford an unequalled opportunity for the pursuit of historical research.

In 1897 a paper was read before the Royal Historical Society by the late Professor York Powell, in which he strongly advocated the establishment of an *Ecole des Chartes* in London, as a State institution; but his appeal met with no response. A few years later, however, in 1900, the present Master of Peterhouse, Dr. A. W. Ward, then President of the Royal Historical Society, propounded a scheme of Advanced Historical Study in the course of a Presidential Address. This scheme was subsequently circulated, discussed and formulated by a Committee, under the chairmanship in turn of Mr. James Bryce and Dr. G. W. Prothero, representing the views of nearly 200 representative historical scholars who formed the first body of donors and subscribers to the Advanced Historical Teaching Fund, to which the Mansion House Committee of the Creighton Memorial Fund generously transferred a large portion of its public subscriptions.

Sufficient support having been promised to enable the Committee to establish two lectureships, it was resolved to take advantage of the existing technical instruction given at the London School of Economics (University of London) in order to provide further advanced teaching of a purely historical character at the most convenient centre for research work in the Archives.

In pursuance of this decision of the Committee of the Advanced Historical Teaching Fund, Mr. Hubert Hall, then Lecturer and now Reader in Palæography and early Economic Sources in the University of London, and Mr. I. S. Leadam, formerly Fellow and tutor of Brasenose College, Oxford, were appointed to deliver courses of lectures and to conduct

Seminars in Advanced History at the above University School. The lecturers' reports for the years 1901-1904 were printed in the First, Second, and Third Reports of the Committee, and details of the courses will be found in the Calendars of the London School of Economics and of the University of London for those years. In February, 1905, a public meeting was held under the chairmanship of Mr. R. B. Haldane, supported by Dr. G. W. Prothero, Professor Firth and other historical scholars, for the purpose of raising sufficient funds to continue the work that had already produced such valuable results. Further subscriptions were generously promised at this meeting and the lectures were continued for a further period of three years.

Mr. Hall's lectureship was continued during the whole of this period, and the services of Mr. George Unwin, afterwards Lecturer in Economic History in the Universities of Edinburgh and Birmingham, were also secured for a series of lectures on the early government of London. Owing to the gradual diminution of the fund, through the falling-off of the original subscribers, it was found possible to maintain one lecturer only during the years 1907-8, and at the close of the academic session of 1908-9, the payments made from this Fund were suspended.

It must not be supposed, however, that the falling off of subscriptions was due to any slackening of the endeavours of the Committee or its lecturers. The period 1905-1908 was remarkable both for increased attendance of students and the maintenance of a very high standard of teaching, as will be evident from a reference to the University Calendars of those years, as well as to the Fourth, Fifth and Sixth Reports of the Committee. During this period also, Mr. Hall's students paid a memorable visit to the *Ecole des Chartes* and the *Bibliothèque Nationale* in Paris, and produced two works of considerable historical merit

in the shape of *Formula Books of Diplomatic Documents* and *Legal Records*, whilst they are still engaged upon a much-needed *Bibliography of Mediæval Economic History*. For a detailed description of the Advanced Historical Teaching carried on, under the Direction and with the co-operation of the Committee, at the London School of Economics, reference may be made to Appendix I of the Fifth Report of the Committee, dated July, 1907.

It may be added that since the contributions made by the Advanced Historical Teaching Fund have ceased, the London School of Economics has provided the means for continuing the work on the same scale as before.

As evidence of the valuable and important character of this work the following facts may be of interest:—

(a) During the above period it has been estimated that nearly 200 students have availed themselves of the instruction in Advanced History, provided at the London School of Economics. Of these, a large proportion were graduates of English, Welsh, Scottish and Irish Universities with a few Continental and Oriental students, and a considerable number of American graduates. Many of these students were already engaged in historical teaching or research, while several were proficient in either capacity, and it is pleasing to find that many of the younger students have since distinguished themselves as writers or teachers, both in the United Kingdom and abroad. That the provision made for their assistance has been appreciated, may be gathered from the fact that recently nearly 100 of Mr. Hall's old students presented him with a handsome testimonial, whilst, in commemoration of his 30th year of service at the Public Record Office, Mr. Hall received a further testimonial subscribed by more than fifty historical scholars in the United States, many of whom have attended his lectures.