

All my Worldly Goods: from brass pots to clocks

Date	17 th May 2020	Time	10:00 – 16:45
Venue	Madingley Hall Madingley Cambridge		
Tutor	Dr Joanne Sear Dr Ken Sneath	Course code	1920NDX306

Director of Academic Centres Dr Corinne Boz

For further information on this course, please contact The Arts and Sciences Team on artscience@ice.cam.ac.uk or 01223 761322

Tutors biographies

Dr Joanne Sear

Jo lectures in local history for the Institute with a particular emphasis on the late medieval period. She has taught on the 'Introduction to Local History' and 'World of Material Goods' courses for the certificate as well as presenting 'Medieval Towns' at the diploma level and 'Manors' for the MSt in History.

Jo is working on a volume for the Suffolk Records Society on the manorial records of late medieval Newmarket which she is co-authoring with Dr James Davis of Queen's University, Belfast.

She likes to combine a range of approaches and media when presenting and makes particular use of handouts and visual images. She encourages students to ask questions and to debate and always welcomes input and observations. In addition, she is keen to encourage and facilitate students in undertaking their own research and tries hard to identify websites, online tutorials, etc. which can be easily accessed and explored.

Dr Ken Sneath

Ken lectures in seventeenth- and eighteenth-century history and in local history at the Institute. Until his recent retirement, he was also Assistant Director of Studies for Economic History at Peterhouse College, Cambridge. He has supervised on both the History and Economics Tripos and gave the

Wolfson Lecture in local history, 'A consumer revolution in Huntingdonshire?' in 2009 (published in *The Local Historian*, 2011).

He has written four books on the history of Godmanchester. He has also contributed to the forthcoming volume on the Huntingdonshire Hearth Tax scheduled for publication in 2020.

His teaching style might be described as enthusiastic and lavishly illustrated.

Jo and Ken have recently written *The Origins of the Consumer Revolution: From Brass Pots to Clocks* which is published by Routledge in March 2020:

<https://www.routledge.com/The-Origins-of-the-Consumer-Revolution-in-England-From-Brass-Pots-to-Clocks/Sear-Sneath/p/book/9780367341114>

Course programme

09:30	Terrace bar open for pre-course tea/coffee
10:00 – 11:15	Session 1: Who, when and where? The impact of the consumer revolution.
11:15	Coffee
11:45 – 13:00	Session 2: Food, drink and clothing.
13:00	Lunch
14:00 – 15:15	Session 3: Brass pots to clocks: household goods.
15:15	Tea
15:30 – 16:45	Session 4: Changing beliefs and consumption patterns.

Course syllabus

Aims:

- To introduce students to an important aspect of social history which has a strong correlation with local history and which will illuminate their understanding of the domestic lives of people over a period of six hundred years;
- To encourage reflection upon the extent to which the standards of living and consumption patterns of English people changed over the period.

Content:

This course will explore the type of material goods commonly consumed from the late medieval period through to the beginning of the nineteenth century including pewter, bedding and small items of silver in the late medieval period and clocks, looking-glasses and goods associated with the increased popularity of coffee and tea in the early modern period. As well as household goods, the course will touch on changing clothing fashions and the use of materials such as silks and satins, through to calicoes and fine linens.

Based on the largest database of probate records ever assembled, the course will explore the extent to which ownership of goods was related to time, social hierarchy and geography. For example, possessions of clocks varied widely by social group and geographical location until the second half of the eighteenth century when ownership became widespread.

Consideration will also be given to the various sources that are available to historians exploring the history of consumption.

Presentation of the course:

The course will consist of tutor-led lectures combined with class discussion.

As a result of the course, within the constraints of the time available, students should be able to:

- Show a good basic knowledge of the history of consumption from the late medieval period onwards;
- Place this into a broader historiographical and national context.

Reading and resources list

Listed below are texts that might be of interest should you wish to supplement your learning on the course. Any essential reading is marked with an asterisk *

Author	Title	Publisher and date
Christopher Dyer	<i>Making a Living in the Middle Ages: the people of Britain 850–1520</i>	Yale University Press, 2002 (other editions)
Karen Harvey (ed.)	<i>History and Material Culture</i>	Routledge 2018
Maryanne Kowaleski	'A consumer economy', in R. Horrox and W. M. Ormrod (eds.), <i>A Social History of England 1200-1500</i>	CUP, 2009
Neil McKendrick <i>et al.</i>	<i>The Birth of a Consumer Society</i>	Hutchinson 1983
Mark Overton <i>et al.</i>	<i>Production and Consumption in English Households</i>	Routledge 2004
Jo Sear and Ken Sneath	<i>The Origins of the Consumer Revolution: from brass pots to clocks*</i>	Routledge 2020
Lorna Weatherill	<i>Consumer Behaviour and Material Culture in Britain 1660-1760 Second Edition</i>	Routledge 1996

Website addresses

Additional information

Venue

Details of how to find Madingley Hall can be found on our website:
<http://www.ice.cam.ac.uk/who-we-are/how-to-find-the-institute>

Refreshments

Tea and coffee and lunch will be provided. If you have any specific dietary requirements or allergies and have not already advised us, please inform our Admissions Team on ice.admissions@ice.cam.ac.uk or +44 (0)1223 746262.

Note Students of the Institute of Continuing Education are entitled to 20% discount on books published by Cambridge University Press (CUP) which are purchased at the Press bookshop, 1 Trinity Street, Cambridge (Mon-Sat 9am – 5:30pm, Sun 11am – 5pm). A letter or email confirming acceptance on to a current Institute course should be taken as evidence of enrolment.

Information correct as of: 17 December 2019