

English summaries

***“Boys will be Men and Girls will be Boys”:
Sexual division and the transformation of work
in the metalworking trades (France and Britain, 1914-1939)***

L.L. DOWNS

This article analyzes the effects of wartime reorganization of labor processes on the hierarchies of gender and skill that shaped the metalworking factories of France and Britain. Pressed by the soaring demand for weapons at the very moment when much of their traditional (skilled male) workforce had left for the front, wartime employers found themselves experimenting with new technologies of work even as they introduced female workers en masse. Employers thus reorganized productive hierarchies and allocated tasks between the sexes in accordance with their understanding of the ways in which male-female difference manifested itself on the assembly line or at the machine. The result was a structure of inequality that was taken to be both inevitable and economically rational, anchored in the solid bedrock of “natural” difference and articulated through a newly gendered language of job skill.

***Mechanization of writing and cryptography of speech:
utopias, office world and history of gender and techniques***

D. GARDEY

This article deals with the history of the shorthand typist profession and, more generally, of the transformations which took place in offices from the end of the XIXth century onwards, when the acceleration of writing production became a new economic imperative. A series of figures, projects and practices are cited upon in order to analyze the conditions surrounding the emergence and the development of a profession as well as the reasons and consequences of its feminization.

The joint development of a practice and a profession centered around the Remington typewriter and shorthand writing appears as one outcome among other prospective or existing practices. Inventors, propagandists, manufacturers, amateurs and professionals participated in this history, a history which shows how diverse the milieus involved in the mastery of specific techniques were, how relative the motives and criteria put forward to enhance and promote them were, and how different the meanings and values given to them could be.

Cult and justice: meeting places of Germanic and Slavic tribes K. MODZELEWSKI

Starting with an analysis of a misunderstanding between Helmold de Besau and his Slavic informant regarding the Wagres' time of assembly, the author examines

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texts from various sources relative to the assemblies of the Germanic and Slavic tribes. In spite of the thousand-year gap separating Tacitus from the German medieval ecclesiastical writers, and in spite of geographic distance and ethnic diversity, a comparative analysis proves to be possible and fruitful. The resemblance observed between the descriptions of the two barbaric societies cannot be explained by alleged filiations of literary topoi. It can only be partially explained by the common clichés produced by the classical and medieval cultures of the Latin West. In keeping with Reinhard Wenskus' opinion, the author insists on the similarity that exists, beyond ethnic differences, between the Germanic and Slavic barbaric societies, which were neither democratic nor dictatorial, but deeply traditional and collectivist.

English monks and the invention of the political art (early 13th century)

A. BOUREAU

At the monastery of Bury St. Edmunds, the abbatial seat remained vacant from 1212 to 1215, partly because of a dire struggle between two parties within the monastic community. An anonymous monk, himself involved in the battle, wrote a short but detailed chronicle, especially devoted to the story of the conflict. This paper argues that this account is one the first medieval analyses of practical politics. The author is consciously critical of the liturgical and juridical forms of action, and explores a wide range of political tactics: anticipation, internal and external pressure, identification and disqualification of enemies, alliances, and so on. This must not be seen as a harbinger of democratic debates, but as an early assertion of the autonomy of the political field, just before the Magna Carta and in relation to the intense experience of action during the Anglo-Norman period.

Historiography and legends in the Maghreb: the legend of the Kahina and the making of a memory

A. HANNOUM

This paper investigates the making of the legend of the Kahina—the Berber queen who allegedly led the local resistance against the Arab conquest in the late seventh century—from its early manifestations in the late ninth century until the early nineteenth century. By analyzing the early manifestations of the legend, I argue that the legend passed, gradually, from folklore to historiography, from social memory to historical memory. The paper also explains the development of the legend, how it first contained the ideology of the Jihad, and then by the eleventh century, with the integration of North Africa in the larger Islamic community, served to articulate the supposedly Oriental origins of the Maghreb. By the fourteenth century, the legend was complete and in addition to the Eastern origin of the Berber, it has come to articulate the myth of the Berber acceptance of Islam. Moreover, from that time onward, the legend has become a myth of origin explaining how North Africa has been Arabized and Islamized by the cooperation of the Berbers themselves.

Historians of Spain, historians of the Maghreb: a comparative study of 19th-century stereotypes

M. GARCÍA-ARENAL

This article presents and analyzes the nearly similar stereotypes and clichés found in 19th-century historical texts relating to Spain and Morocco. The stereotypes are

compared and discussed on the basis of two assumptions. First, the centers of power explain and interpret their own periphery using identical arguments, which actually reflect the very image they want to project of themselves. Secondly, the interpretations made by these centers of power are internalized by the historians and thinkers of the two countries, feeding a nationalistic, reactionary, even fundamentalist discourse.

***A genealogical investigation and its applications
in Medicean Tuscany: an example from Pisa in 1558***

O. ROUCHON

Heir to an upper class that guarded jealously its family honour, the Florentine nobility received warmly the construction of the genealogies of important families undertaken by S. Ammirato. An echo of this success may be found among the provincial nobility of the grand duchy of Tuscany, and in particular in Pisa where both amateurs and professionals traced their genealogies between the mid-sixteenth and the mid-eighteenth centuries. The family tree of Gherardo Upezzinghi (1558), a prominent citizen of the town, was based on an investigation using oral tradition, written documents and epigraphical sources. Providing a mythical account of the family's origins and a brief description of the lineage, it proved the antiquity of the Upezzinghis that confirmed their entry into the Order of Saint Stephen. The genealogy enabled the reunification of a scattered heritage, aiding the personal strategies of its author and illustrating the capacity of a group to fashion a social identity in accordance with the new criteria for nobility in the Tuscany of the grand dukes.