Centre for the Study of the

Legacies of British Slave-ownership

www.ucl.ac.uk/lbs

Newsletter January 2020

Updated LBS database

At the beginning of 2019 we froze the public database for reasons outlined at the time. Meanwhile we continued adding new data and amending records on the admin site throughout the year. This new material is now available online at www.ucl.ac.uk/lbs.

We now have over 2,500 biographical entries largely based on public contributions, including 600 added during the last year. We have also added over 900 new individuals to the database and added or amended data for about 3,400 individuals, including details from hundreds of wills. See here for more specific examples.

Most significantly, and thanks to the generosity of Trevor Burnard, we have been able to add details of over 10,000 probate inventories taken in Jamaica between 1674 and 1787, over 1,250 of which we have connected to people in the main LBS database. We've included an overview of the inventories data and a new search tab for the names of those people whose estates were probated. The search function for the inventories will be improved in due course. A critical discussion of the inventories data as a historical source can be found in the appendix to Trevor Burnard's book *Planters, Merchants and Slaves* (2015).

Mother Country

A new play by Mags Chalcraft-Islam tells the story behind *The History of Mary Prince* and will be performed at Norwich Arts Centre at 8pm on Wednesday 29 January. See here for more information and to book tickets.

The play focuses on the dynamics between Mary Prince and her amanuensis, Agnes Strickland, during the writing process and features Oyin Orija as Prince and Hatty Ashton as Strickland. The performance will be accompanied by an exhibition curated by the National Caribbean Heritage Museum and a panel discussion with Chalcraft-Islam, the exhibition curators and Dr Hannah Young.

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Windrush Scandal

In an article in the *London Review of Books*, Catherine Hall explores the notion and practice of a 'hostile environment' for immigrants to Britain, tracing its formation from the Somerset case of 1772 through Emancipation to the 1948 Nationality Act and the British Home Office's targeting of legally resident black Britons for deportation in the 2010s. Far from being a novel doctrine of recent years, hostility to immigrants and to people of colour has long been embedded in British society and politics. You can read Catherine's article here.

Black British History seminar series

A new IHR seminar series, 'Black British History: Concepts, Geographies, Debates' will begin with its first event on Thursday 23rd January at LSBU in room K-305, Keyworth Centre, near Elephant and Castle in London. The event is free and everyone is warmly welcomed.

The series encompasses Black British History in all its forms. It takes research from those within and beyond the university to stimulate discussion and challenge silences and pervasive myths. As an antidote to the current political climate, the seminars offer a chance to ground ourselves, whether scholars, activists, artists, heritage practitioners or those with a general interest in the dynamic space of Black British History.

The first event, 'Black British History – A Conversation', features Hakim Adi (University of Chichester) and Marika Sherwood (Independent Researcher) and will be chaired by Caroline Bressey (UCL). Details of all forthcoming events can be found here.

Every month, participants will engage in discussion on the salient topic of Black British History, whether thinking about archival practice, the visual, newer forms of digital history, radical black Britons or the social and cultural landscape of which it meant and means to be black in Britain.