



The Historical Times

ISSUE 2

THE NCH HISTORY SOCIETY'S TERMLY MAGAZINE

TRINITY 2019

THE TURKISH WAR OF INDEPENDENCE



PLUS

THE GREAT AIR RACE OF 1919

FILM REVIEW: THE FAVOURITE

THE STORY BEHIND 'LABOURED PROGRESS'

EUROPA UNIVERSALIS III

DIRK BOGARDE REMEMBERED

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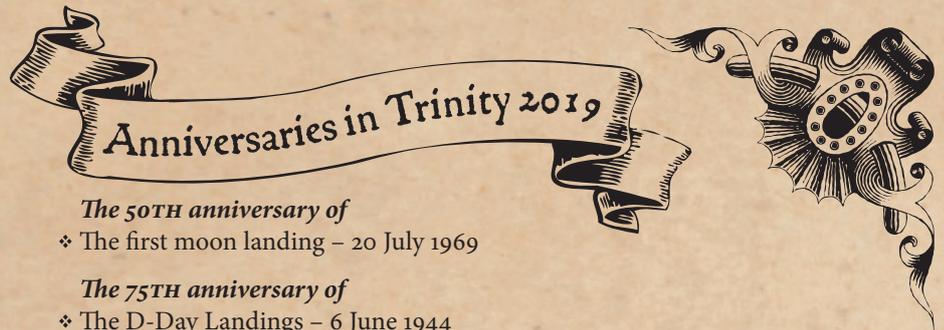
Welcome to *The Historical Times*



WHETHER YOU SIDE with Mark Twain in believing 'History doesn't repeat itself, but it does rhyme' or with Karl Marx whom declared 'History repeats itself, first as a tragedy, second as a farce', the interest in and/or studies of history continues to be important today. I am very happy to be able to share the second issue of NCH History Society's termly paper *The Historical Times* with you all. As the exam season approaches and summer awaits, I hope our readers can enjoy this edition of the paper. We have had some very interesting submissions which I would like to thank our authors for – including member of the NCH History Faculty, Olly Ayres, as well as students from outside of History. I look forward to receiving people's ideas and contributions for the next paper as I hope it will continue to grow!

Teoni Passereau

Editor



The 50TH anniversary of

- ❖ The first moon landing – 20 July 1969

The 75TH anniversary of

- ❖ The D-Day Landings – 6 June 1944

The 100TH anniversary of

- ❖ The signing of the Treaty of Versailles – 28 June 1919
- ❖ The start of the Turkish War of Independence – 15 May 1919

The 200TH anniversary of

- ❖ The births of Queen Victoria and Prince Albert – 24 May (Victoria) and 26 August (Albert) 1819
- ❖ The Peterloo Massacre after a parliamentary reform – 16 August 1819

The 250TH anniversary of

- ❖ The births of the leaders of the Battle of Waterloo – 1 May (Duke of Wellington) and 15 August (Napoleon Bonaparte) 1769

The 325TH anniversary of

- ❖ The founding of the Bank of England – 27 July 1694

The 375TH anniversary of

- ❖ The Bolton Massacre during the English Civil War – 28 May 1644

The 400TH anniversary of

- ❖ The first successful British colony in the Americas, Virginia, establishing its first representative government at Jamestown – summer 1619
- ❖ The official beginning to the North American Slave trade – around 20 August 1619



CONTRIBUTING TO THE HISTORICAL TIMES

The Historical Times welcomes contributions for future issues from any NCH student or staff member. If you are interested in writing an article on any historical subject then please contact the Editor, Teoni Passereau, on: historysoc@nchs.u.org

News from the NCH History Society...



The Launch Party and the official start of the society.



A highly enjoyable day trip to Hampton Court Palace.



Showing *The Death of Stalin* at our first Film Night.

EUROPA UNIVERSALIS III

a different approach to History

by Henry-Leo Patrick Kassouny



WHEN CONFRONTED WITH the question 'how do we get young people more interested in history?' the answer for me was always to combine an interest or a hobby with history. One of the most commonly shared interests across the globe would without a doubt be gaming. After all a lot of people first learned about cars or weapons through 'Need for Speed' or 'Call of Duty' (Counter Strike for me). Hence why today I'll be covering what in my mind is one of the most underrated games of all times, *Europa Universalis III*. Though EU4 was recently released, the vast amount of expansion packs is too much to cover in a short time which is why I stuck with the game that expanded my surface knowledge of world history as I was growing up and only has four expansion packs which are plenty enough for the game to be perfect especially for first time players.

The player has the choice to play as any country in the world and can choose to start their campaign anywhere between 1399 and 1820 (the game ends in the year 1850). The starting interface lets the player see the actual historical progress of the countries but once they start playing anything can happen and every move has an impact on the outcome of the game. The reason why I deem this game to be so accurate and why it sparks interest in history is because of its immense detail and very complex mechanics. To fully understand the game, it takes about 1,000 hours of gameplay, which seems a lot but time flies when you're trying to unify Germany as Brunswick or stay off the colonial invasion as the Incas, for example.

First the player must look into the state's fiscal policy. There's spending on technology, stability and depending on tax the player can either have savings at the end of each month or run into a deficit and if one runs out of funds debt becomes an issue. Stability, going from 3 to -3, affects the amount of revolts that are likely to occur. A small country regains stability quickly and

has an advantage in technology, but an empire with 1 stability might face nationalist rebels, noble or peasant revolts and, if they cannot be defeated, any agreement can result in further loss of stability or succession. There is land tech (army), naval tech, trade tech, production tech (higher output), and government tech (allowing different forms of government and new national ideas, i.e. conquistadors, naval range or further modifiers in any direction of the listed techs). That is without mentioning the diplomats needed for every action with other states, merchants needed for trade centres, and missionaries which become useful during the reformation. Royal marriages play a huge role for personal unions which can result in annexing the junior partner through inheritance.

Casus belli is required to attack another state. Without it you face losing 2 stability points. Depending on the type of state you have, policies can be determined by whether your state is centralised or decentralised, land or naval-focused, defence or offence-focused, mercantile or pro-free market, secular or religious, innovative or narrow-minded. Each of these decisions have positive and negative modifiers towards aspects affecting military diplomacy and trade of your state. Units are different according to country, land or tech, and warfare is statistical depending on terrain, army composition, generals, discipline and military (or naval) tradition. Furthermore, Europe, the Holy Roman Empire (which can be unified to single playable state or dismantled completely) and the Papacy play an important role, much like the shogun system in Japan (which comes with the divine wind expansion pack).

There are many games out there that cover history in depth but this one does it on a wide surface and time-scale in the most detail I know. So, get playing and discover your passion for history!



Scenes from *Europa Universalis III*



THE TURKISH WAR OF INDEPENDENCE

by Toby Gerrand-Anderson

15 MAY 2019 marks the hundredth anniversary of the start of the Turkish War of Independence which began with a single symbolic shot. In Smyrna (now Izmir), Hasan Tahsin, a little-known Turkish journalist, assassinated the invading Greek army's standard-bearer. The ensuing four-year conflict between the Turkish Republic and the Entente powers led to the deaths of 500,000 Armenian and Greek civilians, the ethnic cleansing of 1,500,000 people, and the end of the 3,000-year Greek presence in Asia Minor. Yet today, the West has almost entirely forgotten this major conflict, in which Britain, France and Italy were key players.

The Turkish War of Independence emerged from the competing nationalisms escalating during the 19TH century throughout the Balkans, which exploded during World War I. The Ottoman Empire, an ethnic and religious mosaic held together by an ancient ruling dynasty, had slowly been forced out of Europe by Greek and Slavic nationalist movements in the 1880s. By 1914 it had shrunk to a toe-hold in Eastern Thrace. The Ottoman Empire joined World War I on the side of the Central Powers, hoping to regain lost territory, but it found itself fighting a four-front conflict against the Entente. It succumbed shortly before its ally Germany, signing the Armistice of Mudros in October 1918.

The Western powers' plans for the defeated Ottoman Empire were punitive even by the standards of Treaty of Versailles. The British had lured its allies into the war by promising them the spoils of Ottoman Empire territories. Greece was to have Eastern Thrace and Western Anatolia, and Italy south-western Anatolia. At the same time, the French Mandate for Syria was to be extended into the



Oil painting from 1922 depicting the Turkish Army's entry into Smyrna (now called İzmir), known as the Liberation of İzmir, on 9 September 1922, which effectively sealed the Turkish victory and ended the war. Smyrna was the location where Turkish civilian armed resistance against the occupation of Anatolia by the Allies first began on 15 May 1919.

ethnically Armenian borderlands of South Turkey, while the British intended to establish a Kurdish protectorate in the south-east. These plans would have reduced the Turks from heading a vast colonial empire to becoming a colonised subject people themselves.

But the forces of nationalism which had driven the Ottoman Empire onto the back foot during the late nineteenth century, had also begun to have an increasing resonance with the Turkish subject of the stirred Sultan. The Turks were increasingly coming to see themselves as a nation in their own right, united by common descent and their Sunni Muslim faith. In the chaotic aftermath of WWI, this burgeoning national identity helped galvanise resistance towards the occupying allied forces.

Sultan Mehmed VI and the old Ottoman establishment in Constantinople (occupied by French and British forces in November 1918) were largely passive spectators of the war that followed, de facto prisoners of the allied armies. It was Mustafa Kemal, defeater of British forces at Gallipoli, who began organising resistance. Tasked with disbanding Ottoman armies in the interior of Turkey to fulfil peace terms imposed on the Empire, he instead

organised an alternative nationalist government, the 'National Movement', and established a new capital in Ankara.

The British became increasingly alarmed by nationalist resistance in Turkey's interior. They appealed to Sultan Mehmed, still legal Ottoman ruler, to restrain Kemal's forces. Mehmed (also the titular caliph of the Islamic world) condemned Ankara's new government as infidels. But in an age of popular nationalism, the old Ottoman establishment was toothless. Instead the Greek government, eager to unite their co-ethnics in Turkey under a single state, promised the British that they would defeat the National Movement. They advanced from their original coastal occupation zone of the majority Greek province of Smyrna.

Initially the Turkish nationalists faced a desperate situation. They were fighting simultaneously on four fronts – the French advancing from Syria, the British from Constantinople, the Greeks from the West, and the Armenians from the East. But as the Greek forces advanced inland, their lines of communication became overextended. They faced increasingly hostile Turks rather than welcoming Christian minorities. In 1922, though outnumbered 2-1 by Greek forces, the Turks under Mustafa Kemal launched a counter-offensive, and defeated the invading army decisively in the Battle of Dumlupınar.



Greek landing at Smyrna, 15 May 1919.

»→

The Greek army began a rapid retreat until they were forced back upon Smyrna itself. The Turkish recapture of Smyrna ended in a bloodbath of ethnic cleansing. Around 10,000–100,000 Christians died and the Armenian and Greek quarters of the city were burned to the ground. The dark side of this ‘national liberation struggle’ was the enforced program of ethnic displacement brutally imposed on the minorities ‘disloyal’ to the emerging Turkish nation. After the Greek defeat, the French abandoned their Armenian allies in southern Turkey, while the breakaway Armenian republic which had invaded eastern Turkey was crushed by an allied Turkish-Soviet offensive, leading to further ethnic cleansing.

The British, isolated in Constantinople, agreed terms with the Turkish nationalist government. The Armistice of Mudanya led to the withdrawal of the occupying army, while the Treaty of Lausanne (1923)

recognised the newly-proclaimed Turkish republic’s territorial integrity. The Sultanate and the Caliphate were abolished. The new independent Turkey was secular, republican and homogenous. The generation of Mustafa Kemal (renamed Kemal Atatürk, ‘Father of the Turks’), shaped by the struggles of WWI, abandoned Ottoman multiculturalism and sought to ruthlessly Turkify or expel all minorities. The Turks had lost an empire but gained a nation. The Greeks, by contrast, absorbed 1,000,000 refugees from Asia Minor. They abandoned all hope of retaking historically Greek territories on the Turkish coastline.

To this day Turkey commemorates the 15TH May as the beginning of the national resistance, while Kemal Atatürk remains semi-deified as the saviour of the Turkish nation, his portrait occupying a place on every patriot’s wall. The Turkish state he built out of the ruins of the Ottoman

Empire was in many respects admirably progressive, educating women and removing religious influence from political life. Yet the crimes committed against the Greeks and Armenians have in some respects endured as features of the Republic. As westerners attempt to understand the current tensions in Turkish national life, in particular the conflict which exists to this day between the state and various minorities such as the Kurds, it’s edifying to look back at the foundational war which gave birth to the Turkish nationalism which persists to this day.



Sultan Mehmed VI



Mustafa Kemal Atatürk

THE FAVOURITE

political or personal rivalries

by Teoni Passereau

THOUGH QUEEN ANNE’S reign (1702–1714) has been overlooked by many, the importance her reign had in British history has been made more known since the release of the film *The Favourite*. Having already won BAFTAS, a Golden Globe Award, and an Academy Award, this film was, needless to say, an entertaining watch. The film itself took the screenwriter ten years to complete. She took herself to night school to learn how to write a film properly and spent years examining the letters between the three main protagonists, Queen Anne, Sarah Churchill, and Abigail Hill. Though it is apparent there has been historical research, when the film director Yorgos Lanthimos managed to get hold of the film, he had a different vision for it. One of the actors from the film stated in an interview ‘Yorgos made it quite clear early on that there wasn’t going to be much consideration for historical accuracy to a degree. He wasn’t too caught up with or concerned about that. He just wanted us to have fun as people and as a cast and to explore the relationships between us, which is what we did.’ That leads us to the question, what was the history behind *The Favourite* and Queen Anne?

The film’s main plot explores the rivalry between two ladies trying to gain the favour of Queen Anne, Sarah Churchill Duchess of Marlborough and her cousin Abigail Hill. Displayed as a competition on a personal level, this film largely ignores the importance of political rivalry and tensions during Anne’s reign. Queen Anne was known to be a supporter of the Tory party, yet under Sarah Churchill’s influence, the Whig party managed to gain the support from Anne. However, this political realignment did cause problems between the queen and Sarah Churchill. Though Olivia Colman portrays Queen Anne as a politically uninterested queen, willing to say yes to each of Sarah Churchill’s requests, Anne was more politically aware and interested in real life. The political stage was not just dominated by domestic difficulties of the two political parties however. Anne presided over a time of bad relations between England and Scotland, as well as bad relations between Catholics and Protestants. Despite this, Anne was the first monarch to legally unite England and Scotland in the Act of Union 1707, though relations with Scotland remained difficult. Throughout the whole of Anne’s reign, the



threat of the Old Pretender – James II’s Catholic son James – and the Scottish, Papal, and French support for ‘James III’ plagued Anne and her parliament. During 1708, James attempted to invade England from France. Alongside this threat to her throne, Anne had to deal with the tensions between the Whigs and the Tory party in parliament. Sarah Churchill, from 1704, had remained distant from the queen and thus had little sway over the political events of 1708. Abigail, however, remained close to the queen, despite Anne forcedly having to accept the resignation of two members of her favoured party and Abigail’s cousin. Anne’s preference for the Tory party did not disappear, and the closeness between Anne and Abigail made it a lot easier for the Tory party to sway back into favour, with Abigail’s cousin Robert Harley and his party regaining support between 1711 and 1714. »»→



Sarah Churchill, Duchess of Marlborough

Instead of focusing on this heated political atmosphere which shrouded Anne's reign and role in politics, the film focuses on the personal rivalry between the women. Taking a more modern interpretation of the behaviours of the female protagonists and sexual liberties, the film diminishes the political tensions between the three women in order to focus on the personal. Historians have argued it is unlikely that

Anne was physically intimate with her female friends, though this idea stemmed from contemporary rumours at court. Sarah Churchill is known to have tried to blackmail Anne with the threat of publication of private letters between them. It is because of this that within the film they have manipulated this knowledge to create the romantic relationship between the Queen and Sarah by imagining the content of the letters. Furthermore, later in 1708, Sarah Churchill went to court with a poem written about the affair between Abigail and Anne, allowing for a romantic and personal rivalry to be portrayed within the film. Some historians completely disregard these rumours as having no standing and believe Abigail was loyal to her husband. Although there is no concrete evidence to suggest there was such intimacy between Anne and the two rivalling favourites, the film has used contemporary rumours. The rumours may have some truth to them but, what the film ignores, Anne and her husband Prince

George of Denmark did have an intimate relationship. Not only did she conceive 17 children, but on his death in 1708, Anne was heavily impacted by grief. Her grief over her husband's death furthered issues between Sarah Churchill and Anne. Though Sarah was no longer at court, shortly before his death Sarah reappeared. Once he had died, Sarah began to intrude in Anne's affairs by trying to move her from her husband's death place, and removing paintings of him. It goes to say, therefore, if Anne's husband had a place in Anne's heart, why was he left out from the film?



Abigail Hill, Baroness Masham

Some parts of the film are completely imagined, such as Abigail's attempt to poison Churchill which led to her staying in a brothel briefly. Though Anne devastatingly lost all of her pregnancies and children, her remembering them by keeping seventeen pet rabbits is historically inaccurate, especially since at that time rabbits were considered merely food or pests. The costumes within the film are also not historically accurate for the time either. However, though this film ignores the interesting political tensions between the two favourites and the two political parties, has focused on rumours which cannot be proven, and has imagined scenes and details which are historically inaccurate, the film is very entertaining to watch. As long as you can accept the film for its creativity, then it is a recommended watch.



Queen Anne and her consort Prince George of Denmark



NCH History Society PRESENTS

THE FIVE



THE UNTOLD LIVES OF THE WOMEN KILLED BY JACK THE RIPPER

a talk by **HALLIE RUBENHOLD** chaired by Dr Estelle Paranque

WEDNESDAY
5TH JUNE
AT 5:30 PM



IN THE
DRAWING
ROOM,
N.G.H.

Come and find out about Polly, Annie, Elizabeth, Catherine and Mary-Jane, the victims of the unknown Jack the Ripper. In this devastating narrative of five lives, Rubenhold finally sets the record straight, revealing a world not just of Dickens and Queen Victoria, but of poverty, homelessness and rampant misogyny. They died because they were in the wrong place at the wrong time – but their greatest misfortune was to be born a woman.

Everyone is welcome to attend. Get your free ticket at:

www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/the-five-the-untold-lives-of-the-women-killed-by-jack-the-ripper-tickets-59754731009

For more information, contact the History Society at historysoc@nchs.org



The Story Behind ‘Laboured Protest’

by Dr Olly Ayers

THE BOOK BEGAN eleven years ago when I was writing my undergraduate dissertation. I wanted to write about interwar Harlem, a place central to the famous myths of the ‘Roaring Twenties’. So the legend goes, it was a moment when the white New Yorkers made famous by F. Scott Fitzgerald suddenly discovered the amazing music and art being produced by their black counterparts. But what happened when the Depression hit? It struck me that we didn’t really know much about life for black people in places like Harlem when the Jazz Age ended and that attention only really returned in the 1960s when Martin Luther King Jr tried to take the civil rights movement north.

I then had a piece of luck: I saw an obscure reference in a footnote of an out-of-print book about something very unusual that happened in 1935. The workforce of the *Amsterdam News*, a newspaper on 135th Street in the heart of Harlem, went on strike to win union recognition. It was the first time in US history that an all-black workforce had gone on strike against black ownership and won. This immediately piqued my interest and, fortunately, no historian had paid it much attention and old copies of the paper with fascinating details were housed in the old British Library newspaper archive in Colindale.

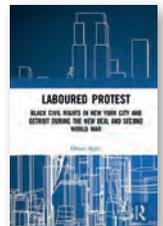
This case-study became the subject of my undergraduate dissertation and, over ten years later in a project that has expanded hugely, I’m still reflecting on the larger historical questions it raised. My book, *Laboured Protest: Black Civil Rights in New York City and Detroit During the New Deal and Second World War*, came out last year and represents my current thinking on the question. As I turned an undergraduate project into a PhD dissertation and then a book, I realized that what we actually see in northern cities during the 1930s and 1940s was not just an interesting bridge between the interracial dynamism of the 1920s and the civil rights movement of the 1950s and 60s – it was a pivotal historical moment in its own right.

Consider the following brief example. Almost everyone is familiar with the 1963 March on Washington; even if they don’t know its name they’ll know about the famous moment when King told the world: ‘*I have a dream!*’. But how many people know the idea to march on Washington to demand federal action on civil rights was first conceived over twenty years earlier by a trade unionist called A. Philip Randolph? Randolph built a base of support in cities like New York City, Detroit and Chicago during the late 1920s; he and his allies were amongst the most vociferous supporters of the striking workers at the *Amsterdam News* in 1935. When he threatened to lead a march to protest against discrimination in defence employment in 1941, he used this stature to tap into a reservoir of anger that made President Franklin Roosevelt sit up, take notice, and issue an Executive Order calling for more equitable treatment.

Not that this early civil rights movement was a straightforward success. There were numerous twists and turns, exciting moments of opportunity and disappointing moments of defeat. And nor did any one single person or group lead the way. As I show in my book, scholars have been slow to apply the same wide-ranging and detailed scrutiny given to the ‘classic phase’ of the post-war period to earlier phases of movement. As a result, some of the most fundamental questions about civil rights are still up for grabs in a way they haven’t been before: *Where was it? When was it? What was it?* This makes it an incredibly exciting time to study a piece of history that speaks so loudly to one of the most pressing issues of our time.

Laboured Protest: Black Civil Rights in New York City and Detroit is published by Routledge and is available to buy at:

<https://www.routledge.com/Laboured-Protest-Black-Civil-Rights-in-New-York-City-and-Detroit-During/Ayers/p/book/9781138630901>



Images (L-R): The League of Struggle for Negro Rights poster; UNIA parade in Harlem, 1920; Harlem street scene, 1930s; Detroit Race Riots, 1943; (Background) New York City, circa 1920.





by Samuel Doering

2019 MARKS THE centenary of the Great Air Race of 1919, an event that pushed the technological boundaries of flying machines, connected the post-war world and set the scene for future aviation endeavours. Knowledge of the race is recondite, yet the result of this extraordinary race arguably changed the world.

In March 1919 the Australian Government, under the leadership of the charismatic William ‘Billy’ Hughes, announced it would offer a £10,000 prize for the first successful flight from Great Britain to Australia. Hughes, who had been in Europe negotiating Australia’s position in the Treaty of Versailles, experienced flying for the first time in his travels abroad. He was impressed by the future direction of aviation and became convinced that regular flights between Australia and the Mother Country could potentially open up opportunities for passenger, goods and air mail services.



The instigator for the Great Air Race: Australian Prime Minister William ‘Billy’ Hughes.

Desirous of stimulating aerial activity, rules were quickly drawn up for the race: the flying machines had to be manned by Australians, the journey had to be achieved in under 30 days and had to be completed by 31 December 1919. The announcement immediately hit a barrage of negativity – it was criticised as a ‘Circus Flight’, a ‘Complete waste of money’ and ‘Bad News for All.’ Other commentators opined that it was impossible for any aircraft to complete a journey of 18,000 km in less than 30 days; the previous record at that time was only 5,000 km in 30 days.

Despite obvious dangers, the competition appealed to enthusiastic airmen not yet repatriated after the end of the First World War four months previously. Over the following months six crews put forward their applications to join the race, each entry costing £100. Each team consisted of or was made up entirely of veterans from the war. In October 1919, two flying-obsessed brothers from Adelaide, Ross Smith and Keith Smith, put forward their applications. Ross had served with distinction in the

war and was named an ‘air ace’ eleven times. As well as this he was a regular pilot for T.E. Lawrence (*Lawrence of Arabia*). Keith was a flight-lieutenant in the Australian Flying Corps. Together they arranged with the Vickers Company to fly a Vickers Vimy bomber to Australia. The Vimy was a biplane designed for heavy bombing assignments toward the end of First World War and was powered by two Rolls-Royce Eagle VIII engines, each capable of 360 horse-power.

The Smith Brothers were late entrants to the race and time was running out for them; one crew had left on the 21st of October, and preparations were nearing completion for the other four crews – the race to the air was heating up. In the weeks before take-off, final preparations were made and a crew was hired. Keith Smith was to be the navigator while Sergeants James Bennett and Wally Shiers were to be mechanics. The plane was partially refurbished and the registration letters of G-EAOU were painted on. It became a running joke that the letters were an acronym standing for ‘God ‘Elp All Of Us!’

The intended route was mapped out with more than twenty locations marked as stopovers, including Rome, Damascus, Cairo, Delhi and Singapore, with the destination being Darwin, situated in the north of Australia. Oil and fuel were shipped to aerodromes along the planned route, but spare parts, it was decided, would be stored on the plane due to the possibility of arriving late. This added weight to the plane – it was recorded at 300 lb overweight – so a last-minute decision was taken to leave



Lieutenant Keith Smith, Captain Ross Smith, Sergeant James Bennett and Sergeant Wally Shiers in front of the Vickers Vimy biplane before departing from Hounslow Heath, London.

behind personal belongings and ditch the cumbersome radio set. Navigation was to be done with only a hand-held compass and maps.

On the 12th of November 1919, at 9:05 AM, the Vickers Vimy G-EAOU departed from the Hounslow Heath Aerodrome in West London destined for Australia. The day was foggy, the two landing strips were covered in snow and the navigational equipment was rudimentary at best – but the Smith Brothers had to take off – they were the second to depart from Hounslow Heath. Upon reaching the coast of France, the Vickers Vimy met bad weather. They battled to Lyon in freezing conditions, through cloudbanks, lashing snow and blizzards. Conditions were harsh in the open-cockpit: the goggles became frosted; the speed indicator froze and the navigator was unable to take bearings. Having miraculously landed in Lyons, Rome was the next destination but, buffeted by strong head-winds, they had to land at Pisa where they got bogged in mud. With the help of thirty Italians, the plane was taken to the aerodrome, but became bogged again before taking off again. After eventually reaching Rome, more challenges lay ahead. Poor visibility in the Apennines meant the navigator had to plot a course through the valleys, since the peaks were not visible. Rain made it difficult to land at Suda Bay, Crete, but from here the bad luck temporarily ended. The 250-mile trip from Suda to Cairo was uneventful, as was the journey to Damascus.



Part of the welcoming crowd at Darwin on the 10th of December, 1919.

But the men were successful. On the 10th of December 1919, at 4:12 PM, the crew of the Vickers Vimy arrived in Darwin and were instantly mobbed by the entire population of just under 1,500. Among the crowd was the future founder of QANTAS and the Mayor of Darwin. They had completed the race in 28 days.

Dozens of telegrams arrived from dignitaries and well-wishers, including King George V. International press hailed the flight a success, with the New York Times calling Ross Smith 'the foremost living aviator.' Billy Hughes, who enthusiastically congratulated the crew, was overjoyed at the flight's success for two reasons: his dream for establishing flights between Australia and Britain was one step closer, and it represented victory over the pessimistic Australian press who had criticised him for months.

Ross and Keith Smith received knighthoods and Bennett and Shiers were awarded bars to their existing air force medals and made honorary Lieutenants. Later calculations revealed that the Vickers Vimy travelled 17,991 kilometres with an average flying speed of 137 kilometres per hour. The crew had flown for 135 hours. Of the five other competitors, two crash landed and could not continue, two fatally crashed and one arrived in August 1920.

In today's world, where such distances are traversed in less than a day, it is hard to fully comprehend the impact of this flight. The success of the flight was a huge technological leap forward – such a feat could only be compared to man landing on the moon. The most important takeaway from this remarkable story is that the Great Air Race of 1919 serves as a historical marker, as a mark of technological progress and as a pioneering moment in aviation where the capabilities of aircraft were pushed to the limits. Although few know of the race, its successes changed our world, linked the far sides of globe like never before and forged a bold path for the future of air travel.



Ross Smith being presented with a cheque for £10,000, by PM 'Billy' Hughes. Walter Shiers, James Bennett, and Keith Smith are standing in the background.



A photo of the crew mid-air flying into Sydney after having landed in Darwin.



The Vickers Vimy at Surabaya. Notice the bamboo mats on the ground.

From there, the next destination was Basra. A storm at Basra grounded them for half a day before the trip to Ramadi was made. As planned, the Smith Brothers flew from Ramadi to Bandar Abbas to Karachi and on to Delhi, Allahabad and Calcutta. Akyab, Rangoon, Bangkok were the next landing points for the crew. On the way to Bangkok, the crew were faced with treacherous mountain ranges and almost crashed after unknowingly flying on a downward angle through a cloud bank. On the journey to the next stop, Singora, a violent storm blew through. They discovered that half of the runway was covered in water and the other half strewn with tree stumps. Ross Smith chose to land on the stumps and miraculously avoided serious damage.

From there the Vickers Vimy arrived at a racecourse in Singapore before proceeding to Kalidjati and Surabaya. At Surabaya the plane became repeatedly bogged and it looked as though this was the end of the journey. But a long bamboo mat laid across the runway allowed the crew to fly again.

After twenty-four tense hours, and with mud flicking the crew, Keith Smith navigated the aircraft towards Bima. From there, Darwin was next. However, it was 470 miles over mostly water; this was the longest water crossing of the flight, so in their fear, they tied essential provisions to the tail of the aircraft, since the tail sinks last in a water crash.

DIRK BOGARDE

remembered twenty years posthumously

by Lucy Page

ON THE 8 May 1999, twice BAFTA award winning British actor and writer Dirk Bogarde passed away from ongoing health issues. He was 78. Although he was well known and respected amongst his contemporaries, his legacy has become fairly unknown to modern audiences, especially in comparison with the many revered Hollywood idols of the time. This, I believe, is somewhat of a tragedy.

Despite great popularity in his early career, in hit movies such as the *Doctor* series, it is his later career that produced the pieces that still have social significance today. Here I'll focus on perhaps his film of the 60s that caused the greatest stir: *Victim* (1961).

Victim was ground breaking. The first recorded English language film to use the term homosexual, it explores the all-too-common threats of blackmail and gay subcultures in cities at the time in a way that truly humanises the victims at the forefront of the story. There is a married lawyer at the top of his game (Dirk Bogarde), a construction worker (Peter McEnery), a cheerful chappie who you could hardly believe would do

anyone harm (Donald Churchill), and a host of others each with their own life and story. By modern standards, this is fairly unremarkable, but such a depiction nearly sixty years ago railed against the idea that a gay man was primarily regarded in terms of his sexuality rather than of his own personal achievements and character. Yes, director Basil Dearden, known for addressing a variety of cultural issues in his films (I would recommend *Sapphire*, Best Film and British Film winner 1959), does have a tendency towards the unsubtle statement, making for a rather a comedic effect when police officers out of the blue recite exact percentages of gay men being blackmailed in London, purely for the audience's benefit. But overall the film does what it should – it made the point, and people paid attention.

What's more, Bogarde himself portrays the raw emotion, the deep fear felt by Melville Farr as his hard-earned career and reputation begin to unravel, in a way that only someone who understands the character's plight could. Although male homosexuality was decriminalised six years after the film's release, Bogarde never came out as gay. For many years he



lived with Anthony Forwood, at one point his manager, but always denied anything more than a platonic relationship. He also had a knack for avoiding the question when it came to enquiries about his personal life. More than likely the reason he never made it into Hollywood was because of the system they had in place of making gay actors marry, or at least appear publicly to be dating the opposite sex, in order to uphold their reputation – the so-called 'Lavender marriages' or 'bearding'. Rock Hudson (*Magnificent Obsession*) and Liberace (*The Liberace Show*) are just a couple of examples.

It is in this that the sad irony of Bogarde's situation becomes clear: he could be more himself as a character in a movie than he ever was publicly, and *Victim* helped a cause he would never fully benefit from. In a time where, though there is still work to do, gay rights have been accepted and celebrated, it is important not to forget the people, and the films, who got us there.



(Top L-R): Dirk Bogarde in *Death in Venice*, 1971; Dirk Bogarde and Sylvia Syms in *Victim*, 1961; (Middle L-R): Dirk Bogarde and James Fox in *The Servant*, 1963; Dirk Bogarde and Leslie Caron in *A Doctor's Dilemma*, 1958; (Bottom) Dirk Bogarde and Judy Garland in *I Could Go on Singing*, 1963.



Other Bogarde films that provide some food for thought:

The Servant, Harold Pinter's 1963 psychological drama, also starring James Fox.

A Doctor's Dilemma, based on a play by George Bernard Shaw.

I Could Go on Singing with Judy Garland in her final film role.

Luchino Visconti's *Death in Venice* based on the novella by German author Thomas Mann.

Recommended Events and Talks

* *Nelson Mandela: The Official Exhibition*

From 8 February 2019 onwards

An exhibition displaying the unseen films, photos and historical artefacts, giving a fresh insight into what made Nelson Mandela's character.

26 Leake Street, South Bank, SE1 7NN

£15 admission. Book online at www.ticketmaster.co.uk/MANDELA-The-Official-Exhibition-tickets/artist/5270099

* *Mary Quant at V&A*

6 April 2019 until February 2020

An exhibition celebrating Mary Quant's fashion revolution on the British high street. From miniskirts to hot pants, there will be over 200 garments on display.

V&A Museum, Cromwell Road, Knightsbridge, SW7 2RL

£10 for students. Book online at <https://www.vam.ac.uk/exhibitions/mary-quant>

* *Manga at the British Museum*

23 May until 26 August 2019

The largest exhibition to be held outside of Japan is coming to London. Not only will it celebrate the playful manga but also displays its global cultural crossover impact.

British Museum, Great Russell Street, Bloomsbury, WC1B 3DG

£16 for students. Book online at <https://bit.ly/2YEgWzz>

* *History Show Off*

Thursday 23 May 2019 at 7 PM

A comedy cabaret event all about the past, where historians, archaeologists, museum folk and comedians try to make sense of the olden days.

Southwark Cathedral, London Bridge, SE1 9DA

£8 admission. Book online at <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/history-showoff-tickets-52957934608?aff=ebdssbdestsearch>

* *Leonardo da Vinci: A Life in Drawing*

24 May until 13 October 2019

Over 200 pieces of da Vinci's work will be displayed to celebrate the 500TH anniversary of the painter's death.

The Queen's Gallery, Buckingham Palace, Buckingham Palace Road, SW1A 1AA

£10.80 for students. Book online at www.rct.uk/whatson/event/880792/Leonardo-da-Vinci

* *230 Years Since the French Revolution: Time to Rethink the Terror?*

Monday 10 June 2019 at 5:30 PM

A seminar-based talk hosted by Dr. Marisa Linton discussing the French Revolution.

Room 780, UCL Institute of Education, 20 Bedford Way,

Bloomsbury, WC1H 0AL

Free event.

* *Gin and the Georgians*

Tuesday 2 July 2019 at 7 PM

Led by Dr Annie Gray this talk on the scourge of the masses, the ruins of the rich, and will also include a tasting session.

Gunnersbury Park Museum, Gunnersbury Park House,

Popes Lane, W5 4NH

£15 admission. Book online at <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/gin-the-georgians-tickets-54354782618?aff=ebdssbdestsearch>

* *King of the World: Philip Mansel & History Today*

Wednesday 10 July 2019 at 6:30 PM

King of the World is the story of Louis XIV, King of Navarre and France, who dominated his age.

Hatchards, 187 Piccadilly, St. James's, W1J 9LE

£6 admission. Book online at <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/king-of-the-world-philip-mansel-history-today-at-hatchards-tickets-58431332689?aff=ebdssbdestsearch#tickets>

Recommended Reads

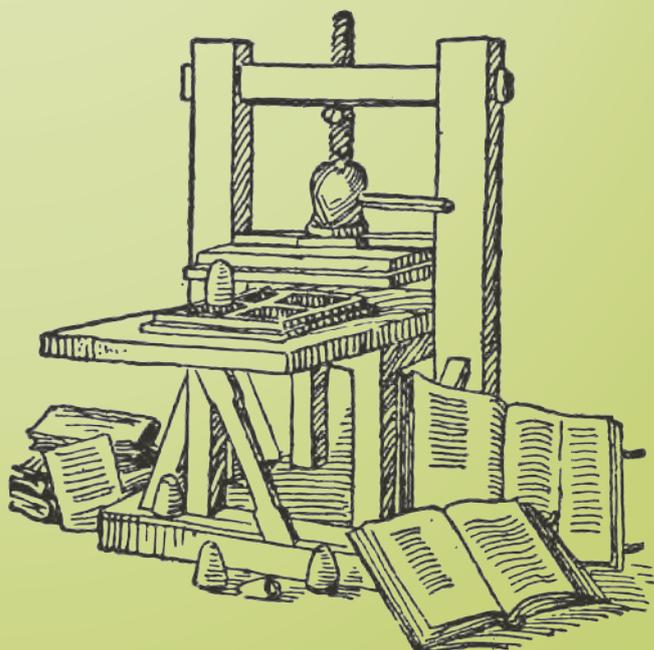
The Routledge History Handbook of Medieval Revolt. Justine Firnhaber-Baker and Dirk Schoenaers. Routledge. 2 July 2019

Dynastic Change: Legitimacy and Gender in Medieval and Early Modern Monarchy. Ana Maria S.A. Rodrigues and Manuela Santos Silva and Jonathan W. Spangler. Routledge. 25 September 2019

Becoming a Queen in Early Modern Europe: East and West. Katarzyna Kosior. Palgrave Macmillan. 2019

Dark Emu: Aboriginal Australia and the Birth of Agriculture. Bruce Pascoe. Scribe Publications. 2018

The Colour of Time: A New History of the World 1850-1960. Dan Jones and Marina Amaral. Head of Zeus. 2018





NCH History Society

If you haven't already, sign up to be a part of
the NCH History Society!

With a successful last term, we managed to kick off
the society in style with the Launch Party,
have a showing of Nicholas's documentary on
'Walford's War', take a day trip out to Hampton
Court Palace, watched 'The Death of Stalin'
on the big screen of the Drawing Room, ate and
sold cakes to help fundraise for some interesting
speakers, and had the Easter Egg raffle.

We look forward to what the future brings
with regards to this society and hope you
will join us in this adventure!

Contact us for more info: historysoc@nchsuo.org