



Parliaments, Estates and Representation

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Call for Papers

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66th Conference of the International Commission
for the History of Representative and Parliamentary
Institutions

MAKING CONSTITUTIONS, BUILDING
PARLIAMENTS

Constructing representative institutions, 1000–2000

The annual conference of the International Commission for the History of Representative Institutions, King's College, London, Royal Holloway, London, and Portcullis House, Palace of Westminster

London, England, 30th June–3rd July 2015

Sponsored by The History of Parliament Trust, with support from the UK Parliament, King's College and Royal Holloway.

CALL FOR PAPERS

The year 2015 marks two anniversaries of enormous significance in the history of English, and British constitutional and legal history: the 800th anniversary of King John's acceptance of Magna Carta, the great charter of liberties of the English nation in 1215; and the 750th anniversary of the Parliament summoned by Simon de Montfort in 1265, following his defeat of King Henry III in a civil war which was the culmination of a baronial revolt. To mark these anniversaries, the History of Parliament Trust will in 2015 host the annual ICHRPI conference.

The conference will take 1215 and 1265 as a starting point for an exploration of the initiation and development of political institutions from the early Middle Ages onwards, and an assessment of their role in state formation or nation building. It will consider the significance of foundational documents and events such as

Magna Carta and the de Montfort Parliament and how these – and the historiography of Parliaments – became so important in the subsequent history of Parliament and political institutions – how, for example, Magna Carta and the de Montfort Parliament were built up and depicted as central events in the building of the English state.

The conference will set the foundation of the English and British constitutional tradition alongside that of other jurisdictions elsewhere; it will explore other confrontations between communal traditions and royal powers and how these were expressed and resolved; it will seek to compare the development of the English political tradition with other contemporary parallel institutions in Europe, and explore their divergence and/or convergence.

Interested parties are invited to submit proposals consisting of a short abstract of no more than 200 words for papers on the following themes:

Making constitutions

- (a) The development of ideas of law, representative institutions and constitutionalism in the Middle Ages
- (b) The construction, importance use and mythical status of foundational constitutional documents
- (c) The global reach and influence of the English model of Parliaments and constitutionalism

Building Parliaments

- (a) The construction and development of Parliaments from Europe in the Middle Ages onwards
- (b) Parliaments and their role in state formation and state building in all states and periods
- (c) The history and historiography of Parliaments and their place in political culture

Studying Parliaments

- (a) Roundtables on various approaches to parliamentary history: oral history, prosopography and collective biography and digitised parliamentary sources.

Abstracts of no more than 200 words should be submitted to Paul Seaward (pseaward@histparl.ac.uk) or Emma Peplow (epeplow@histparl.ac.uk) by **1st January 2015**. Papers are welcomed in the languages of the Commission – English, French and German – but abstracts should be in English. Most papers will be restricted to 20 minutes. Panel submissions are also welcomed.

For more information, see the conference website:

<http://makingconstitutionsconference2015.wordpress.com/>

For more information on the History of Parliament Trust, see www.historyofparliamentonline.org.