

ABSTRACTS OF ARTICLES

A 'Quaker Confederation'? The great Liverpool cotton speculation of 1825 reconsidered

Nigel Hall

By the early nineteenth century, Liverpool had become Britain's major cotton port, and the key market for cotton sales. It also became the scene of several dramatic speculations, which attracted national attention: one of the earliest and most renowned was the great cotton speculation of 1825. This article considers that speculation, first establishing exactly what took place, and then assessing the actions and motives of those involved. It offers a broader explanation of the timing of the speculation, and its implications for the industry. The article employs a variety of sources, including contemporary trade statistics; cotton brokers' reports; merchants' and brokers' business papers; and the memoirs of one of the speculators, Vincent Nolte.

Three Georges and one Richard Holden: The Liverpool tide table makers

Philip L. Woodworth

Starting in 1770, the brothers Richard and George Holden produced some of the first high-quality, publicly-accessible tide tables in the UK. Their Liverpool tables continued to be produced by family members for almost 100 years, and the 'Holden Almanack and Tide Table' was published by different owners for a further century. One aim of this paper is to remove the confusion between different members of the family to be found in previous publications. Some of the developments in 18th century tidal theory and measurements, by means of which the Holdens constructed the tables, are reviewed, together with a discussion of the roles of several key individuals from outside the family. The precise method by which the first Holdens almost certainly computed the tables, always a closely guarded family secret, is determined, and the method's accuracy is

assessed by comparison to modern tidal techniques. Finally, a short review is given of the history of the tables in the 'post-Holden' era of the late 19th and 20th centuries.

**Disley from chantry to parish: Sources for the
history of Anglican chapels**

Jan Wood

The church of St. Mary, Disley, in north-east Cheshire, has a history dating from the 16th century, but only became a parish church in 1913. This article assesses the sources for the history of Disley chapel, especially its origins as a chantry and its early post-Reformation status as a parochial chapel: this approach suggests ways in which the history of similar chapels with an uncertain background might be researched. Disley's chapel was built by a member of the Legh family, and evidence for its early development is closely tied to the founder and his lands. Exchequer court records then provide evidence of the chantry, and of the parochial chapel from 1558. From the early 18th century Disley, like other chapelries, was recorded in episcopal returns and increasingly, in the 19th century, the chapelry kept records similar to those of a parish. Disley demonstrates that chapelries were not undocumented by any means, and searches of a broader range of sources can reveal valuable evidence of the nature of church and society at a local level.

**The structure of the trading community in Liverpool,
1760–1810**

Sheryllynn Haggerty

Liverpool occupied a crucial place in the Atlantic economy of the late 18th and early 19th centuries, and particularly in the rapid diversification of trade and goods associated with the 'Consumer Revolution'. Historians have often taken a rather narrow view of these processes, however, and especially of the people who worked to make them possible: most previous work has focused on relatively small groups of elite merchants. This study takes a broader view, and looks at four groups—merchants, brokers, shopkeepers and itinerant dealers—chosen because they highlight the wide variety in scale and status of traders within the trading community as a whole. Studying the port's traders at different levels casts new light on the role of

women in the trading occupations, and on the local distribution networks that were as important to the commercial economy as the better-known trans-Atlantic deals of the great merchants.

**Collecting collectors: The Liverpool Art Club and its
exhibitions 1872–1895**

Dongho Chun

This article assesses the history of the Liverpool Art Club (LAC) and its place in the associational culture of late-19th century Liverpool. Formed by art-lovers and collectors to further their interests in the visual arts, and to hold exhibitions of fine and industrial arts, the LAC was unique in combining the two functions of being a private club while taking on the role of a semi-public exhibiting society. It was led by collectors rather than by artists, and was an unusual venture outside London, signifying the ability of Victorian Liverpool to mobilise considerable cultural capital. Much of the primary evidence for this paper has come from the LAC's printed annual reports and exhibition catalogues, a sizeable and rich source previously neglected by historians. These enable the LAC and its activities to be placed in the broader contexts of British and European art in this period, and also allow an assessment of the club's place in the cultural community of Liverpool itself.

