

## ABSTRACTS OF ARTICLES

### The overseas trade of the Isle of Man, 1576–1755

*J. R. Dickinson*

The significance of the Isle of Man in the economy of the Irish Sea region in the late seventeenth and eighteenth centuries is well known, but relatively little work has been published on the earlier part of the early modern period, and little is known of the general context of maritime trade within which the infamous illicit ‘running trade’ was conducted. In addressing these questions, this article draws on the customs records of the Isle of Man itself, the earliest of which date from the late sixteenth century. This material allows a detailed analysis of trading patterns in a range of commodities over an extended time period, revealing important patterns in the development of the island’s economy in relation to its trading partners around the Irish Sea.

### Irish narratives: Liverpool in the 1930s

*John Davies*

In the late 1920s and early 1930s, years of economic depression, there was a renewed wave of Irish migration to Liverpool, marking a new phase in a long-standing connection. This article explores how the majority community in Liverpool viewed the Irish and how these views were articulated. It draws heavily on the extensive press coverage of the issue, and on the series of social survey reports produced in the 1930s, assessing some of the tensions between social science research and populist perception. The question of ‘job theft’ by Irish migrants was always a major theme, but anti-Irish agitation also focused on welfare payments, education, and the IRA bombing campaign of 1939; critics of the Irish usually denied, however, that they had any sectarian agenda.

Three Liverpool doctors and their coronial ambitions:  
A historical perspective to the medico-legal conflicts  
surrounding the elections of 1836, 1867 and 1891

*G. H. H. Glasgow*

This article considers the nineteenth-century appointments to the Liverpool borough coronership, assessing the exercise of local government patronage in the context of party politics and increasing recognition of medical and legal professionalism. The campaigns of George Rogerson, Robert Gee and Frederick Walter Lowndes are considered in turn. Although none was successful, the circumstances of each election reveal that Liverpool's campaign for medical coroners, driven in large part by the Liverpool Medical Institution, gained impetus in the later Victorian period. This pattern was in some contrast to the national agitation, which lost momentum in that era.

John Holt and *The general view of the agriculture of the  
county of Lancaster: An appraisal*

*John Virgoe*

The question of agricultural improvement, and whether or not there was an 'agricultural revolution' in the eighteenth century, continues to occupy a prominent place in historical debate. This article assesses the compilation and significance of one of a series of county reports ordered by the Board of Agriculture, which were intended to spread news of good practice at the time and which have been used by historians to address the question of agricultural innovation ever since. John Holt's report is considered in light of contemporary criticisms, and also by reconstructing some of the context within which he worked, in order to determine its utility to historians.

The Cheshire estates of John Tollemache of Peckforton,  
1861–1872

*Stephen Matthews*

This article examines the finances of the Cheshire estates of John Tollemache, of Peckforton Castle, during the years 1861 to 1871. In that decade the southern estates, like many others, were affected by

three bovine epidemics. Pleuro-pneumonia lasted for most of the decade and foot and mouth, though present before, appeared on a serious scale in the final years. The great infliction, however, was rinderpest (cattle plague), which struck from late 1865 to the middle of 1866. By contrast, none of them affected the eastern estates to any significant degree. This article demonstrates the varying impact of each of these epidemics upon the levels of income and expenditure, and thus profitability, in the two very diverse estate districts.

*A discourse of the warr in Lancashire: Its authorship resolved?*

*J. Malcolm Gratton*

This research note offers a new assessment of the authorship of an important contemporary source for the study of the Civil War in Lancashire. William Beamont, who edited the *Discourse* for the Chetham Society in 1864, argued that Edward Robinson was the author, a view that has been generally accepted. Much more evidence about Robinson and a number of other candidates is now available, however, and this paper makes the case for the author having been Thomas Robinson of Westby.

