
Noticeboard

Conference

THE ANGLO-AMERICAN CONFERENCE OF HISTORIANS,
at the University of London's Institute of Historical Research
30 June–2 July 1994

Theme for 1994: THE MAKING OF THE UNITED KINGDOM

The Anglo-American Conference is managed by the Institute of Historical Research in consultation with a committee of scholars from both sides of the Atlantic. Its tradition, however, has been multi-national ever since the informal meetings of historians in the University of London in 1921 which gave rise to the first Conference. Since then, the Conference has met almost annually except for a break during the Second World War. Both the subject matter and the personnel of the meetings draw on historical scholarship from all over the world and from many different fields and periods of history. If you wish to receive details about the 1994 Conference, write to the Academic Secretary, the Institute of Historical Research, University of London, Senate House, London WC1E 7HU, UK.

Published documents

In the front of each volume of *Documenten Betreffende de Buitenlandse Politiek van Nederland 1919–1945* (*Documents Relating to the Foreign Policy of the Netherlands 1919–1945*) there is a list of the documents in English, giving the following information: the number of the document, the date, the names of the sender and receiver and a brief description of the contents. It should be more widely known that these lists themselves are now being published in separate booklets, fourteen of which have thus far appeared. The following periods are currently available: 1 July 1919–31 August 1925 in six booklets; 2 January 1931–26 June 1934 in three booklets; and 10 May 1940–15 December 1942 in five booklets. The length of the descriptions vary, from being largely a list of topics covered in each individual document (e.g. the booklet covering 1 July 1919–1 July 1920: ninety-seven pages long and published in 1976) to being a quite extensive summary of each document (e.g. the booklet covering 1 September 1924–31 August 1925: 138 pages long and published in 1992). Further information, and a catalogue of these and other publications, can be obtained by writing to:

The Instituut voor Nederlandse Geschiedenis (Institute of Netherlands History),
Postbus 90755, 2509 LT 's-Gravenhage,
Prins Willem Alexanderhof 7,
The Netherlands
Telephone 070–38 14 77 1
Fax 070–38 54 09 8.

In January 1992 the second conference of editors of diplomatic documents was held at The Hague, and the Instituut voor Nederlandse Geschiedenis have published the *Proceedings* as a book, which is entitled *The Optimum Formula for a Foreign Policy Document Series*, edited by Bob de Graaf and Joost Jonker. The first section is entitled 'The Interdepartmental Process of Foreign Policy Decision-making and the Coverage in the Document Series', with articles on Australia by Wendy Way, on Israel by Meron Medzini, on the Netherlands by Albert Kersten and on Germany by Hans-Peter Schwarz. The section is entitled 'The appearance of Economic, Monetary, Transport, Aviation, Cultural and Environmental Issues and Human Rights as Important Subjects in Addition to Traditional Political and Military Subjects', with articles on the development of multilateral in place of bilateral relations by M. Degros, on Britain by Heather Yasamee, on Italy by Pietro Pastorelli and Ennio di Nolfo and on Sweden and the EC by Berndt Frederikson. The third section is on 'Dutch Foreign Policy and the Netherlands East Indies, 1919-1949', with essays by Bob de Graaff and Nico Bootsma. Finally, the fourth section is entitled 'Freedom of Information Legislation and Foreign Policy Documents', and includes two essays on the Netherlands, by Sierk Plantinga and P. L. G. van Velzen, and an essay on secrecy and the right of access to information in Europe by van Poelgeest. There are also several appendices, including one by Pastorelli on the origins and subsequent history of the publication of the modern Italian diplomatic documents.

For those who use diplomatic archives in their research, the volume is absolutely fascinating – compare, for example, the contiguous essays on French and German practices – while editors of documents series of any type will find these short essays quite stimulating. For information on obtaining a copy of the book, write to Joost Jonker at the Instituut.