

**22<sup>nd</sup> British Legal History Conference:  
*Challenges to Authority and the Recognition of Rights***

**University of Reading  
8-11 July 2015**

This was a large and well attended conference. One of the highlights was John Baker (Cambridge University)'s *Magna Carta - the Beginning of the Myth*, delivered on the boat cruising Thames after the visit to the Magna Carta's birthplace at Runnymede. The talk was also enlivened by Baker's ingenious humor sense. I left with the impression that Coke's reformer zeal may well approach one of Mansfield.

There were three/four parallel sessions, so one could have an impression of fraction of papers. I liked the papers in the session I presented: James Oldham (Georgetown Law) 's *Some Effects of War on the Law in Late 18th and Early 19th -century England* and Matthew Crow (Hobart and William Smith Colleges)'s *Creolizing Custom*.

The session with Joshua Getzler (Oxford University)'s *Magna Carta clauses 4 and 5 and the problem of account* and David Waddilove (Cambridge University)'s *The "Mendacious" Common-Law Mortgage Explained* was a very impressive one, as was a session with Mike Macnair (Oxford University)'s *Revolution principles and the revolution bench*, Daniel Hulsebosch (New York University) 's *A Magna Carta for the World? The Constitutional Protection of Foreign subjects in the Age of Revolution* and Wilfrid Prest (University of Adelaide)'s *Blackstone's Magna Carta*. I also received a lot from the 'German' session: Michael Stuckey (University of New England)'s *The Germanic weltanschauung of John Mitchell Kemble*, Carsten Fischer (University of Zurich)'s *The Reception of Magna Carta and the Ancient Constitution in Early Modern Germany, c. 1650-1800* and Andreas Thier (University of Zurich)'s *The Magna Carta in the German discourse about English constitutional law between the 18th and the early 20th century*. Attending this last session I sadly missed David Seipp (Boston University)'s *How to Get Rid of a King: Lawyering the Revolution of 1399*. I also was disappointed not to hear Ryan Greenwood (University of Minnesota) 's *Natural Rights and Enforceability: The Transition from Medieval to Early Modern Rights Theories* and Andreas Televantos (Cambridge University)'s *Authority and Innovation: Trusts, Property Rights, and Insolvency in the time of Lord Eldon*. But there were a number of others that sounded very interesting. It seems in most sessions there were interesting papers. I almost by chance went to Charlotte Griffiths (University of Liverpool)'s *No one will we refuse or delay, right or justice? The betrayal of the 19th C shareholder*, Victoria Barnes (University of Reading)'s *The rights of shareholders and contractual freedom in Foss v Harbottle* and Ian Frame (University of Kent)'s *A Curious Picture of Law and Legislation" The Bank of England and the London and Westminster Bank, 1833-34* and enjoyed all the papers.

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