

Evolving Societies 2008

In November 2007, the British Academy organised the highly successful 'Evolving Societies' conference at the Barbican Centre, London. In November 2008, the British Academy hosted 'Evolving Societies 2008', a showcase for the work of its sponsored learned societies and overseas institutes in two important international research areas: 'Managing migration: policy perspectives from the Mediterranean and Middle East'; and 'Benefiting local economies and societies: case studies in cultural heritage management'.

Summing up, Baroness O'Neill, President of the British Academy, said: 'This is the second year in which we have brought together and celebrated the work of the British Academy-sponsored institutes and societies under the "Evolving Societies" banner. We have seen a powerful demonstration this afternoon of the range, relevance and importance of the research being conducted or facilitated in two highly topical subject areas, migration and cultural heritage management.'

'Both streams of presentations have shown the potential value of this research to a range of audiences and applications, in both public and private sectors. In this regard, it is relevant to mention that a recent British Academy Review, compiled by an expert working party chaired by Professor Sir Alan Wilson, concluded that Humanities and Social Science disciplines are not

contributing to public policy-making to the extent that they could and should be. I am therefore particularly encouraged by the potential for dialogue and partnership with policy-makers and other groups demonstrated here.'

Further information can be found at www.britac.ac.uk/institutes/evolsoc-08.cfm



Figure 1: The panel discussing cultural heritage management: Professor Andrew Wallace-Hadrill (Director, The British School at Rome); Professor Mike Robinson (Centre for Tourism and Cultural Change, Leeds Metropolitan University, on behalf of the Council for British Research in the Levant); Professor Todd Whitelaw (Institute of Archaeology, University College London, on behalf of The British School at Athens); Professor Mike Fulford FBA (Chairman, British Academy-Sponsored Institutes and Societies committee). Photo: David Graeme-Baker.

Giuseppe Mazzini and the Globalisation of Democratic Nationalism

'At the beginning of the twenty-first century, "democracy" is the key slogan for politicians both of left and right. But it was in the middle of the nineteenth century that the word first attained its global significance. Giuseppe Mazzini played a crucial role in its popularisation from the 1830s to his death in 1872. Over the following three decades he remained an iconic figure, whose memory was invoked as an analogical and conjunctural symbol by democrats, nationalists, humanitarians and religious reformers from the River Plata to the River Ganges.'

So begins the Introduction to *Giuseppe Mazzini and the Globalisation of Democratic Nationalism, 1830-1920*, edited by Professor C. A. Bayly FBA and Dr Eugenio F. Biagini, which was published by the British Academy in September 2008. Mazzini – Italian patriot, humanist and republican – was one of the most celebrated and revered political activists and thinkers of the 19th century. His contribution to the Italian Risorgimento was unparalleled; he stood for a 'religion of humanity'; he argued

against tyranny, and for universal education, a democratic franchise and the liberation of women. The papers in this volume reflect the range of Mazzini's political thought, discussing his vision of international relations, his concept of the nation and the role of arts in politics.

According to the editors, 'the diffusion and appropriation of the image and thought of Giuseppe Mazzini represents a paradigmatic example of globalisation during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.' The essays in this volume detail how his writings and reputation influenced nations and leaders across Europe, the Americas and India.

The volume is published in the *Proceedings of the British Academy* series. More information can be found via www.britac.ac.uk/pubs/

