

Joan Thirsk Memorial Prize Fund

The British Agricultural History Society is pleased to announce a prize in memory of Joan Thirsk, to be awarded annually for the

Best Book in British or Irish Rural or Agrarian History

The prize will be awarded for the first time in Spring 2017,
for a book published during 2016.

Please contribute to the fund for this prize, either online at
www.bahs.org.uk, or by filling in this form:

Amount of donation in figures: In words: _____
£

Signature: _____ Date: _____

I am a UK taxpayer and want my donation to be considered for gift aid.

I also want future donations to be considered for gift aid

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I confirm that I have paid or will pay an amount of Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax for each year (6 April to 5 April) that is at least equal to the amount of tax that all the charities or Community Amateur Sports Clubs (CASCs) that I donate to will reclaim on my gifts for that tax year. I understand that other taxes such as VAT and Council Tax do not qualify. I understand the charity will reclaim 25p of tax on every £1 I give.

If you ticked the gift aid box, please make sure that the details below are those you use for tax purposes.

Name _____

Address _____

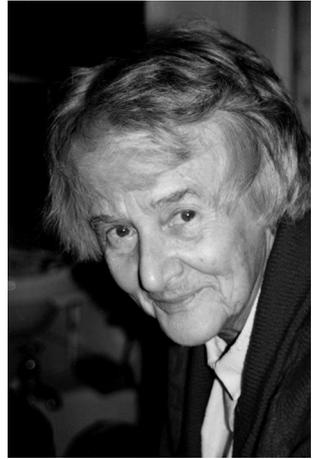
Postcode _____ Phone no. _____

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Please make your cheque payable to B.A.H.S and send it to The Treasurer, British Agricultural History Society, c/o 12A Carleton Avenue, Fulwood, Preston, PR2 6YA.

Joan Thirsk (1922–2013)

Joan Thirsk was the leading agricultural and rural historian of her generation. Her books and articles have a lasting influence. The fertility of Joan's mind was such that she wrote a succession of pioneering articles, offering ideas and even creating areas of research which others took up and developed. She was an early writer on the family, on open fields, on the industrialization of the countryside. Her *Economic Policy and Projects* invented a history of the manufacture and consumption of ordinary things ('starch, needles, pins, cooking pots, kettles, frying pans, lace, soap, vinegar, stockings do not appear on the shopping lists [of men] but they do appear on mine'). She was a historian of knitting, horticulture, tobacco and, of course, woad and our leading authority on early modern food. Her editorial labours, notably on the *Agrarian History of England and Wales*, were prodigious. And, one should not ignore – Joan would not forgive us if we did – her interest in (and deep empathy with) her female predecessors in the history profession. Her kindness and generosity of time, advice and references to many historians was considerable.



Joan was much more than an agricultural and rural historian and yet the British Agricultural History Society, of which she was a founder and loyal servant, always remained dear to her. In return the Society acknowledged her excellence by making her its president for two terms. Many of its members gave her a festschrift when she retired and another when she passed eighty. The Society now wishes to perpetuate her memory with an annual prize for the best book published in the broad fields of British and Irish rural and agrarian history. To that end we solicit contributions to a prize fund to be administered by the Society.

One prize will be made annually using the interest from the fund, topped up by the Society. Works entered can be concerned with any aspect of British and Irish rural or agrarian history provided that they use broadly historical methodology (so works of pure archaeology will not be eligible). Works by single or joint authors will be eligible but edited collections of papers will not. It is envisaged that the annual competition will be advertised each autumn, with the announcement of the prize winner made at the Society's Spring Conference the following year.

Contributions to the prize fund may be made online through the Society's website, www.bahs.org.uk, or by cheque accompanied by the form overleaf.

British Agricultural History Society, registered charity 251851

www.bahs.org.uk