

Joan Thirsk Memorial Prize Fund

The British Agricultural History Society is pleased to announce a prize to be awarded annually for the

Best Book in British or Irish Rural or Agrarian History

in memory of one of the founder members of the Society,

Joan Thirsk (1922–2013)

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

The Society is seeking donations to the fund for this prize.

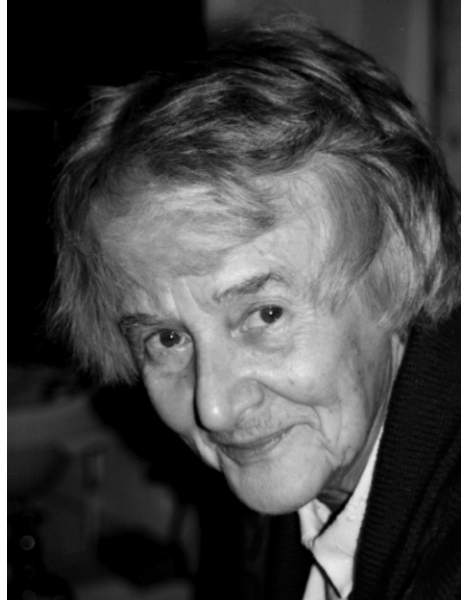
Contributions to the prize fund may be made online through the Society's website, www.bahs.org.uk. or by filling in the form that accompanies this issue of the *Review* and sending it with a cheque to

The Treasurer
British Agricultural History Society
c/o 12A Carleton Avenue
Fulwood
Preston
PR2 6YA

Spare copies of the form are available from the Treasurer

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 Progress* 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 agricultural and rural 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. There will be no limitation on the character of the works eligible: they may be singly or jointly authored (collections of essays will not be accepted). The work may be concerned with any aspect of British and Irish rural or agrarian history provided that it uses broadly historical methodology (so works of pure archaeology will not be eligible). 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.