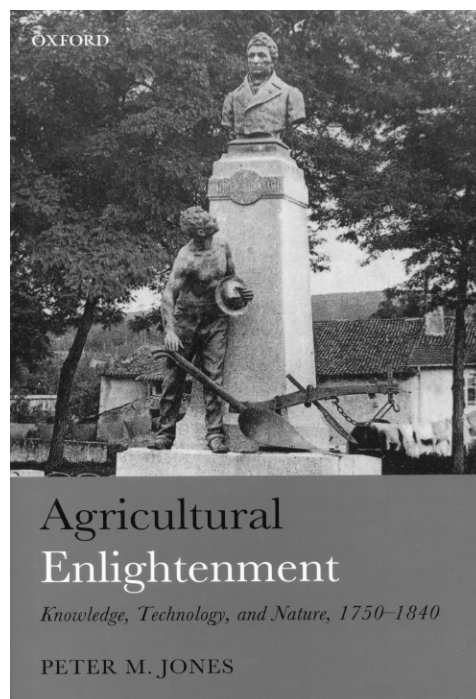


Joan Thirsk Memorial Prize

A highlight of the Society's Spring Conference this year was the presentation of the first Joan Thirsk Memorial Prize, awarded for the best book in British or Irish Rural or Agrarian History published during 2016. Martin Thirsk, Joan's son, presented the prize to Prof. Peter Jones of the University of Birmingham, for his volume, *Agricultural Enlightenment: Knowledge, Technology and Nature, 1750–1840*, published by Oxford University Press.



Announcing the winner, Dr John Broad, President of the BAHS, said, ‘Since January, the judges have been reading the entries ... All the entries were of a high standard and worthy of serious consideration. Interestingly, three of them had a significant ‘transnational’ comparative element, which we enjoyed and felt was well done. Although we had marginally different views of the merits of each book, we were unanimous in awarding the prize to Peter Jones. This is a book Joan Thirsk would have empathized with and enjoyed, since one of her last essays, “The World Wide Farming Web”, covered some of the same issues of the transmission of agricultural ideas in a slightly earlier period. Peter’s book ranges right across Europe from the British Isles to Germany and beyond, and from Scandinavia to Spain, tracing the spread of ideas, the interactions between them, and using illuminating case studies to show the practical implications. It is a pleasure to congratulate him on his achievement.’