



On the Borders: The Mortimer History Society's Essay Prize 2023

Rules:

- 1 There shall be a(n) annual / biennial prize of **£750** called **On the Borders: The Mortimer History Society's Essay Prize**. The prize will be awarded for the best essay submitted in the relevant year. A second-placed prize of **£300** shall also be awarded, and a third-placed prize of **£200**. The prize(s) will only be awarded if the essays are considered by the judging panel to be of sufficiently high standard to merit publication in the *Journal of the Mortimer History Society* (ISSN 2397-9267). The winning submission will receive a cheque for £750 and the winning essay will be published in the Society's peer-reviewed *Journal*. The submissions of the runner-up, third-placed entry, and any commended essays may also be published in the *Journal*, with each such winner receiving three years' free membership of the Mortimer History Society. The Society may also invite the winners and any commended entrants to present their papers at its conferences and other events (reasonable travel and accommodation expenses to be paid for by the Society).
- 2 The subject of the essay must be concerned with any aspect of the Mortimer family of Wigmore (and its cadet branches, e.g. Chelmarsh, Chirk) and its impact on the history and culture of the British Isles, or the history, geopolitics, topography, laws, economy, society and culture of medieval borderlands including comparative studies, between 1066 and 1542.
- 3 The competition is open to all who can meet the criteria for assessment set out in section 11.
- 4 Entries must be written in English, typed, double line-spaced, with numbered pages and all sources fully referenced in footnotes. Essays shall not exceed 8,000 words, including footnotes, and have no more than six illustrations.
- 5 Any form of plagiarism will result in automatic disqualification. **It is the responsibility of the participant to ensure that their essay does not infringe the copyright of any third party or any other laws. The author of a prize-winning or commended entry will be responsible for clearing any copyright or publication rights for any quotations or images used in the final essay.** Evidence of copyright clearance may be demanded on request by the Editor for winning entries or those deemed worthy of publication.

- 6 Authors should submit a title and abstract of c.100-150 words and a brief biography, including name, affiliation (if any), research interests and publications. Please submit this information in a separate MS Word format (or equivalent) document from the essay as entrants will be judged anonymously.
- 7 The essay should be submitted digitally by email in pdf format and the document must contain no reference to the name of the author. The file names must not carry the name of the entrant.
- 8 Entries should be sent to chair@mortimerhistorysociety.org.uk and should be sent with a covering email stating that this is an entry for On the Borders: The Mortimer History Society's Essay Prize.
- 9 The closing date for entries to the eighth round in 2023 is 1st March 2024. Late entries will not be accepted.
- 10 A panel shall be appointed by the Trustees of the Mortimer History Society to judge the entries. This will include an Officer of the Society, the Editor of the Journal, a senior academic and other scholars recruited on an annual basis. Details of the panel will be published on the Mortimer History Society website in a timely manner.
- 11 Assessment of essays will be based on:
 - the originality of the entry;
 - the author's use of source material and command of evidence;
 - the author's clarity and quality of writing for an intelligent but not exclusively scholarly audience;
 - the extent of the contribution to the knowledge and understanding of the medieval Mortimer family or medieval borderlands.
- 12 The decision of the judges shall be final and not subject to appeal. No correspondence will be entered into concerning entries once submitted, or the judging process.
- 13 The Mortimer History Society reserves the right to present no prize [or to reduce the number of prizes] if an insufficient number of deserving essays is received.
- 14 Copyright of any essay entered for this competition will remain with the author, but taking part in the competition implies accepting that the Mortimer History Society retains non-exclusive rights for the duration of the copyright to reproduction without further compensation, including online publication.
- 15 The Mortimer History Society reserves the right to edit entries in consultation with the author for publication purposes.
- 16 The Mortimer History Society cannot be held responsible for the loss of any material submitted for this prize.
- 17 Articles which have already been published or accepted for publication will be disqualified.

- 18 Commended essays will not be accepted for re-submission in subsequent rounds of the prize.
- 19 By entering, the entrants, including the winner, agree to allow the free use of their names and photographs for publicity and news purposes in relation to the competition.
- 20 Submission of an entry will be deemed acceptance of these terms and conditions.

