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Laudatio for Professor Clive Emsley

It is a singular honour to be able to propose this *laudatio* to mark the retirement from the Open University of Professor Clive Emsley, one of the foremost exponents of criminal justice history. Via both his intellectual leadership and the generous and inclusive nature of his approach to scholarship, Clive has played a unique role in developing the field of criminal justice history research worldwide, and in encouraging and nurturing a new generation of researchers.

Educated at York University and then at Peterhouse College, Cambridge University, Clive Emsley joined the Open University in 1970 and, aside from a series of prestigious visiting fellowships, has worked in the History Department there ever since. His first research interest was in Napoleonic France, and resulted in the publication of *British Society and the French Wars, 1793-1815* (1979). His continued interest in this area has generated in a steady stream of publication, most recently *Britain and the French Revolution* (2000). However, perhaps understandably for the son of a policeman, he quickly became interested in criminal justice history, a field which was still in its infancy at the time. His work over the years in this area has resulted in an exceptional number of publications – to date, seven monographs, nine edited collections and over fifty articles and book chapters – all groundbreaking, and many still standard works in the field.

Clive's first foray into this area was a comparative study of policing in Europe *Policing and its Context* (1983); after this, he focussed his research on the development of the criminal justice system in England, with *Crime and Society in England, 1750* (1987) and *The English Police: A Political and Social History* (1991). These two works are now in their third editions and still set the standard for research work in this area, as well as being staples of undergraduate and postgraduate courses around the world. It is no underestimation to say that Clive both pioneered and continues to shape the field of criminal justice history in England, and that it is largely due to him that the field thrives to the extent that it does now. His later books and articles on violence, on the policeman as worker, on the regulation of motor traffic and on crime and policing during wartime have all opened up rich seams of material which others have drawn on.

His later archival work has been by no means confined to the British Isles, however. Much of his research has the vital comparative angle which has done so much to draw together the field across Europe. His *Gendarmes and the State in Nineteenth-Century Europe* (1999) was the product of extensive archival research in France, Germany, Austria and Italy, with access to Italian archival material secured (so informed rumour has it) via the judicious gift of a bottle or two of good whisky. More recently, his *Crime, Police and Penal Policy* (in part the product of a jocular

challenge which only Clive was brave enough to accept) remains the only monograph to attempt comparative consideration of the development of criminal justice systems across Europe. Many of his articles and especially his edited volumes, which have drawn together some of the best work in the world, also attest to the truly international and comparative aspects of his approach to the subject.

Clive has also been instrumental in raising the profile of criminal justice history, both within and without academia. He has held many visiting research fellowships around the world, including; Griffith University, Australia (1983, 1996); Université Paris 8 Vincennes-Saint Denis (1984); University of Calgary, Canada (1988, 1990); University of Canterbury, New Zealand (2003); Australian National University (2004). He has had extensive media exposure, with documentary and other work for BBC television and radio, and authored articles in, *inter alia*, *The Guardian*, *The Sunday Times* and *The Times Higher Educational Supplement*. The successful supervisor of over twenty Ph.D students, he has also found the time to make unstinting contributions to the infrastructure of the discipline, including a long spell as President of the International Association for the History of Crime and Criminal Justice (1995 onwards), and as the editor of this journal (presenting some complications in getting this piece to press without arousing suspicion).

It is no exaggeration to claim that not only is Clive Emsley's work known and respected worldwide but that, for those new to the discipline, Clive's is invariably the name that they arrive at first. Overall, what always impresses those who have collaborated with Clive over the years is the *manner* in which these huge achievements have been accomplished. A self-effacing, inclusive, generous and patient colleague, it has been a great pleasure to work with Clive closely over the years, and we look forward to a continued stream of intellectually-creative books and articles as he continues his research work in retirement.

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