



ON THE BORDERS: THE MORTIMER HISTORY SOCIETY'S ESSAY PRIZE 2025

CALL FOR ENTRIES

We are delighted to announce that submissions are now open for the 2025 Mortimer History Society (MHS) Essay Prize. This document contains everything you need to know about the prize and how to enter.

1. THE AIM:

The aim of the MHS Essay Prize is to promote and encourage scholarly research and popular interest in the history of the medieval Mortimer family of Wigmore and its cadet branches, including those of Chirk and Chelmarsh, and the family's 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. Success will garner financial prizes, the opportunity for peer-reviewed publication, membership of the MHS and speaking opportunities.

2. THE PRIZES

- First prize, for the author of the winning essay £750
- Second prize £300
- Third prize £200

The winning, second and third-place essays (and any that receive a commendation) will also be published in the peer-reviewed *Journal of the Mortimer History Society* (ISSN 2397-9267).

All winning and commended entrants will also be awarded three years' free membership of the MHS. Winners and commended entrants may also be invited to present their papers at MHS conferences or other events.

3. ELIGIBILITY:

Essays will be accepted on any aspect of the topics outlined at Point 1 and may, therefore, reflect any disciplinary perspective.

Essays must be based on original research and should not have been previously published. Essays shall not exceed 8,000 words, inclusive of footnotes, with a maximum of six illustrations. Prizes will

only be awarded if the essays are considered by the judges to be of sufficiently high standard to merit an award and publication in the MHS Journal.

4. HOW TO ENTER

- a. Entries must be written in English, typed, double line-spaced, with numbered pages. All sources should be fully referenced in footnotes.
- b. Entrants should submit a title and abstract of c. 100 to 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 all entries shall be judged anonymously.
- c. Entrants should submit the essay itself in PDF format and this document should contain no reference to the name of the entrant. Nor must the file name contain the entrant's name.
- d. Entries – both abstract and essay – should be sent to chair@mortimerhistorysociety.org.uk with a covering email stating that it is an entry for the On the Borders: The Mortimer History Society Essay Prize.
- e. The closing date for entries is **15th February 2026**. Late entries will not be accepted.

5. JUDGING

The judging panel for 2025 will consist of:

Chair: Professor Louise Wilkinson – University of Lincoln

Emeritus Professor Chris Given-Wilson – University of St Andrews

Professor Helen Fulton – University of Bristol

Dr Paul Dryburgh – National Archives, President of the MHS and Editor of the Journal

Dr Alastair Ayton – Trustee of the MHS and Assistant Editor of the Journal

Entries will be judged on:

- Originality;
- Use of source material and command of evidence;
- Clarity and quality of writing for an intelligent but not exclusively scholarly audience;
- Contribution to the knowledge and understanding of the medieval Mortimer family or medieval borderlands.

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. The MHS reserves the right to present no prize or to reduce the number of prizes if an insufficient number of deserving entries are received.

6. SUPPLEMENTARY RULES

- a. Any form of plagiarism will result in automatic disqualification. It is the responsibility of the entrant 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.

- b. 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.
- c. The MHS reserves the right to edit entries in consultation with the author for publication purposes.
- d. First prize winners may **not** enter the prize again for three years after their success.
- e. The MHS cannot be held responsible for the loss of any material submitted for this prize.
- f. Essays which have already been published or accepted for publication will be disqualified.
- g. Commended essays will not be accepted for re-submission in subsequent rounds of the prize.
- h. 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.
- i. Submission of an entry will be deemed acceptance of these rules.

7. MORE INFORMATION

Information about the prize can be found at www.mortimerhistorysociety.org.uk/essayprize. Should you have any questions, please contact the prize administrator Dr Alastair Ayton at aiayton1@outlook.com.