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Thomas Jordan

Quality of Life and Early British Migration



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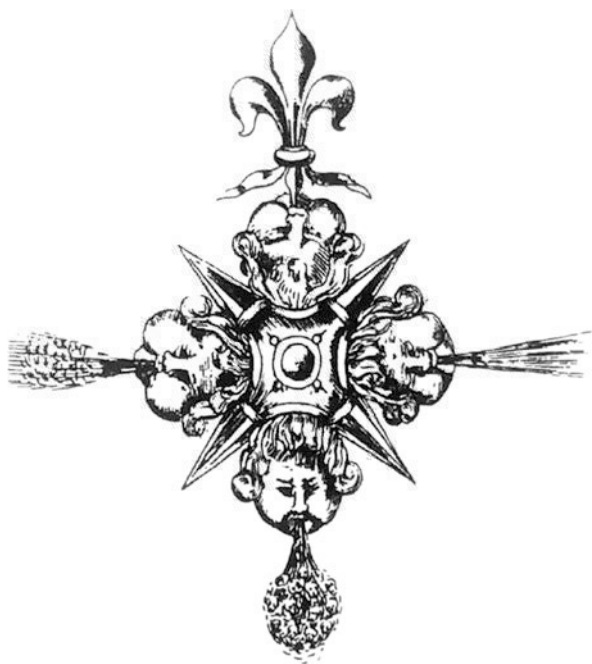
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And having thus endeavored to discharge our duties in this weighty affair ... and to approve our sincerity therein (so far as lay in us) to the consciences of all men; although we know it impossible (in such variety of apprehensions, humours and interests as are in the world) to please all; nor can expect that men of factious, peevish, and perverse spirits should be satisfied with anything that can be done in this kind by any other than themselves: Yet we have good hope, that what is here presented, and hath been ... with great diligence examined... will also be accepted and approved by all sober, peaceable, and truly conscientious...

Preface (1662), Book of Common Prayer

O rare Brad Bomanz (1946–2017)

Introduction

This monograph begins by addressing elements of this one method in the study of quality of life. Chapter 1 considers ways in which aspects of social life in eras before structure inquiry into the quality of life. Examples are social class, documentary sources on mortality, and ways in which data are set forth. Chapter 2 more explicitly considers an era before our own—the seventeenth century, with attention to estimating the quality of life experienced by British immigrants to the North American colonies. The status and quality of life which people crossing the Atlantic Ocean under the legal contract, the *indenture*, is examined. Their experience travelling to the New World, and their fate there, is appraised stochastically (using the adverb in the etymological sense) drawing on documentary sources.

A second analysis, Chap. 3, describes and numerically estimates the quality of life among Britons condemned to *transportation beyond the seas*, to Australia in the middle decades of the nineteenth century. Migrants include men, women, and boys, and their profiles of quality of life are grouped by gender and by age.

Both groups of migrants are evaluated using a profile of eighteen items, which are estimated using numerical values from -2 , through 0 , and the highest estimate is $+2$, to appraise the quality of life. The processes of emigration are placed in the social-political contexts of the seventeenth and nineteenth centuries.