

Tuesday, 4 June 2013

**JOHN H. MUNRO, PROFESSOR EMERITUS OF ECONOMICS
UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO (CANADA)**

Born in Vancouver, B.C., in 1938, John Munro was educated in that city, receiving his B.A. (Combined Honours in Economics and History) from the University of B.C. in 1960. He then went to Yale University for graduate studies in economic history, obtaining his M.A. in 1961 and Ph.D. (in History) in 1965. Having finished his dissertation in August 1964, he commenced teaching that September, at the University of B.C., with a joint appointment in the Departments of History and Economics. In 1968, he accepted an offer to join the then Department of Political Economy [Department of Economics, from 1982] as an Associate Professor of Economics. He received tenure in 1970 and was promoted to Full Professor of Economics in 1973.

Thirty years later, in 2003, having reached the University of Toronto's mandatory retirement age of 65 (no longer in force), he became Professor Emeritus. But he still continues teaching undergraduate courses in European economic history (1250 - 1914) and to be active in research, conferences, and publications.

He also continues to serve on Ph.D. committees in the Centre for Medieval Studies. He has supervised or co-supervised 26 doctoral dissertations, chiefly in this Centre, for which he served as Associate Director, in 1976-79, while also serving on its Steering Committee, until his mandatory retirement in 2003.

In March 2004, a number of his former Ph.D. students, now colleagues, organized a conference in his honour, at the Medieval Centre. Most of those conference papers, along with some additional ones, were published as a *festschrift*, with the title: *Money, Markets and Trade in Late Medieval Europe: Essays in Honour of John H. A. Munro*, ed. Lawrin Armstrong, Ivana Elbl and Martin M. Elbl (Leiden: E.J. Brill, 2007).

He has also received several other academic honours. In 1999, he was elected to the Comitato Scientifico, Istituto Internazionale di Storia Economica 'Francesco Datini' in Prato, Italy; and in 2003, he was appointed to the Institute's Giunta or executive committee. In 2009, having reached the Institute's required retirement age, he was 'elevated' to the Comitato d'Onore. Previously, in 2000, he had also been elected as a Member (Foreign) of the Koninklijke Vlaamse Academie van België voor Wetenschappen en Kunsten [Royal Flemish Academy of Belgium for Science and the Arts]. In April 2011, he was elected as a life-time Fellow of the Medieval Academy of America.

His principal research interests are in the later-medieval and early-modern Low Countries and England, with a primary focus on monetary and financial history, labour history, and the history of the textile industries. His major publications are: *Wool, Cloth and Gold: The Struggle for Bullion in Anglo-Burgundian Trade, ca. 1340-1478* (Brussels and Toronto, 1973); *Textiles of the Low Countries in European Economic History*, ed. Erik Aerts and John Munro, Studies in Social and Economic History, Vol. 19 (Leuven, 1990); *Bullion Flows and Monetary Policies in England and the Low Countries, 1350 - 1500* (London, 1992); *Textiles, Towns, and Trade: Essays in the Economic History of Late-Medieval England and the Low Countries* (London, 1994); and (as editor and contributor) *Money in the Pre-Industrial World: Bullion, Debasements and Coin Substitutes*, Financial History Series no. 20 (London, 2012). Earlier, he served as the Medieval Area editor for the *The Oxford Encyclopedia of Economic History*, Joel Mokyr, editor in chief; in 5 vols. (New York and Oxford, 2003).

Finally, he is also an elected member of the Council of the Faculty Association of the University of Toronto (one of four representing retirees), and serves on the Board of RALUT: Retired Academics and Librarians, University of Toronto.