

HGF NEWS

Library Group Meetings

The library group meetings at Mandeville Place have continued to flourish, offering talks and discussions exploring fundamental questions of economics from different perspectives. Tommas Graves presented a paper showing how failure to collect the natural source of



public revenue leads to the creation of a damaging tax system, unable to collect sufficient revenue, leading to government borrowing, which in turn leads to those who gather the public revenue for private gain to acquire assets and to speculate in land, leading to all the harmful consequences we know so well. He argues that those who gather the natural revenue also lend to the governments and so gain from government debt as well as from asset speculation.

Over that last term the emphasis has shifted to seeking to imagine what the world would be like should George's proposals be implemented. This thematic approach has sought to cultivate an ongoing discussion between participants, and also create a space for fuller response to the presentations of invited speakers.

Talk by Akhil Patel on Economic Cycles

A fascinating talk give by Akhil Patel on the 18 – 20 year economic cycle raised a lot of interest. Akhil developed an interest in economic cycles after reading the works of Henry George and other writers who recognise the operation of natural

law and how its manifestation is affected by conditions at the point of interaction between land and labour under manmade law. He has since developed his study of economic cycles and established an advisory company, Ascendant Strategy, to carry on further research in economic cycles and help investors and corporate directors apply these insights to important strategic decisions. David Triggs invited Akhil Patel to a special evening meeting to explore further the implications of cycles in economic activity. The study of economic cycles would seem to offer a fruitful way of reconnecting economics with natural law.

Friday Evening Programme

The Friday evening programme has continued, under the general heading of Studies in Natural Law, to offer alternate talks on economics and the continuing study of Plato's Laws. David Triggs presented three sessions entitled "Economics for Professional Development". This is a new project he is developing to create and market courses on the science of political economy that address the needs of a wide range of professions as they seek to refine and develop their competence along the lines required by their professional institutions. He welcomed any observations that would help him develop the project.

The Renaissance in England talk about classics revival

Adrian Bertoluzzi gave a talk entitled "Renaissance in England" illustrating how the revival of classical ideas took hold in England - notably by worthies such as John Colet, Sir Walter Raleigh, Shakespeare - and found favour by Queen Elizabeth I and her Court. This talk, along with others Adrian Bertoluzzi has given on Ficino and Plato and the Italian rulers, shows how the revival and study of Plato by Renaissance scholars shaped the culture and politics of the age. Through extending the Friday evening programme into this wider study of the classical understanding of society and natural law we

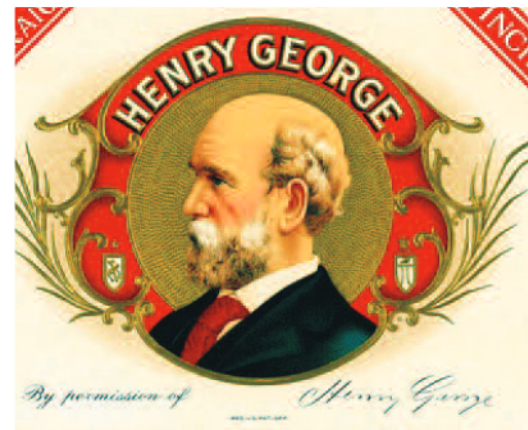


Elizabeth 1st encouraged the study of classical literature

gain a deeper insight into principles of justice Henry George sought to articulate in his economics.

The complete works of Henry George

Although most of George's works are presently available, there has never been a scholarly edition of the complete works. This is to be remedied by the publishers Pickering & Chatto who will be publish-



Henry George image used on a Cigar box of the period

ing a six volume edition of George's works, under the general editorship of Kenneth C. Wenzer, with introductions and annotations to each work by individual scholars. The project is being funded by the Robert Schalkenbach Foundation and various Georgist organizations throughout the world, including the Henry George Foundation of Great Britain. The aim is to place the life and work of George in historical context and provide a sound basis for future study of his economic and social theory.