***Marmaduke Rawdon (1610-1669), Merchant Antiquary and Family Historian***

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Accounts of historical writing in early modern Britain have generally paid little attention to merchants either as writers of history or as participants in the wider historical culture. Yet, from the turn of the seventeenth century onwards, there is evidence that merchants were increasingly prominent in each of these roles. This paper traces this vein of seventeenth-century mercantile history-writing, documenting its evolution from a tradition of civic history into something empirically richer and more antiquarian, and exploring some of the reasons why merchants turned to historical writing and research at this time. Adopting a ‘bio-bibliographical’, case-study approach, it tells this story by reconstructing the life and works of an unusually prolific merchant antiquary and historian: Marmaduke Rawdon (1610-1669), a wine merchant from Yorkshire and London. Having spent most of his adult life as a factor in the Canary Islands, Rawdon returned to England in 1656, and devoted his final years to historical writing and research, and to what he called his ‘collections’. These ‘collections’ encompassed multiple historical forms and genres, including family history, life-writing, genealogy, antiquarian research into origins, and architectural history. On account of the sheer range of his interests, the paper will argue, Rawdon offers an illuminating case-study in 17th-century mercantile history. As such, he also offers a window onto the world of 17th-century mercantile humanism.