

THE  
OSBORNE  
CASE

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**THE OSBORNE CASE PAPERS  
& OTHER RECORDS OF THE  
AMALGAMATED SOCIETY OF  
RAILWAY SERVANTS**

compiled by  
**Christine Woodland**  
edited by  
**Richard Storey**

Coventry  
1979

*University of Warwick Library Occasional Publications*

- No. 1 THE NATIONAL PROVISION OF PRINTED EPHEMERA  
IN THE SOCIAL SCIENCES, John E. Pemberton, 1971, £1
- No. 2 GUIDE TO THE MODERN RECORDS CENTRE,  
UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK LIBRARY, Richard Storey &  
Janet Druker, 1977, £1.50
- No. 3 THE TAFF VALE CASE : A GUIDE TO THE ASRS RECORDS,  
Christine Woodland & Richard Storey, 1978, 40p

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## CONTENTS

	<i>Page</i>
Introduction	5
References and list of illustrations	8
List of the Osborne Case Papers	10
List of the ASRS Reports and Proceedings series	19
List of items related to Reports and Proceedings	36
Railwaymen's Parliamentary Representation Association	42
List of Branch Balance Sheets	42
List of Cuttings series	43
Appendix 1: a note on other deposited records of the National Union of Railwaymen	46
Appendix 2: notes on the Centre for users	47

1	THE NATIONAL PROVISION OF PRINTED LIBRARIES IN THE SOCIAL SCIENCES
2	GUIDE TO THE MODERN RECORDS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK
3	THE EAST OF ENGLAND REPRESENTATIVE ASSOCIATION
4	THE EAST OF ENGLAND REPRESENTATIVE ASSOCIATION
5	THE EAST OF ENGLAND REPRESENTATIVE ASSOCIATION
6	THE EAST OF ENGLAND REPRESENTATIVE ASSOCIATION
7	THE EAST OF ENGLAND REPRESENTATIVE ASSOCIATION
8	THE EAST OF ENGLAND REPRESENTATIVE ASSOCIATION
9	THE EAST OF ENGLAND REPRESENTATIVE ASSOCIATION
10	THE EAST OF ENGLAND REPRESENTATIVE ASSOCIATION

## INTRODUCTION

Contemporaries saw the Osborne judgment of 1909 as a serious threat to the financial position of the Labour Party: not only would the Party have no funds from which it could pay salaries to successful parliamentary candidates, but also it would have no funds to support candidates' campaigns. George Barnes M.P. commented

“Payment of members is all very well when you get there, but you have to get there first, and to get there a very considerable sum of money has to be paid in the way of entrance fee.” (Commons' debates, 18 November 1910, cited in Bagwell, *op.cit.*, p.256).

Their fears were reasonable, though not, in the end, justified: subscriptions to the parliamentary fund in 1910-11 fell by only £2,903, and with the payment of M.P. s authorised by a financial resolution in the Commons on 10 August 1911, demands on the fund were considerably reduced (Clegg, Fox, and Thompson, *op.cit.*, p. 419). But this must be compared with a loss of at least £20,000 in the years 1910-15 from trade union funds, an estimated loss which does not take into account the 70% increase in trade union membership in that period (McKibbin, *loc.cit.*).

The judgment was the outcome of a slowly simmering dispute in the trade union movement as to whether the establishment of a separate Labour Party with socialist leanings was a wise move. The dispute was epitomised in the Amalgamated Society of Railway Servants (ASRS) and its General Secretary, Richard Bell. Bell was elected as Labour Representation Committee (LRC) M.P. for Derby in 1900; his expenses and a salary of £200 p.a. were paid by the ASRS. Bell, however, refused to accept the LRC constitution as adopted by the Newcastle Conference of 1903. His intransigence became more obvious after the General Election of 1905-6, when 29 LRC M.P. s were returned, including two (Walter Hudson and George Wardle) who were fellow members of the ASRS. While Bell remained unmoved, his union was shifting closer to full support of the LRC. In 1903 the ASRS adopted a new set of rules which included the provisions that the union would not adopt a parliamentary candidate who was not endorsed by the LRC and the local Trades Council, and that subscriptions to the union's parliamentary fund would be obligatory. It was this which aroused the protests of Walter V. Osborne, Secretary of the Walthamstow branch, and ultimately led to the end of Bell's political career.

Having failed to persuade the Society to change its rules from within, Osborne resorted to the law in 1907. His application to Mr. Justice Neville for a writ declaring the new rules invalid was rejected (21 July 1908), but Osborne appealed and his appeal was upheld by the Court of Appeal (28 November 1908) and the House of Lords (21 December 1909). The law lords held that the Trade Union Acts of 1871 and 1876 (34-5 Vic., c.31, 39-40 Vic., c.22) defined the objects which trade unions might pursue; trade unions might not pursue anything not mentioned there. Furthermore, the law lords strongly opposed the pledge imposed on Labour

Party M.P. s and parliamentary candidates by the Party's constitution : to abide by the decisions of the Parliamentary Party in carrying out the aims of the constitution; to appear before their constituencies under the title of Labour candidates only; to abstain strictly from identifying themselves with or promoting the interests of any party not eligible for affiliation; and not to oppose any candidate recognised by the Executive Council (EC) of the Party. Lord Shaw of Dunfermline called this "... an unconstitutional and unwarrantable interference with the rights of the constituencies ...." (judgment, 21 December 1909, MSS.127/AS/OC/7/LE/3/1, p.182).

Osborne spent the next eighteen months trying to impose his interpretation of this judgment on the ASRS by resolutions to the Society's EC and general meetings. The EC finally decided that the "'continuance of his vexatious interference' . . . was obviously intended to 'injure and break up the effective progress'" of the society; they expelled Osborne and dissolved the Walthamstow branch, which had continued to support its Secretary (Bagwell, *op.cit.*, p.254). In reply, Osborne sought a second writ against the Society. His first trial, before Mr. Justice Warrington (30 November 1910), was unsuccessful but his appeal was not (25 February 1911; *The Times Law Report*, xxvii, 289). The ASRS was preparing a second appeal to the House of Lords when Osborne agreed to settle out of court and the affair was finally wound up in October 1911. It is not clear why Osborne agreed to settle and these papers cast no light on the matter. It is not even clear whether Osborne was expelled from the Society ( *see* Alcock, *loc.cit.* ).

The immediate result of the first Osborne case was the loss of income from the parliamentary levies to the Labour Party. As the judgment was followed shortly by two general elections, it could have been particularly disastrous (*cf.* McKibbin, *loc.cit.*). Nevertheless, the Liberal government's need for Labour support was sufficient to compel it to introduce the payment of salaries of £400 p.a. to M.P. s in 1911. This was followed by the Trade Union Act of 1913 (2-3 Geo. V,c.30), which reversed Lord Halsbury's judgment in the Osborne case and permitted trade unions to engage in purposes not mentioned in the 1876 act. It also permitted the collection of a parliamentary fund, with the proviso that subscriptions to it had to be voluntary (trade union members could opt out) and before it could be levied a favourable ballot of members had to be obtained. Most major unions soon had obtained the assent of their members but it is interesting to note the strength of the opposition: in the National Union of Railwaymen's ballot 102,270 members voted for the levy, but 34,953 were against it, and in the National Union of Miners' ballot 261,643 were for, and 194,800 against (Clegg, Fox and Thompson, *op.cit.*, p.418n).

The records of the National Union of Railwaymen deposited in the M.R.C. include 1.5 metres reflecting the ASRS's part in these events. Both in printed

versions submitted to the courts, and in the manuscript originals, there is extensive correspondence between the Society's Head Office and Osborne, and also with ASRS branches, which shows the development of the case. The archive group's importance is increased by the fact that Osborne destroyed his own papers from the case (Osborne - J.E. Williams, 30 October 1911, MSS.127/AS/OC/3/13/206).

The Committees responsible for the Centre are happy to take this opportunity to thank the National Union of Railwaymen, both for the continuing deposit of records and for agreeing to the publication of this booklet.

The financial assistance of the British Library Board and an anonymous donor in the preparation of this list and the previous publication, *The Taff Vale Case*, is gratefully acknowledged.

## ILLUSTRATIONS

## REFERENCES

Philip S. Bagwell, *The railwaymen. The history of the National Union of Railwaymen* (London, 1963), especially pp. 242-57.

Henry Pelling, *A history of British trade unionism* (London, 2nd edn., 1971), pp. 123-48.

Frank Bealey and Henry Pelling, *Labour and politics 1900-1906. A history of the Labour Representation Committee* (London, 1958), pp. 134-42, and 186-97.

William B. Glyn, *Democracy and the cost of politics* (London, 1962), pp. 178-205.

H.A. Clegg, Alan Fox, and A.F. Thompson, *A history of British trade unions since 1889. vol.I 1889-1910* (Oxford, 1964), pp. 413-22.

Ross McKibbin, *The evolution of the Labour Party 1910-1924* (London, 1974), pp. 20-1, and *The evolution of a national party: Labour's political organisation 1910-1924*, Oxford D.Phil. thesis 1970, pp. 34-54.

R.Y. Hedges and Allan Winterbottom, *The legal history of trade unionism* (London, 1930), pp. 93-110.

G.W. Alcock, *Fifty years of railway trade unionism* (London, 1922), pp. 342-3.

W.V. Osborne, *My case. The causes and effects of the Osborne judgment* (London, 1910).

ASRS, *Reports and Proceedings . . .*, 1907-11, MSS.127/AS/1/1/37-41.

The Labour Party Archives include relevant correspondence with and re Richard Bell, for example, LRC.13/10-12, 31-43, 14/3-4, 239-40, 15/7; LP/CAN/06/1/307-30 (Harvester Press, *Archives of British Labour Party* microform series).

## ILLUSTRATIONS

*Between pp. 24 & 25*

One example of the many letters from ASRS branches to Head Office demanding the expulsion of Osborne from the union (MSS.127/AS/OC/3/13/21).

Letter from Osborne to Head Office about the disposal of Walthamstow ASRS branch records, also asking if the General Secretary wished to look over Osborne's papers concerning the case, 30 October 1910 (MSS.127/AS/OC/3/13/206).

Part of a page from the transcript of the debate at the annual general meeting of the Railwaymen's Parliamentary Representation Association at Carlisle, 4 October 1911 (MSS.127/AS/6/2/1). J.H. Thomas M.P. was defending himself from an attack on his continuing as ASRS Assistant General Secretary while drawing a salary as M.P., and thus drawing two salaries.

Part of a page from the first volume of branch balance sheets, 1875 (MSS.127/AS/

2/1/1). The balance sheet is for Bow branch; it gives a register of members since the branch was formed in 1872, with information on their ages and types of employment.

## THE OSBORNE CASE

### Minutes

#### MSS.127/AS/OC/1/1/1

ASRS, Walthamstow branch, MS minute book, 30 September 1897-12 January 1905. Returned to Head Office after the dissolution of the Walthamstow branch in October 1910; *cf* decision no.31, "General Secretary's report to and decisions of Executive Committee", 5-10 December 1910, *Reports and Proceedings . . . 1910*, MSS.127/AS/1/1/40, and below MSS.127/AS/OC/3/13/206.

### Correspondence

#### MSS.127/AS/OC/3/1/1-78

Correspondence between Head Office and Messrs. Pattinson & Brewer, ASRS's solicitors, concerning the case, June 1905-June 1908. The early correspondence was prompted by the Walthamstow branch's questioning the legality of the parliamentary levy (*see* MSS.127/AS/OC/7/LE/1/1 below). Includes TS. copy of instructions to Counsel to settle defence, 22 November 1907 (/15); and discussion of suitable barristers, 29-30 June 1908 (/77-8).

[MSS.127/AS/OC/3/1-3 were originally one large bundle]

#### MSS.127/AS/OC/3/2/1-51

Correspondence as above, July-December 1908. Includes long discussion of Court of Appeal's judgment and its consequences, 28-30 November 1908 (/28-9); and discussion on whether proceedings could be taken against Osborne for conspiracy, 14 & 19 December 1908 (/37, 43-4).

#### MSS.127/AS/OC/3/3/1-82

Correspondence as above, February 1909-May 1911. Includes discussion of appointment of an ASRS Parliamentary Secretary, and payment of salary to Walter Hudson, M.P., 9 December 1909 (/24-8); Counsel's opinion (Edmond Browne, K.C.) on ASRS's involvement in the organisation of the Railwaymen's Parliamentary Representation Fund, 12 February 1910 (/50); printed statement of claim for Osborne's second writ against ASRS concerning his proposed expulsion from ASRS and the dissolution of the Walthamstow branch, 22 July 1910 (/65); TS. transcript of proceedings before Mr. Justice Parker in the High Court, Chancery Division, 29 July 1910 (/66); printed "Amended Defence of the Defendant Society", 15 May 1911 (/82). The correspondence does not cover the agreement to end litigation between ASRS and Osborne, October 1911 (*cf* Bagwell, *op. cit.*, p.255, and

## Correspondence (cont.)

### MSS.127/AS/OC/3/3/1-82 (cont.)

“General Secretary’s report to and decisions of Executive Committee”, 11-16 December 1911, p.44, *Reports and Proceedings . . . 1911*, MSS.127/AS/1/1/41). See also MSS.127/AS/OC/3/13 below, for further correspondence.

### MSS.127/AS/OC/3/4/1-132

File on Osborne case of Edward Charles, member of Quaker’s Yard branch, Cardiff, ASRS President in 1910, and EC member 1908-9. The file principally refers to the drawing-up of Charles’s “Proof” or statement for the second case in the High Court, Chancery Division [see MSS.127/AS/OC/7/EE/7-10 below]. It includes correspondence with Messrs. Pattinson & Brewer, re the drafting of the proof, October - November 1910 (/1-17); summons to Charles to appear in court, 23 November 1910 (/16); draft proof, heavily annotated and amended, describing the EC’s attitude and actions concerning the expulsion of Osborne, the payment and employment of Hudson, and the action by George Addison [Walthamstow member] concerning the repayment of money in the parliamentary fund, 1908-10 (/18); stencilled copies of correspondence referred to in “proof” above, October 1905-September 1910: including letters from Osborne to R.Bell, 12 October 1905, to the *Express*, September 1906, January and February 1909, March, June and September 1910, to unknown recipient, August 1908, concerning the Trade Union Defence League; letters from branches, and correspondence between Messrs. Pattinson and Brewer and Charles T. Wilkinson, solicitor for Osborne (/19-111); notes by Pattinson and Brewer on the correspondence and events, prepared to help EC members answer questions arising from the “proofs” (/112); notes of chronological order of events, 1908-10, compiled by Charles (/113); TS. copy of W.V. Osborne, *Trade union funds and party politics. A statement of the case*, J.C. Phelps & Son, Walthamstow, 1910 (referred to in Charles’s “proof” as evidence of Osborne’s breach of ASRS’s rules and therefore providing grounds for his expulsion) (/114); printed copies of reports to and decisions of EC concerning *Osborne v. ASRS and others*, September 1908-September 1910 [cut out of EC minutes and pasted onto sheets of paper] (/115); printed report of General Secretary to EC concerning House of Lords’ decision and its effects, March 1910 (/116); printed copy of House of Lords’ judgment on *Osborne v. ASRS and others* 21 December 1909 (/117); letter, R. Bell - Charles, re special conference of trade unions at Newport, with opinion of A.F. Peterson, K.C., on ASRS’s payment of delegates’ expenses, 19 January 1910 (/118); stencilled and printed circulars re disposal of parliamentary fund, 13 December 1909 and 10 May 1910 (/119-21); letters to Charles from South Wales branches re effect of Osborne case, etc., on membership [in reply to enquiries from Charles asking for specific information to substantiate sections of his “proof”], November 1910 (/122-5); TS. copies of

## Correspondence (cont.)

### MSS.127/AS/OC/3/4/1-132 (cont.)

opinions: H.E. Duke [1st Baron Merrivale, 1855-1939] and Edmond Browne [later Sir Edmond Browne, 1857-1923] on ASRS's employment of Walter Hudson, [December 1909] (/126); Sir Edward Clarke [1841-1931] and R.T. Reid [Earl Loreburn, 1846-1923] on the validity of ASRS's rules compelling contributions to the parliamentary fund, 31 May 1905 (/127); A.F. Peterson [later Sir Arthur Peterson, 1859-1922] on payment of costs of *Osborne v. ASRS and others* out of general administration and legal defence fund [contested by Osborne], 27 April 1910 (/128); printed Plaintiff's [Osborne] "Statement of Claim" in High Court, Chancery Division, *Osborne v. ASRS and others* [second case], 22 October 1910 (/129); printed Defendant's "Defence" in same, 14 November 1910 (/130); printed transcript of proceedings in same, 29-30 November 1910 (/131-2).

### MSS.127/AS/OC/3/5/1-13

Correspondence arranging EC meeting, December 1909. Also includes printed report of General Secretary to and decisions of special EC meeting, 1-2 January 1910 (/8); correspondence concerning national conference of the Joint Board of the Parliamentary Committee of the Trades Union Congress (TUC), the General Federation of Trade Unions (GFTU), and the Labour Party (henceforth, the Joint Board), September 1910 (/11-12).

### MSS.127/AS/OC/3/6/1-83

Head Office correspondence with EC and the Joint Board arranging a special conference on the Osborne case to be held in Newport, 8 February 1910 (/1-55) and on financial support to ASRS for costs in this case, June-September 1910 (/62-83). Also includes General Secretary's printed report to EC, 7 February 1910 (/39); preliminary agenda for special conference (/40); letters from branches re J.H. Thomas's parliamentary candidature (/56-60); letter from Messrs. Pattinson & Brewer re costs incurred in Osborne case, 1 July 1910 (/65); printed minutes of sub-committee of Joint Board and of Joint Board itself, 20-1 July and 22 August 1910 (/75,80); Joint Board printed circular convening special conference on Osborne case, November 1910 (/82). Some of the carbon copies of "out" letters are on the reverse of copied correspondence concerning J.H. Thomas's parliamentary candidature and the resulting changes in his work for ASRS, December 1909 (/43-5v, 47-8v), and on the reverse of R. Bell's farewell to the Society, 18 February 1910 (/57v).

## Correspondence (cont.)

### **MSS.127/AS/OC/3/7/1-35**

Original file of correspondence between Head Office and branches concerning latters' protest against the Court of Appeal's decision, November 1908-January 1909.

### **MSS.127/AS/OC/3/8/1-128**

Original file of correspondence between Head Office and branches concerning disposal of money collected for the Parliamentary Fund, following the Court of Appeal's decision, November 1908-May 1909, January 1910. Also includes printed handbill re proposed Railwaymen's Labour Representation Association in Gloucester (/120).

### **MSS.127/AS/OC/3/9/1-120**

Original file of correspondence between Head Office and branches concerning administration of refunding payments or transferring them to the Railwaymen's Voluntary Parliamentary Representation Association, January, May-October 1910. Also includes invitation from South Wales Miners' Federation to attend a meeting of trade unions and Labour organisations in the East Glamorgan Parliamentary Division to choose a Labour candidate, 7 May 1910 (/2).

### **MSS.127/AS/OC/3/10/1-120**

Mainly letters from branches to Head Office, with a few carbon copy replies and shorthand notes by Head Office, expressing their opinion on whether ASRS-sponsored M.P. s should sign the constitution of the Labour Party, September - October 1906. They show substantial support for R. Bell and, indeed, for the stand taken by Osborne.

This is an original bundle: 'This is the bundle of Documents marked "A" referred to in the Affidavit of the Defendants as to Documents herein'. It is not clear whether this bundle was collected for the first or second writ taken out by Osborne, but the existence of a second, different bundle marked "A", which relates to the second writ, would seem to indicate that this bundle relates to the first. It is not the 'rather formidable book which is bound in white, and which is described as "Minutes, Decisions, Correspondence, etc. . . ."' (printed transcript of proceedings, 20 July 1908): that book is bound after the Court of Appeal's proceedings in MSS.127/AS/OC/7/LE/2/1; some of the original correspondence is in MSS.127/AS/OC/3/12 below. The papers have been arranged in chronological order. They are numbered but were not found in numerical order; the significance of the numbering has not been established.

## Correspondence (cont.)

### **MSS.127/AS/OC/3/10/121-232**

Correspondence as above, November 1906-January 1907. Second half of an original, large bundle.

### **MSS.127/AS/OC/3/11/1-16**

Miscellaneous correspondence between Head Office and branches concerning the nomination of a parliamentary candidate for Derbyshire (Ilkeston), June 1906 (/2-6), a proposed concordat with the TUC and the Labour Party for a united Labour Party in the House of Commons, June 1906 (/7-9), and the proposed increase in contributions to the Parliamentary Fund, December 1906 (/10-14). Each group has a Head Office filing cover with note of EC meeting or Annual General Meeting to which the resolution was referred. Also includes printed circular from the Labour Party on the need for increased contributions, 7 August 1906 (/15); and printed circular from Trade Unionists Defence League asking about arrangements for voluntary contributions to the Independent Labour Party following the Osborne decision, 14 October 1910 (/16).

'The bundle of documents marked C referred to in Defendants Affidavit of Documents'. As with bundle "A" above, it is not clear to which writ this bundle refers.

### **MSS.127/AS/OC/3/12/1-40**

Miscellaneous correspondence, March 1905-December 1910. Includes some originals of correspondence printed for the first case, April 1906-April 1907 (documents numbered 68-77, 79-81, 89, 90, 103, 105, in "Minutes, Decisions, Correspondence, etc." pp. 246-84, MSS.127/AS/OC/7/LE/2/1): concerning alterations to ASRS's rules requiring its parliamentary candidates to be members of the Labour Party (/1-18); printed election handbill of Walthamstow Labour League [Osborne was chairman] for district council elections, 1905 (/19); fragments of "... bundle of documents marked B...": Head Office circulars to branches and members re transfer of money in Parliamentary Fund to Railwaymen's Voluntary Parliamentary Representation Association, 10 May 1910 (/26-8); and miscellaneous correspondence re alteration of rules, August-November 1906 (/29-35).

### **MSS.127/AS/OC/3/13/1-228**

'The bundle of 234 Documents marked "A" referred to in the Defendants Affidavit of Documents herein', for the second writ, arranged in chronological order. Some originals of correspondence, etc., printed in "Minutes, Decisions, Correspondence, etc." for the first writ, March 1905-December 1906; there are some deletions in the printed version (see MSS.127/AS/OC/7/LE/2/1 below).

## Correspondence (cont.)

### MSS.127/AS/OC/3/13/1-228 (cont.)

Additional correspondence is interspersed and includes many letters from Osborne to Richard Bell and his successor as General Secretary, J.E. Williams, October 1906 - October 1910, particularly concerning the closure of the Walthamstow branch and the expulsion of Osborne and Addison, July-November 1910, and also including Osborne's letter concerning the destruction of his papers relating to the case, 30 October 1910 (/206).

There are also letters from Charles T. Wilkinson, Osborne's solicitor, including his letter beginning the first action, 10 October 1907, and his letter protesting that the appointment of W. Hudson as a special advisor was an evasion of the Lords' decision, 3 November 1909 (/66).

The bundle also includes the miscellaneous groups and items described below. Letters from branches expressing opposition to Osborne and asking for his expulsion, January 1908-September 1910.

Correspondence (/57-9) concerning the Stratford branch's illegal voting methods, which affected Walthamstow branch members (*cf* EC minutes, March 1909, pp. 115-16, June 1909, pp.100-6, and September 1909, p.117; all in MSS.127/AS/1/1/38), and (/61-71) re Walter Hudson's duties as ASRS General Organiser (*cf* EC-minutes, December 1909, pp. 27-37, and January 1910, pp. 2-3, MSS.127/AS/1/1/39-40). Printed circular letter of the Trade Union Political Freedom League, n.d. (/129v.). Printed pamphlet by Osborne, *Trade union funds and party politics. A statement of the case*, Walthamstow, 1910 (/188).

Printed report and statement of accounts of Osborne's appeal fund, 7 April 1910 (/189).

Trade Union Political Freedom League membership card (/190); duplicated letter to the press from the League re its aims, n.d. (/191); printed circular letters from the League appealing for members, n.d. (/192).

ASRS accounts of payments towards parliamentary expenditure, January-April 1908, and 1903-7(/213-16).

Press-cuttings of articles by Osborne in the *Daily Mail*, 4 October 1910, and in *Answers*, 22 October 1910, and of reports of the case and related letters to the editor (/217-28).

## ASRS publications

### MSS.127/AS/OC/4/1/1

ASRS pamphlet, "*Osborne v. The A.S.R.S.*" [1908, 109 pp.]. Includes précis of High Court proceedings and judgment, 21-2 [*sic*] July 1908; transcript of proceedings before Court of Appeal, 12, 13 and 16 November 1908, and judgment, 28 November 1908; and questions submitted to Counsel and Counsel's (A.F.

## ASRS publications (cont.)

### MSS.127/AS/OC/4/1/1 (cont.)

Peterson) opinion concerning the effects of the Court of Appeal's judgment on the Society's activities, 4 December 1908. *See also* General Secretary's report to and decisions of Executive Committee, 7-13 December 1908, pp. 30-55 (MSS.127/AS/1/1/37).

## Legal papers

### MSS.127/AS/OC/7/LE/1/1

TS. case for Counsel's opinion re the legality of enforcing the collection of one shilling per annum to finance the union's parliamentary representation and other political activities, June 1905. Submitted to Sir R.T. Reid and Sir Edward Clarke. (*See* MSS.127/AS/OC/3/4/127 above, for their opinions.) Their opinions were sought when the Walthamstow branch first raised the possibility of resorting to the law to question the legality of the levy (Bagwell, *op. cit.*, pp. 244-5).

### MSS.127/AS/OC/7/LE/2-6

Papers concerning the first writ brought against ASRS by Osborne, 1907-9. He lost the first trial in the High Court, but the Court of Appeal reversed that judgment and was upheld by the House of Lords. Osborne claimed that the High Court was bound by the decision of a similar case, *Steele v. South Wales Miners*, [1907] 1 KB 361, so that the first trial was a formality (Osborne, *op.cit.*, p.28). No transcript of the Court of Appeal's proceedings and judgment has survived with these papers, but a copy was published by the Society: *see* MSS.127/AS/OC/4/1/1 above.

### MSS.127/AS/OC/7/LE/2/1

Volume of printed papers related to Osborne's first writ against the Society, 1907-8. Includes writ of summons, 14 October 1907; plaintiff's statement of claim, 7 November 1907; defendant's defence, 5 December 1907; plaintiff's reply, 18 December 1907; writ summoning Bell to appear before the High Court with specified documents, 7 July 1908; transcript of proceedings, 20-1 July 1908; judgment of Mr. Justice Neville in ASRS's favour, 21 July 1908; 'Minutes, Decisions, Correspondence, etc.': copies of related documents, mainly arranged in chronological order, 1892 - December 1907.

### MSS.127/AS/OC/7/LE/3/1

Volume of printed papers. Includes transcript of proceedings in High Court, and Mr. Justice Neville's judgment, 20-1 July 1908; ASRS's pamphlet, "*Osborne*

## Legal papers (cont.)

### **MSS.127/AS/OC/7/LE/3/1 (cont.)**

v. *The ASRS*" (see MSS.127/AS/OC/4/1/1 above); transcript of proceedings before the House of Lords, 22-3 and 28 July, and 16 December 1909; House of Lords' judgment, 21 December 1909.

### **MSS.127/AS/OC/7/LE/4/1**

Volume of printed papers presented to the House of Lords on ASRS's appeal. Includes petition of appeal, n.d.; appellant's (ASRS's) case, n.d.; respondent's [Osborne's] case, n.d.; appendix: copies of related documents, partly a copy of the "Minutes, Decisions, Correspondence etc." referred to above (MSS.127/AS/OC/7/LE/2/1) with some later additions, 1894-1908; respondent's Additional Documents, 1905-8.

### **MSS.127/AS/OC/7/LE/5/1**

Volume of transcripts of proceedings before the House of Lords, 22-3 and 28 July and 16 December 1909, and Lords' judgment, 21 December 1909.

### **MSS.127/AS/OC/7/LE/6/1**

Printed copies of House of Lords' judgment, 21 December 1909.

### **MSS.127/AS/OC/7/LE/7-10**

Papers concerning Osborne's second writ against the Society, 1910-11. As before he lost the first trial but won the second. ASRS were preparing an appeal to the Lords when Osborne offered to end litigation in return for £650.

### **MSS.127/AS/OC/7/LE/7/1**

Printed amended defence of ASRS, 14 November 1910, amended 15 May 1911, for the trial before Mr. Justice Warrington in the High Court, Chancery Division. See MSS.127/AS/OC/3/4/129-30 above, for plaintiff's statement of claim and original defence of defendants.

### **MSS.127/AS/OC/7/LE/8**

Printed transcript of proceedings before Mr. Justice Warrington in the High Court, Chancery Division, and judgment, 30 November 1910. See MSS.127/AS/OC/3/4/131-2 above for transcript of proceedings on 29 November 1910.

### **MSS.127/AS/OC/7/LE/9**

Printed transcript of proceedings before Court of Appeal, 7 February 1911.

Legal papers (cont.)

MSS.127/AS/OC/7/LE/10

Printed transcript of proceedings before Court of Appeal, 8 February 1911.

## ASRS ADMINISTRATION

### ASRS Reports & Proceedings

#### **MSS.127/AS/1/1/1-47 1875-1913**

The "Reports and Proceedings" series compiled by the ASRS is crucial for any study of the union. It comprises a wide variety of reports and proceedings bound together in annual volumes. For the later years of the union these volumes are three inches thick. As will be seen from MSS.127/AS/1/3/1-4 below, the manuscript records of the union's executive committee only cover the years 1896-1900, 1902-5, and 1911-13. The "Reports and Proceedings" series contains printed reports of the executive committee's proceedings from 1876 to 1913. Moreover the printed version includes the General Secretary's reports to the committee, which the manuscript version does not. In addition the volumes contain a large collection of the ephemeral leaflets and other pamphlets which the union produced, many of which have not survived elsewhere.

The year of the document is the same as the year of the volume unless otherwise stated. Items are listed in the order in which they occur in the volumes.

#### **MSS.127/AS/1/1/1**

1875. Report and Financial Statement for 1875 (30 June 1876).

#### **MSS.127/AS/1/1/2**

1876. Includes report of Annual General Meeting (AGM) of ASRS for Scotland, annotated, with TS. notes on the failure to amalgamate with the English ASRS, 28 August; ASRS report for 1876, with General Office accounts, auditors' reports, accounts for district management funds, branch accounts and balance sheets, 6 July 1877; "The Railwayman's Catechism" (1875); reports of Executive Council (E. Council) meetings, 25-9 January, and 25-9 July; MS. extract from minutes. *See* MSS.127/AS/6/1/1 below for earlier Executive Committee resolutions, July 1874-July 1875.

#### **MSS.127/AS/1/1/3**

1877. Includes E. Council standing orders; extract from General Secretary's half-yearly report; minutes of E. Council meetings, 30 January-3 February, and 24-8 July; printed proceedings of special meeting of Governors of Derby Railway Servants' Orphanage, 14 May; agenda and proposed amendments to rules, 1 October; standing orders for AGM, n.d.; list of delegates present and resolutions passed at Great Delegate Meeting, 1-6 October 1877; report and financial statements for 1877 [as above, MSS.127/AS/1/1/2]; circular, "Shall a delegate meeting be held in 1877?"; September 1876; MS. return of voting by St. Helens branch on holding a delegate meeting, 21 November 1876.

## ASRS Reports & Proceedings (cont.)

### MSS.127/AS/1/1/4

1878. Includes E. Council minutes, 30 January - 2 February; circular, "Instructions to Branch Secretaries and other officers" [re implementation of new rules]; minutes of Executive Committee (EC) and financial statements, 2-4 April [first quarterly meeting of EC, which succeeded E. Council], and 10-13 July; General Secretary's report to AGM; General Secretary's report to AGM, 1879; agenda for AGM, [annotated]; list of delegates present and resolutions passed at AGM, 1-5 October; list of delegates present and resolutions passed at AGM, 7-10 October 1879; report and financial statements for 1878 (July 1879); "Appeal . . . to Parliament and the public in support of the recommendations contained in the report of the Royal Commission on Railway Accidents, especially that relating to compensation to servants for injuries" (2nd edition).

### MSS.127/AS/1/1/5

1879. Includes EC minutes, 29 January - 1 February, 30 April - 3 May, 30 July - 2 August, and 4-7 February 1880; "The financial position of the society" [1879-80]; agenda for AGM, 7 October [annotated]; circular, "The proposed future policy of the society, with draft rules of a protection fund"; rules, Camden branch, Widows and Orphans' Fund.

### MSS.127/AS/1/1/6

1880. Includes EC minutes, 4-7 February [annotated], 5-8 May, 21-4 July, 31 December - 1 January 1881 [special meeting]. and 16-19 February 1881; General Secretary's report to AGM, 5 October; agenda for AGM [rules' changes]; agenda for AGM; alterations to rules and new rules adopted, 1879 AGM; decisions of AGM, 5 October; report and financial statements for 1880 (September 1881); MS. letters, Fred. W. Evans [ASRS General Secretary] - J. Abbott of Wigston [Abbott was a delegate at the original Great Delegate Meeting of 1872. See MSS.127/AS/6/1/1] - re essay competition, 22 June, and re ASRS affairs, 1 October; circular, "The Employers' Liability Act", 8 September 1880; actuarial report, 29 September.

### MSS.127/AS/1/1/7

1881. Includes minutes of EC meetings, 4-7 May [in MS.], 27-30 July [in MS.]; General Secretary's report to AGM, 4 October; decisions of AGM, 4-7 October; minutes of conference on hours, 6 October; amalgamation of the Railway Servants' Orphanage and the Railway Benevolent Institution; report and financial statements for 1881 (July 1882) [includes MS. explanation of balance sheets 1881-2, and MS. comparison of income and expenditure of General Office funds with cash balance]; circular, "Appeal" re nine hours programme, 31 October.

## ASRS Reports & Proceedings (cont.)

### MSS.127/AS/1/1/8

1882. Includes EC minutes, 8-11 February, 10-13 May [including MS. note by General Secretary on cash balances], and 19-23 July; General Secretary's report to AGM, 3 October [MS.annotation by "J.A.", prob. John Abbott of Wigston]; decisions of the AGM, 3-6 October; report and financial statements for 1882 (June 1883) [annotated].

### MSS.127/AS/1/1/9

1883. Includes EC minutes, 7-11 February, 2-5 May, and 11-14 July; General Secretary's report to AGM, 2 October; decisions of AGM, 2-5 October; report and financial statements for 1883 (June 1884).

### MSS.127/AS/1/1/10

1884. Includes EC minutes, 13-16 February, 7-10 May, and 16-19 July; proposed amendments to rules to be submitted to AGM; supplementary agenda for AGM; General Secretary's report to AGM, 7 October; decisions of AGM, 7-10 October; "Return of the hours of duty and rates of wages paid to railway servants on the principal lines in Great Britain", May; report and financial statements for 1884 (April 1885).

### MSS.127/AS/1/1/11

1885. Includes EC minutes, 11-14 February, 12-15 May, 21-4 July; "Remarks on the financial statements published since 1881"; printed letter to be submitted to parliamentary candidates, 1885; circular asking for branches' opinions on labour representation in Parliament, 25 February; Thomas Sutherst, "Long hours and overwork on railways: an address delivered before the Railway Servants' Congress at Leicester . . . 7th October . . ." (London, 1885); circular, "Direct Parliamentary Representation", re ASRS's support of T. Sutherst's parliamentary candidature for Liverpool (West Toxteth) Division, 21 October; General Secretary's report to AGM, 6 October; proposed amendments to rules [annotated]; supplementary agenda for AGM [annotated]; decisions of AGM, 6-9 October; report and financial statements for 1885 (May 1886); Trades' Union Congress, Parliamentary Committee, "Address to the officers of trade societies and Trades Councils" (Manchester, 1885), re work of Parliamentary Committee.

### MSS.127/AS/1/1/12

1886. Includes EC minutes, 9-13 February, 11-14 May, and 20-3 July; proposed amendments to rules [annotated]; General Secretary's report to AGM, 5 October; decisions of AGM, 5-8 October; report and financial statement for 1886 (March 1887).

## ASRS Reports & Proceedings (cont.)

### MSS.127/1/1/13

1887. Includes report and financial statements for 1887 (March 1888); EC minutes, 16-19 February, 24-7 May, and 12-15 July; minutes of special EC meeting re Midland Railway strike, 30-1 August; minutes of special EC meeting re drain on funds during that strike, 18 September; General Secretary's report to AGM, 4 October; proposed amendments to rules; supplementary agenda for AGM; decisions of AGM, 4-7 October.

### MSS.127/AS/1/1/14

1888. Includes EC minutes, 14-18 February, 15-19 May, and 24-8 July; circular re auditing of accounts, 3 September; proposed amendments to rules; General Secretary's report to AGM, 2 October; decisions of AGM, 2-5 October; report and financial statements for 1888 (March 1889).

### MSS.127/AS/1/1/15

1888-1898. Includes report of conference between representatives of ASRS of England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales, and ASRS for Scotland, re amalgamation or working agreement, 20-1 July; "Return of the hours of duty and rates of wages paid to railway servants . . . May, 1884, and May 1891" (London, 1892); *The Midland Railway Strike 1887. A short history . . .* (London, 1887); *Hours' Movement. Report of the interview between the representatives of the North-Eastern Railway Servants and the directors of the company at Newcastle-on-Tyne, October 17th, 1889* (Darlington, printer William Stairmand, 1889); *Report of meeting between officers [of North-Eastern Railway] and men . . .*, 9 November 1889; *Free Labour Frauds. A study in dishonesty*, reprinted from *The Critic* (London, 1898) re National Free Labour Association.

### MSS.127/AS/1/1/16

1889. Includes General Secretary's report to and minutes of EC meetings, 12-15 February, 14-17 May [annotated], and 23-7 July [annotated]; General Secretary's report to AGM, 1 October; MS. letter, W. Foreman [later ASRS Secretary in Ireland; d. 1892-3] - J. Abbott of Wigston, re allegations against Co-operative Printing Company, 24 September; supplementary agenda for AGM [annotated by Foreman and Abbott]; handbill, "Demonstration in Hyde Park", re hours movement, 15 December; standing orders for AGM; amendments to rules; proposed amendments to rules; supplementary agenda; decisions of AGM, 1-4 October [annotated]; "The Railwayman's Catechism" (new version); William Foreman, *Working men and politics* (London, 1889), signed with author's compliments; signalmen's hours and wages movement, manifesto, 1889; MS. copy of balance sheet, summary of mem-

## ASRS Reports & Proceedings (cont.)

### MSS.127/AS/1/1/16 (cont.)

bership numbers, rough abstract of payments for donations, names of families struck off orphan fund 1880-9; printed list of weekly allowances paid by orphan fund; report and financial statements for 1889 (June 1890) [annotated]; MS. index to EC minutes and AGM; MS: letter, Harford - T. Watson [organising secretary] re general office hours, 26 July; press-cuttings re AGM; printed report of Orphan Fund, including note about "Help", a dog used to appeal for funds; "Notice to railwaymen" re programme of hours and wages proposed for North-Eastern Railwaymen by ASRS, 11 August. [Possibly J. Abbott's personal copy of *Reports and Proceedings* . . .]

### MSS.127/AS/1/1/17

1890. Includes General Secretary's reports to EC and EC minutes, 25 February - 1 March, 6-10 May, 15-19 July; conference of delegates of Irish branches to consider changes to improve ASRS work in Ireland, 15-16 April; minutes of special EC meeting re suspension of General Secretary, 28-9 August; proposed amendments to rules; supplementary agenda; decisions of AGM, 7-10 October; report and financial statements for 1890 (April 1891). [Walter Hudson's copy of *Reports and Proceedings* . . . ; Hudson (1852-1935) was president of the union 1892-8, and Labour M.P. for Newcastle upon Tyne, 1906-18.]

No volume for 1891. See MSS.127/AS/1/4/1 below, for MS. minutes of EC meetings.

### MSS.127/AS/1/1/18

1892. Includes General Secretary's reports to and minutes of EC meetings, 16-20 February, 17-21 May, and 8-12 August; proposed amendments to rules; supplementary agenda for AGM; standing orders for AGM; General Secretary's report to AGM, 4 October; minutes of AGM, 4-7 October; F.A. Channing, M.P., *Overwork on railways and the remedy. Draft report of the Select Committee on Railway Servants (Hours of Labour)* (London, 1892, 24 pp.); report and financial statements for 1892.

### MSS.127/AS/1/1/19

1893. Includes report and financial statements for 1893; General Secretary's reports to and minutes of EC meetings, 21-5 February, 16-20 May, and 15-19 August; proposed amendment to rules; supplementary agenda for AGM; General Secretary's report to AGM, 3 October; decisions of AGM, 3-6 October.

## ASRS Reports & Proceedings (cont.)

### MSS.127/AS/1/1/20

1894. Includes General Secretary's reports to and minutes of EC meetings, 6-10 March, 5-9 June, 11-15 September, and 11-15 December; circular re 10% levy on branches' balances for protection fund, 25 April; proposed amendments to rules; supplementary agenda for AGM; extra supplementary agenda for AGM; General Secretary's report to AGM, 2 October; standing orders for AGM; decisions of AGM, 2-5 October; circular re petition to railway companies to reduce seven-day working, n.d.; circular re branch balance sheets, December; manifesto to railway signalmen, n.d.; report and financial statement for 1894.

### MSS.127/AS/1/1/21

1895. Includes report and financial statements for 1895 (1896); General Secretary's reports to and minutes of EC meetings, 12-16 March, 11-15 June, 17-21 September, and 3-7 December; report of National Signalmen's Committee to the National Conference of Signalmen, 9 July; circular, "Questions to be submitted to [Parliamentary] candidates", n.d.; proposed amendments to rules; General Secretary's report to AGM, 1 October; supplementary agenda for AGM; decisions of AGM, 1-4 October; "Stiff shackles and standard pattern couplings", report re ASRS circular about couplings and replies received, November; circular re opposition to Free Labour Association's deputation to Board of Trade, 8 November; circular giving details of National Programme, 18 December; circular asking for branches' views on merging different movements into a national movement, 18 December; partial alteration of rules; circular re branch balance sheets; circular re superannuation fund, n.d.

### MSS.127/AS/1/1/22

1896. Includes report and financial statements for 1896; General Secretary's reports to and minutes of EC meetings, 10-14 March, 16-20 June, 15-19 September, and 1-5 December; rules for regulating the conduct of movements for improved conditions of service; proposed amendments to rules; supplementary agenda; General Secretary's report to AGM, 6 October; decisions of AGM, 6-9 October; report on superannuation fund, October; "Signalmen's hours of duty", report of a deputation received by C.T. Ritchie, President, Board of Trade, 14 February; circulars re proposed bill for an eight-hour day and guaranteed week's pay, 1 April; re recognition of district councils, 1 April; re details of members' ages required by superannuation committee, 10 April; re union pendants, etc., May; re conference of goods guards, brakesmen, and shunters, 31 October; re branches' balance sheets, December; re payment of money, n.d.; leaflet, E. Harford on benefits of membership, May; "Signalmen's programme", November; manifesto for goods guards,

TELEPHONE: No. 63, NORTH.

Telegraphic Address: - "Beware, London."

# Amalgamated Society of Railway Servants.

England, Ireland, Scotland & Wales.



In your reply refer to No. \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: 41 Fitzroy Road

186-  
4 Jan'y. 1908

Mr Richard Bell M.P.

Dear Sir

I am instructed to send you the following resolution which was unanimously adopted at the Branch meeting Jan'y 3rd 08.

"That in the opinion of the members of this branch the action of W. V. Osborne, secretary of the Walthamstow branch, is a gross violation of Rule 9 clause 14 and Rule 10 clause 8. and that the Com. be requested to deal with Osborne in accordance with such rules" The members of this branch have been amazed at the toleration that has been given this member and his circular letter to the Pres on Jan'y 2nd has led the branch to pass the above resolution

Yours faithfully, W. Barrett

30

Branch Secy

THE  
Trade Union Political Freedom League.

NON-PARTY  
NON-SECTARIAN  
LIBERTY AND FRATERNITY

Central Office: 77, BARRETT ROAD, WALTHAMSTOW. E.

President: COUNCILLOR W. HAMBLETT.

Secretary: W. V. OSBORNE.

Oct 13<sup>th</sup> 1915

Dear Mr. Williams

Now that I am returning the A.S.P.S books etc to you & transferring the members to other branches. I am having quite a clear out & am destroying old papers documents etc. Before I destroy those in connection with my recent case & which go back to Oct 1915. Perhaps you would personally like to come and inspect them as a good many questions have been raised as regards the soundness of my grounds. You can examine books, documents, papers etc. I will try and arrange for the Chairman and assistant secretary of the Walthamstow Branch to be present & they together with my self, will answer any question you like to ask. You shall have an opportunity of judging whether my grounds have been straight and sound and whether the action has been a bona fide one & if any person or association has been injured by the case - & if there has been any personal injury

If our service is of no value to you it is for  
you to determine it. As to the £400 a year  
Mr Wardle has put it very frankly. It is not  
a salary - It is more than a salary to  
you - let us be perfectly frank and  
without any quibbling. I am not going to  
be such a fraud as to tell you I am  
going to spend the whole of the £400. I  
am not. Don't kid yourselves on it and don't  
let your commitments shut so. I am not  
going to be tied any more now than I was  
before. I may have to meet certain things  
- don't let any one try to persuade however  
that they are going to get the £400 out of  
me because they are not. That is bang  
on the nail! As much as I can keep for  
myself I am going to keep, for the obvious  
reason that I think I earn it. I put in  
my overtime. There are hundreds  
of our members who say "Look at  
Thomas! He has got the Assistant  
Secretaryship and he has not got his  
£400 for being a member of Parliament.  
He is all right!" That attitude is taken  
up I know. But there is another side even  
to that. This is the point: if the State  
pays me £400 a year and I go on with  
that am I to cease to have any connection  
with you? That is the position I have to

(See other side for Balance Sheet Form.)

# A Register of every Member belonging

Note.—Branch Secretaries are requested to strike out from the books all names

No. on Branch Books.	Name of Member.	Age last Birth-day.	Date of Joining the Society.	Occupation.	No. on Branch Books.	Name of Member.
1	C. Dayton	46	1872	Guard	117	C. Patisson
2	St. Day	48	"	Prisoner	118	W. Carson
3	Jos. Pawley	61	"	Driver	119	W. Norris
4	W. Proctor	40	"	Plate-layer	120	W. Rawlin
5	Walter Fielding	58	"	Signalman	121	Jos. Linden
6	St. Peach	50	"	Wks	122	W. Harris
7	John Franklin	50	"	Driver	123	Jos. Hadley
8	St. Wright	30	"	B. man	124	St. Best
9	Geo. Fuller	50	"	Signalman	125	W. Buggay
10	Chas. Phillips	39	"	Cleaner	126	Ed. Bond
11	Chas. Firman	34	"	Guard	127	W. Barna
12	Jos. Smith	40	"	B. man	128	W. Godnar
13	Jos. Inan	35	"	Driver	129	W. B. Clark
14	Jos. Bullimore	48	"	Driver	130	J. Edwards
15	Jos. Day	29	"	B. man	131	Jos. Cartzill
16	Jos. Compton	27	"	Guard	132	W. Cartzill
17	St. Bursary	43	"	Signalman	133	W. Bunter
18	W. Ringrow	56	"	Driver	134	W. Skines
19	St. Scutchings	33	"	Guard	135	W. Trown
20	Ed. Carson	64	"	Signalman	136	W. Stute
21	St. Jure	40	"	B. man	137	W. East
22	St. Jure	40	"	B. man	138	W. East

## ASRS Reports & Proceedings (cont.)

### MSS.127/AS/T/1/22 (cont.)

brakesmen, and shunters, n.d. [October-November]; leaflet, "The truth about A.S.R.S. Finances", letters and comment reprinted from *Railway Review*, April.

### MSS.127/AS/1/1/23

1897. Includes report and financial statements for 1897; General Secretary's reports to and minutes of EC meetings, 9-13 March, 15-19 June, 13-18 September, and 6-11 December; proposed amendments to rules; General Secretary's report to AGM, 5 October; supplementary agenda for AGM; decisions of AGM, 5-8 October; "Report of Mr. Edward Harford's case . . .", 6 October; report of conferences of national committees of signalmen, goods guards, brakesmen, shunters, draymen, rulleymen, and horsemen, 5 January; agenda and minutes for national conference of enginemen and firemen, 16 February; minutes of conference of goods workers, 23 February; minutes of conference of passenger staff, 23 February; minutes of national conference of carriage and wagon examiners, carriage-washers, greasers, and others, 20 April; minutes of platelayers' conference, 20 April; minutes of Birmingham conference for revising national programmes, 11-12 October; minutes of adjourned national conference of "all grades united", 23 November; programme of proposed hours, wages, and conditions for engine-drivers, firemen, and cleaners, 16 February; proposed national programme for goods workers, n.d.; circular to branches re national programme for locomotive staff, 5 July; proposed national programme for passenger staff, n.d.; circular re national programmes for passenger and goods staff, 20 March; proposed national programme for carriage and wagon examiners, brake attendants, greasers, lampmen, carriage gasmen, and carriage cleaners, n.d.; proposed national programme for platelayers, n.d.; circular letter re national conference of "all grades united", 11-12 October; proposed national programme for draymen, rulleymen, carmen, and horsemen, n.d.; proposed national programme for goods guards, brakesmen, and shunters, January; national programme for draymen's movement, 1 November; report of interview between officials of North-Eastern Railway and representatives of guards, shunters, and brakesmen, 21 December 1896; leaflet re dismissal and reinstatement of 85 ASRS members by London and North-Western Railway Company, December 1896; manifesto to permanent-way men of Manchester, Sheffield, and Lincolnshire Railway, January; proposed programme of hours, wages, and conditions for London railway carmen, parcels-cart and van drivers, cart-boys, van-guards, and busmen, August; "An exposure of Associated tactics", leaflet re relations between ASRS and Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen (ASLEF), June; "National Programme", 11-12 October, and circular letter, 22 November; circular re clerks' programme, n.d.; rules for regulating the conduct of movements for improved conditions of service, n.d.; manifesto re united demands put to employers, 29

## ASRS Reports & Proceedings (cont.)

### MSS.127/AS/1/1/23 (cont.)

November, and 4 December; partial alteration of rules; circulars re branch expenses, n.d.; re election of General Secretary, 31 December; leaflet, "The Executive Committee and Mr. Maddison, M.P.", 30 December.

### MSS.127/AS/1/1/24

1898. Includes report and financial statement for 1898 (1899); General Secretary's reports to and minutes of EC meetings, 7-12 March, 13-18 June [including scrutineers' report on election of General Secretary and table of results], 12-17 September, 5-10 December; circular re branch dues and balance sheets, 17 December; proposed amendments to rules; supplementary agenda for AGM; addendum to supplementary agenda; General Secretary's report to AGM, 4 October; report on accidents, 30 September; decisions of AGM, 4-7 October; circular letter, 20 April, and minutes of special EC meeting re strike of Midland draymen and goods workers at Leeds and Sheffield, 17 April; circular letter and ballot paper for election of General Secretary, June; circular letters: re Lord James's award, 25 March; re branch dues, balance sheets, and goods, November; re Amalgamated Society of Engineers' dispute and trade union levy, and re branch administration, January; re election of General Secretary, 25 March; re administration of expenses, 25 March; re Federation of Trades Unions and "Clarion Scheme", 18 April; re election of representatives to TUC, AGM, and EC, 5 May; re branch finances, 6 June, and 5 September; re keeping of branch account books, November; re alleged victimisation of members, 30 September; circular letter re loans, n.d.; *pro forma* letters re branch dues and balance sheets, n.d.; re membership applications, n.d.; re resolutions, n.d.; blank receipt for sick fund poundage, n.d.; partial alteration of rules.

### MSS.127/AS/1/1/25

1899. Includes report and financial statement for 1899; General Secretary's reports to and minutes of EC meetings, 6-11 March, [including rules and conditions of General Federation of Trade Unions, 24-6 January], 12-17 June, 11-16 September, 11-16 December; supplementary agenda for AGM; addendum to supplementary agenda; decisions of AGM, 3-6 October; General Secretary's report to AGM, 3 October; "Memorandum on the use of automatic couplers on railway stock in the United States of America", 12 June; circular letter to M.P.s asking for support for amendment to Railway Regulation Act re shunting, n.d.; draft petition to Parliament re shunting; manifesto to railway clerks, January; circular letter to branches re administration, 31 January; circular letters re automatic couplings and Royal Commission on Accidents to Railway Servants, 31 January, 9 March, 18 March, n.d., 12 May, 12 June, and 29 July; circular letter re election of representatives to TUC, AGM, and EC, 27 April; manifesto to railwaymen re united movement, October; application for membership form; manifesto to non-unionists in the

## ASRS Reports & Proceedings (cont.)

### MSS.127/AS/1/1/25 (cont.)

railway service, January; circular letters: re united movement, 28 October; re branch administration, 20 November; ballot paper re joining Trades Union Federation Scheme, April; balance sheet for 1898; partial amendment of rules, 4-7 October; proposed amendments.

### MSS.127/AS/1/1/26

1900. Includes General Secretary's reports to and minutes of EC meetings, 12-17 March [including report of Royal Commission on Accidents to Railway Servants and proposed bill], 18-23 June, 17-22 September, and 10-15 December; report and financial statement for 1900; minutes of special EC meeting re fire at general office on 20 April, 13 May; General Secretary's report and EC minutes for special meeting re Barry and Blyth disputes, 15 July; General Secretary's report to and minutes of special EC meeting re Taff Vale dispute, 19 August; General Secretary's report to AGM, 2 October; supplementary agenda for AGM; extra supplementary agenda; decisions of AGM, 2-5 October; report of conference of delegates of ASLEF and ASRS re federation, 3 January; circular letter re John Burns's Wages Fund [to support Burns as an M.P.], 16 January; manifesto for South Wales Joint Movement, 19 January and 13 March; circular letters: re report of Royal Commission on Accidents, February; re administration and general matters, 31 March; re orphan fund, April; re elections of representatives to TUC, AGM, and EC, 11 May; re federation of ASRS and ASLEF, 23 July; proposed amendments to rules; circular letters: re branch finances, 20 December; to M.P.s re proposed bill on automatic couplings, 9 February; programme for London, Brighton & South Coast Railway, Goods Guards' and Shunters' Movement, n.d.; manifesto to the railwaymen of the Chesire Lines Committee Railway, September; leaflet, programme, Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway, All-Grades Movement, n.d.; report, "North-Eastern hours and wages-settlement at York, 18th January, 1900. Result of conference between Mr. Gibb and Mr. Bell, held on 3rd April 1900"; copies of correspondence and terms of settlement, Taff Vale Strike, August; Richard Bell, "The Picketing case. Successful appeal. The Taff Vale Company v A.S.R.S. and others", [November]. (See Occasional Publications No. 3, *The Taff Vale case : a guide to the ASRS records.*)

### MSS.127/AS/1/1/27

1901. Includes General Secretary's reports to and minutes of EC meetings, 11-16 March, 10 June, 16 June [special EC meeting re proposed libel suit against *Western Mail* and re Taff Vale dispute], 9-14 September, and 2 December; General Secretary's report to and minutes of special EC meeting re dismissal of London and North-Western employees, 26 May; report and financial statements for 1901; General

## ASRS Reports & Proceedings (cont.)

### MSS.127/AS/1/1/27 (cont.)

Secretary's report to AGM, 1 October [including accident returns, 1900]; agenda for AGM; addendum to agenda; decisions of AGM, 1-4 October; *pro forma* letters re branch administration, orphan fund, wages for organising secretaries, superannuation claims, and compensation claims, n.d.; partial alteration of rules; circular letter re North-Eastern Railway movement, 4 April; "Manifesto to non-unionists in the railway service", January; circular letters: re society organisation, January; re branch administration, 19 January; re election of representatives to TUC, AGM, and EC, March.

### MSS.127/AS/1/1/28

1902. Includes General Secretary's reports to and minutes of EC meetings, 10 March, 2 June, 8 September, and 8 December; General Secretary's report to and minutes of special EC meeting re Taff Vale case, 22 June; agenda for AGM, including amended rules; supplementary agenda for AGM; addendum to supplementary agenda; General Secretary's report to AGM, 6 October [including report on automatic signalling on the Pennsylvania Railroad, traffic returns, and accident returns for 1901]; decisions of AGM, 6-11 October; General Secretary's statement to President and AGM, "The Taff Vale case and the injunction", 6 October [including Taff Vale Railway Company's statement of claim, and report of EC representatives]; report and financial statements for 1902 (1903); covering letter and ballot papers re levy for parliamentary representation, and re ASRS's federating with General Federation of Trades Unions, 1 January; circular letters: re Railway Employment (Prevention of Accidents) Act, 1900, April; re private sidings and Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, April; leaflet, "Why Railwaymen should join the A.S.R.S.", May; "Declaring-off Form" [re sickness fund]; circular letter re Taff Vale case, 25 July; standing orders for AGM.

### MSS.127/AS/1/1/29

Agenda for AGM, 1902, including revised rules [annotated copy of above].

### MSS.127/AS/1/1/30

Supplementary agenda for AGM, 6-11 October 1902 [annotated copy; ?W.G. Loraine's copy].

### MSS.127/AS/1/1/31

1903. Includes General Secretary's report to and minutes of special EC meeting re Taff Vale case, Trades Union Congress, the housing of the working classes, and Denaby Miners' case, 1 February; General Secretary's reports to and minutes of EC meetings, 16 March, 15 June, 14 September, and 7 December; report and financial statements for 1903 (1904); agenda for adjourned special general meeting re Taff

## ASRS Reports & Proceedings (cont.)

### MSS.127/AS/1/1/31 (cont.)

Vale case, and other matters, 6 January; decisions of adjourned special general meeting, 6-10 January [including statement by J. Holmes in reply to the General Secretary's report of 1902]; supplementary agenda for AGM; General Secretary's report to AGM [including traffic and accident returns], 5 October; decisions of AGM, 5-9 October; report of conference of delegates of ASLEF and ASRS re federation, 18 May; partial alteration of rules, 5-9 October; *pro forma* letter re fire insurance, n.d.; circular letters: re various matters, 31 March; re administration of new rules, 1 July; proposed amendment to rules; leaflet, "Manifesto to non-unionists in the railway service", January 1904.

### MSS.127/AS/1/1/32

1904. Includes General Secretary's reports to and minutes of EC meetings, 14 March [including verbatim report of EC discussion on R. Bell and Labour Representation Committee (LRC), 17 March], 13-18 June, 12 September, and 5-10 December; report and financial statements for 1904 (1905); reports of special meetings of joint ECs of ASRS and ASLEF, 10 May and 9 October; agenda for AGM; proposed alteration of rules; General Secretary's report to AGM, 3 October [includes photographs and details of larger, more powerful locomotives]; decisions of AGM, 3-7 October [including decisions of special EC meeting re relations with LRC, 9 October]; circular letter re larger, more powerful locomotives, 27 April; leaflet re organisation of ASRS movements, 30 July; circular letters: re administration, 30 November; re election of representatives to TUC, and AGM, 21 April.

### MSS.127/AS/1/1/33

1905. Includes report and financial statement for 1905 (1906); General Secretary's reports to and minutes of EC meetings, 13 March [including photographs of railway accident at Cudworth, near Barnsley, 19 January], 19 June, 18 September, and 11-16 December [including report on either-side brakes]; General Secretary's report to AGM, 2 October [including photographs of signal box, "automatic booking clerk", and several locomotives]; proposed amendments to rules; agenda for AGM; supplementary agenda; decisions of AGM, 2-6 October [including President's address]; partial alteration of rules; report of conference of ASLEF and locomotive members of ASRS, 11-12 April; minutes of joint meeting of ECs of ASLEF and ASRS, 21-2 July; pamphlet, George J. Wardle, *Enginemen and the Amalgamated Society of Railway Servants. An argument for one union* (London, 1905); list of delegates to locomotive conference, 11-12 April; leaflet, R. Bell, *Associated tactics* (London, 1905); *pro forma* letter re sick fund contributions; "Manifesto to Railway Servants. Facts and figures for non-unionists", February; circular letters: re registration of members, 1 March; re proposed general benevolent fund, April; re parliamen-

## ASRS Reports & Proceedings (cont.)

### MSS.127/AS/1/1/33 (cont.)

tary levy, 10 July; re appointment of organising secretary, 20 October; re branch administration, 11 December; re sick fund, 6 May; *pro forma* letters re Board of Trade accident inquiries, and re compensation cases, n.d.

### MSS.127/AS/1/1/34

1906. Includes General Secretary's reports to and minutes of EC meetings, 12-17 March [incomplete; includes report of split of Labour M.P.s], 18-23 June, 10-15 September, and 10-15 December; General Secretary's report to AGM [including photographs of locomotives, and of Ruskin College, Oxford], 1 October; agenda for AGM; supplementary agenda; decisions of AGM, 1-5 October; report and financial statements for 1906 (1907); report of conference re amalgamation between ASRS, General Railway Workers' Union, United Pointsmen's and Signalmen's Society, and Railway Clerks' Association, 3 February; leaflets, *North-Eastern Railway all-grades movement*, interim and full reports of concessions obtained, including minutes of conferences between railway officials and men, 23-5 April and 4-9 May; General Secretary's report to and minutes of special EC meeting re North-Eastern Railway dispute, 12 July; circular letters re standing orders, etc., for special conference on national all-grades movement, October and November; national all-grades movement (England and Wales): list of delegates and decisions, 26-8 November; national all-grades movement (Scotland): list of delegates, 15 October; national all-grades movement (Ireland): list of delegates, 20 October; national all-grades movement: tables comparing numbers employed with ASRS's membership in principal grades; report of joint meeting of ECs of ASRS and ASLEF [including scheme of federation between the two, adopted 18 May 1903], 23 November; pamphlet, R. Bell, *The attack upon the Amalgamated Society of Railway Servants by the Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen. The A.S.R.S. reply* (London, December); circular letters re appointment of organising secretary, March; re selection of ASRS-supported parliamentary candidates, April; proposed amendments to rules; partial amendments to rules.

### MSS.127/AS/1/1/35

#### Papers re national all-grades movement:\*

England and Wales: list of grouping [number of delegates for each branch]; circular letter re nomination of delegates, August 1906; nomination paper; circular letter re arrangements, October 1906; list of delegates; circular letter re procedure and standing orders, November 1906; conference decisions, 26-8 November 1906; Scotland: list of delegates; Ireland: list of delegates;

\*See Bagwell, *op.cit.*, ch.X.

## ASRS Reports & Proceedings (cont.)

### MSS.127/AS/1/1/35 (cont.)

General Secretary's report to and decisions of special EC meeting re national all-grades movement, 14-15 February, 1907; circular letters re movement, 13 April, 1 and 5 May, 1907; pamphlet, R. Bell, *The Railwaymen's charter. Reply to criticisms* (London, May 1907, 24 pp.);

Circular, "National movement", 1 June 1907; Second conference; England and Wales: list of delegates and procedure, 24-5 June 1907; further report by General Secretary to EC, *National movement*, September 1907; circular letter, "Be Ready! National Movement", 18 September 1907;

Circular letter re administration of ballot re national movement, 26 September 1907; circular letter re ballot and voting paper, 1 October 1907; pamphlet, *Summary statement of the results of the census of wages . . . hours of labour, &c, of men (in those grades referred to in the demands of the A.S.R.S.) employed on the railways of the United Kingdom* (London, 1907, 11 pp. and table); map showing geographical distribution of ASRS's branches, 1907; report of special meetings of EC re national movement, 28-31 October, 1-2, 6-7 November 1907, and of provisional committees, 1 November 1907, and conciliation and arbitration scheme agreed by EC, railway companies, and Board of Trade, 6 November 1907.

### MSS.127/AS/1/1/36

General Secretary's report to and minutes of EC meeting, 12-17 March, 1906 [complete].

### MSS.127/AS/1/1/37

1907. Includes report and financial statements for 1907 (1908); General Secretary's reports to and minutes of EC meetings, 11-16 March [including circular letter re national all-grades movement, 22 March], 10-15 June, 9-14 September, and 9-14 December; text of Trade Disputes Act, 1906 (6 Edw. VII, c.47), and Workmen's Compensation Act, 1906 (6 Edw. VII, c.58); General Secretary's report to AGM, 7 October [including photographs of locomotives and railwaymen connected with the Stockton-Darlington Railway, and reports to Board of Trade under Railway Employment (Prevention of Accidents) Act, 1900]; agenda for AGM; supplementary agenda; decisions of AGM, 7-11 October; circular letters: re railway accidents and railway rules, 16 January; re branch administration and other business, 22 January; leaflet, "Facts and figures for locomotivemen", January; "Manifesto to railwaymen", 9 February; report of joint conference on amalgamation between ASRS and Locomotive Steam Enginemen and Firemen's Friendly Society, including proposals finally adopted, 27 February; General Secretary's report to and minutes of special EC meeting re national all-grades movement, 14-15 February; circular letters re

## ASRS Reports & Proceedings (cont.)

### MSS.127/AS/1/1/37 (cont.)

national all-grades movement, 27 February, 13 April, and 12 May; leaflet re negotiations for national all-grades programme, 1 May; R. Bell, *The railwaymen's charter. A reply to its critics* (London, May 1907); leaflet, "National Movement", 1 June; *Summary statement of the results of the census of wages . . . hours of labour, & c., . . .*; report of proceedings taken by ASRS to defend Driver Gourlay against a charge of manslaughter, following the Arbroath disaster, 28 December 1906\*; leaflet re regulations for the use of locomotives and wagons on lines and sidings in or used in connection with premises under the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901 (January 1907); "Manifesto to non-unionists", 1 June; "Manifesto to non-unionists. Scotland", 1 June; "Manifesto to non-unionists. Ireland", 1 June; second conference re national all-grades movement (England and Wales), 24-5 June: procedure and standing orders, list of delegates, General Secretary's report to EC, September; circular letters re national movement, 18 and 26 September, 1 October; reports of special EC meetings, 28 October - 2 November, 6-7 November, and reports of provisional committees and the conciliation and arbitration scheme agreed between the EC, the railway companies and the Board of Trade, 6 November; circular letter re branch administration, 6 December.

### MSS.127/AS/1/1/38

1908. Includes General Secretary's reports to and minutes of EC meetings, 16-21 March, 15-20 June, 14-19 September, 7-13 December; report and financial statements for 1908 (1909); agenda for AGM; General Secretary's report to AGM [including history of ASRS, photographs of early ASRS leaders, and of General Office, memorandum re arbitration court from Board of Trade, third and fourth reports to Board of Trade by committee to examine railway safety appliances, 20 December 1907 and 1 June 1908], 5 October; proposed amendments to rules; decisions of AGM, 5-9 October; amendments to rules, 1 January 1909; General Secretary's report to and minutes of special EC meeting re North-Eastern Railway Movement, 11 May; circular letter re North-Eastern Railway Movement, 1 June; R. Bell, "Address to Railwaymen" [re successful negotiations for national movement], January; General Secretary's report to and minutes of special EC meeting re Barry Railway dispute [including terms of settlement and photograph of deputation to company], 9 February; leaflet, "How railway combinations will benefit the men", October; report of conferences re federation of railway unions between ASRS, ASLEF, General Railway Workers' Union, Railway Clerks' Association, United Pointsmen's & Signalmen's Society, and Railway Telegraphs Clerks' Association\*\*, 5 and 19

\*See L.T.C. Rolt, *Red for danger* (3rd edition, 1976), pp. 121-4, and G.W. Alcock, *Fifty years of railway trade unionism* (1922), pp. 390-6.

\*\*The RTCA disbanded during 1911, the majority of its members joining the RCA.

## ASRS Reports & Proceedings (cont.)

### MSS.127/AS/1/1/38 (cont.)

October 1907; pamphlet, ASRS, *Osborne v. the A.S.R.S.* [including initial judgment, proceedings and judgment in Court of Appeal, questions submitted to counsel, and counsel's opinion], n.d.

### MSS.127/AS/1/1/39

1909. Includes report and financial statements (1910); General Secretary's reports to and minutes of EC meetings, 13 February, 15-20 March, 14-19 June, 13-18 September, and 6-11 December; General Secretary's report to AGM, 4 October [including photographs of railway accident at Sharnbrook, 4 February, and of railway arbitrators, table of arbitrators' decisions on various railway lines, compared with ASRS's national programme]; agenda for AGM; agenda and decisions of AGM, 4-8 October [including statements and report of special session to consider the conflict between the General Secretary and other ASRS-supported M.P.s, and the General Secretary's failure to try to carry out AGM policy in Parliament]; report of conference re amalgamation between ASRS and General Railway Workers' Union, 12-13 December; blank application form for membership of optional benevolent fund; proposed amendments to rules to be submitted to AGM; partial alteration of rules adopted by AGM, 4-8 October; circular letters: re disposal of parliamentary fund, 13 December; re national movement and Great Southern & Western Railway, c. 11 December; re General Secretary's resignation, 31 December.

### MSS.127/AS/1/1/40

1910. Includes report and financial statements for 1910 (1911); General Secretary's reports to and minutes of EC meetings, 1-2 January [including report of meeting of Joint Board of TUC Parliamentary Committee, General Federation of Trade Unions, and the Labour Party, re amendment to trade union legislation following the decision in the Osborne case], 7 February, 14-19 March [including full report of House of Lords' judgment in Osborne case], 7 May, 20-5 June, 14 May, 29 August, 19-24 September, 8-11 November, and 5-10 December; agenda for AGM; addendum to agenda; General Secretary's report to AGM [including photographs of Barry Railway and its locomotives, ASRS's new offices, ASRS building committee, arbitrators, and new General Secretary, James E. Williams], 3 October; agenda and decisions of AGM, 3-7 October; circular letters: re nomination of new General Secretary, 10 January; re nomination of new assistant General Secretary, 9 July; re eyesight and medical tests, 9 July; Edward R. Pease, *Railway nationalisation and the railway workers* (London, 1910); circular letters re conciliation boards, 23 December.

## ASRS Reports & Proceedings (cont.)

### MSS.127/AS/1/1/41

1911. Includes report and financial statements for 1911 (1912); General Secretary's reports to and minutes of EC meetings, 6-11 March, 14 May, 18-23 June [incomplete; see /42 below, for complete copy], 23-4 August, 11-15 September, 19 September - 5 October [special meeting in Dublin; incomplete: see /43 below for complete copy], 31 October, 7 November, and 11-16 December; report and decisions of joint conference of ECs of ASRS, ASLEF, General Railway Workers' Union, and United Pointsmen's and Signalmen's Society, 15-24 August, 1-4 and 6 November, 1, 8, and 11 December; proposed amendments to rules; agenda for AGM, 2 October; addendum to agenda; General Secretary's report to AGM [including photographs of Carlisle, Hawes Junction accident, and joint ECs], 2 October; agenda and decisions of AGM, 2-6 October; report of conference between ASRS, ASLEF, and representatives of TUC Parliamentary Committee on the Railways (Eight Hours) Bill, 28 April and 23 May; Walter Hudson, M.P., *Why not a railwaymen's eight hour day?* (London, 1911).

### MSS.127/AS/1/1/42

General Secretary's report to and decisions of EC special meeting, 14 May, and 18-21, and 23 June 1911.

### MSS.127/AS/1/1/43

General Secretary's report to and decisions of EC special meeting in Dublin, 19 September - 5 October 1911.

### MSS.127/AS/1/1/44

Report of conference re fusion of forces between ASRS, ASLEF, General Railway Workers' Union and United Pointsmen's and Signalmen's Society, 28-30 December 1911.

### MSS.127/AS/1/1/45

1912. Includes report and financial statements for 1912 (1913) [incomplete]; General Secretary's reports to and minutes of EC meetings, 15 January, 1-2 and 11-16 March, 15-17 April [incomplete: for missing decisions from EC meetings marked\*, see MSS.127/AS/1/3/4 below], 17-22 June [incomplete\*], 9-14 September [incomplete\*], and 9-14 December [incomplete\*]; circular letter re suggested alteration to rules, n.d.; agenda for special general meeting re implementation of National Insurance Act; addendum to agenda for special general meeting; agenda and decisions of special general meeting, 1-3 July; General Secretary's report to AGM [including photographs of locomotives, and of accident at Lombardstown, Co. Cork], 7 October; agenda for AGM; addendum to agenda; agenda and decisions

## ASRS Reports & Proceedings (cont.)

### MSS.127/AS/1/1/45 (cont.)

of AGM, 7-11 October [including appendix re Clerk Wigzell's case: strike by clerks in ASRS's offices for better pay]; reports and decisions of joint conference of ECs of ASRS, General Railway Workers' Union and United Pointsmen's and Signalmen's Society, re report on "fusion of forces", 16-17 January; circular letters re amendments to rules, February, July and August; proposed schedule of contributions and benefits of sick fund members; leaflet, "National Insurance Act, 1911. Additional reasons why railwaymen should make A.S.R.S. their approved society.", n.d.; circular letter re National Insurance Act, January; blank application forms for membership of ASRS for National Insurance Act and for insured women members; ballot paper re "fusion of forces" of ASRS, General Railway Workers' Union, and United Pointsmen's and Signalmen's Society, May; circular letter re "approved sections" [implementation of National Insurance Act], 26 July; leaflet "The National Insurance Act. Why every railwayman should make the A.S.R.S. his approved society. Speech by Mr. J.H. Thomas, M.P.", c. March-April.

### MSS.127/AS/1/1/46

General Secretary's report to and decisions of EC, 9-14 September 1912.

### MSS.127/AS/1/1/47

1913. [The "fusion of forces" of ASRS, the General Railway Workers' Union, and the United Pointsmen's and Signalmen's Society took place on 29 March 1913; the combined unions took the name "National Union of Railwaymen". This volume includes the final reports, etc., of the ASRS and the first of the NUR.] Includes report and financial statements for 1913 (1914); General Secretary's reports to and minutes of EC meetings, 10-11 January, 3-8 March [incomplete; see MSS.127/AS/1/3/4 below, for missing decisions; includes report by Col. Yorke, Board of Trade inspector, on Ditton Junction accident], 2-5 April, 2-7 June, 15-25 September, and 1-7 December; report and decisions of meeting of joint ECs of ASRS, ASLEF, General Railway Workers' Union, and United Pointsmen's and Signalmen's Society re dismissal by Midland Railway of Guard Richardson, 5 and 8 March [title page only; report missing]; supplementary agenda for special general meeting; agenda and decisions of special general meeting; 10-14 February; circular letter re correspondence, 14 April; Board of Trade inquiry into Midland Railway dispute, 6-9 January.

### MSS.127/AS/1/2/1-105

Duplicate copies of some of the printed reports, minutes, and accounts in MSS.127/AS/1/1 above. Some are individual members' copies: W.G. Loraine: /10, 13,15,20,22, 44-50,64,82; C. Hewitt [? in ASRS General Office]: /11; John Ball: /12; H.C.

## ASRS Reports & Proceedings (cont.)

### MSS.127/AS/1/2/1-105 (cont.)

Charleton: /71; C.W. Beardsley [EC member]: /76; E.E. Paul: /78,84; S.E. Jackson: /87.

## Other ASRS Minutes & Reports

### MSS.127/AS/1/3/1-4

Amalgamated Society of Railway Servants, Executive Committee (EC) and Annual General Meeting: MS. decisions, 1896-1913. General Secretary's reports to **these** meetings are not included. Cf. the printed version, complete with General Secretary's reports, MSS.127/AS/1/1/22-6, 28-33, and 41-7.

### MSS.127/AS/1/3/1

MS. minutes, March 1896 (from decision no. 151) - March 1898 (decision no. 222).

### MSS.127/AS/1/3/2

MS. minutes, March 1898 (decision no. 223) - April 1900.

### MSS.127/AS/1/3/3

MS. minutes, September 1902 - December 1905. Some special reports to the EC printed and pasted into the volume. From December 1903, decisions typed and pasted into volume.

### MSS.127/AS/1/3/4

TS. minutes, pasted into volume, June 1911 - March 1913. Includes first minutes of National Union of Railwaymen.

### MSS.127/AS/1/4/1

MS. wet copy book; some pages illegible: volume of ASRS Executive Committee minutes, 1891-5.

1891: 24-7 February, 26-30 May, and 11-14 August; 1892: 16-20 February, and 17 May; 1893: 21-4 and 26 February, 16-20 May, and 15-18 August; 1894: 6-10 March, and 5-9 June; 1895: 17-21 September. Includes some reports to EC but not General Secretary's.

Also includes copies of letters: Edward Harford - H. Tait [Secretary, Scottish ASRS], 28 May 1891, re proposed working agreement between railway societies; Harford - H. Tennant, North Eastern Railway, 26 June 1891, re non-fulfillment of agreement; Harford - Sir Michael Hicks-Beach, 9th Bt. [1st Earl St. Aldwyn (1837-1916); President, Board of Trade 1888-92], 18 August and 17 October 1891, and 24 May 1892,

## Other ASRS Minutes & Reports (cont.)

### MSS.127/AS/1/4/1 (cont.)

re Select Committee on Railway Servants (hours of labour); memorandum of agreement recommended to ECs of ASRS and General Railway Workers' Union [October 1891]; Harford - Geoffrey Drage (Secretary, Committee "B" of Royal Commission on Labour), 25 March 1892, re witnesses for committee; Harford - Edward A. Moseley, Interstate Commerce Commission, Washington D.C., 19 October 1892, re history, aims, and achievements of ASRS; Harford - C.N. Wilkinson (Secretary, North Eastern Railway Co.), 10 December 1892, re employment conditions of plate-layers; Harford - ?, 16 December 1892, re ten-hour day; Harford - Secretary, Railway Department, Board of Trade, 17 October 1895 re long shifts; Harford - President, Board of Trade, 24 June 1895, re couplings and re railway inspectors; copy of return of election expenses of Henry Labouchere and Edward Harford, Liberal candidates in the parliamentary election for Northampton, 16 July 1895 [only Labouchere was successful]; copy declaration by Harford re same; partial alteration of rules adopted at AGM, 1-4 October 1895; comments giving ASRS's attitude to railway bills, n.d.

### MSS.127/AS/1/5/1-10

Minute books of ASRS annual and special general meetings, 1905-13.

### MSS.127/AS/1/5/1

Volume of MS. minutes for AGM at Sheffield, 2-6 October 1905. Includes delegates' attendance register. Motions before AGM cut out from printed agenda and pasted into volume with MS. annotations. Also includes (loose in volume) printed proposed amendments to rules, printed agenda, and printed supplementary agenda.

### MSS.127/AS/1/5/2

Volume (as above) of MS. minutes for AGM at Cardiff, 1-5 October 1906.

### MSS.127/AS/1/5/3

Volume (as above) of MS. minutes for AGM at Middlesbrough, 7-11 October 1907.

### MSS.127/AS/1/5/4

Volume (as above) of MS. minutes for AGM at Glasgow, 5-9 October 1908.

### MSS.127/AS/1/5/5

Volume (as above) of MS. minutes for AGM at Leicester, 4-8 October 1909. Also includes letters from F. Thomasson and J.R. MacDonald, refusing invitations to attend.

## Other ASRS Minutes & Reports (cont.)

### MSS.127/AS/1/5/6

Volume (as above) of MS. minutes for AGM at Barry, 3-7 October 1910.

### MSS.127/AS/1/5/7

Volume (as above) of MS. minutes for AGM at Carlisle, 2-6 October 1911. Also includes correspondence with branches proposing motions for AGM, correspondence re Irish strike, and two letters commenting on proposed general strike, September-October 1911.\*

### MSS.127/AS/1/5/8

Volume (as above) of MS. minutes for special general meeting at Holborn Hall, London, 1-3 July 1912. The meeting was called to alter ASRS's rules to conform to the terms of the National Insurance Act, 1911, and thereby permit ASRS to become an approved society. Also includes proof copy of suggested new rules annotated "J.E. Williams Private Copy"; agenda; and TS. motions.

### MSS.127/AS/1/5/9

Volume (as above) of MS. minutes for AGM at Dublin, 7-11 October 1912.

### MSS.127/AS/1/5/10

Volumes (as above) of MS. minutes for special general meeting in London, 10-14 February 1913. The meeting was called to approve the fusion of the ASRS, the General Railway Workers' Union, and the United Pointsmen's and Signalmen's Society.

### MSS.127/AS/6/1/1-66

Volume entitled "A.S.R.S. Miscellaneous Reports 1874-1919".

Miscellaneous papers collected by George W. Alcock while writing *Fifty years of railway trade-unionism* (London, 1922): see his preface, p.xvi, pp. 16-17, and Appendices A-C. The collection includes some of the papers of John Abbott of Bedford, later of Wigston, a delegate at the original Great Delegate Meeting, 24 June 1872. Unless otherwise specified, the papers are printed and published by the Society in London.

Volume includes:

1. resolutions passed at Executive Council (EC) meeting, 7-10 October 1874

\*NB The deposit includes 5 volumes of press-cuttings relating to the 1911 railway strike. See MSS.127/AS/10/2/1-5 below.

## Other ASRS Minutes & Reports (cont.)

### MSS.127/AS/6/1/1/1-66 (cont.)

(with half-yearly accounts and auditors' report, October 1874);

2. circular, extracts from EC minutes, 6 August 1872, re arrangements for declaring strikes "official" and returns by branches of number of members and value of funds, 14 August 1872;
3. resolutions passed at EC meeting, 14-17 July 1874;
4. circular re levy for Preston Case, February 1874;
- 5 & 6. resolutions passed at EC meeting, 5-8 January 1875 (with ballot paper for election of officers for new London District executive council, 15 March 1875);
- 7 & 8. resolutions passed at EC meeting, 23-5 March 1875, and 21-4 July 1875 (with half-yearly accounts, 30 June 1875);
9. No. 5 West Central Manchester District, third annual report for 1875 (with list of branches, meeting places and dates of meeting nights for 1876-7, and financial summary for 1875);
10. MS. letter, John Graham [founder-member of ASRS] to John Abbott of Bedford [cf. TS. list at front of vol.], 29 March 1872, re iniquities of George Chapman, ASRS General Secretary [see Bagwell, *op.cit.*, pp. 70-2];
11. MS. letter, John Graham to John Abbott [n.d.] with copy of letter from Graham to EC re his expenses as Organising Secretary, 27 October 1872;
12. MS. letter, George Chapman - J. Abbott, 22 April 1872, re founding of ASRS;
13. circular no. 11, "The Railway Servants' Orphanage, its connection with the Amalgamated Society of Railway Servants", 2 August 1875;
14. circular no. 17, "Railway Service Gazette", 6 August 1875;
15. order of proceedings [standing orders] and agenda for delegate meeting at Bristol, 12 January 1875;
16. press-cutting, *Railway Review*, 27 April 1888, re Derby Orphanage;
17. MS. list of dates of EC's meetings and notes of action re George Chapman, n.d.;
18. "Report for 1874" (with General Office and branches' accounts);
19. notice re levy to make ASRS solvent, 6 August 1875;
20. report and financial statements for 1875;
21. circular re contributions to orphan fund, 27 April 1880 and press-cutting re same from *Railway Review*, 27 April 1880;
22. stencilled circular from EC to members re increasing membership, February 1882 [EC members' signatures reproduced on stencil];
23. MS. incomplete minutes of EC meeting, 8 January 1874 and resulting preliminary report by accountant, 14 April 1874, and report, 24 June 1874 (with note of accountant's charges);
24. balance sheet for 1879 and "Observations . . ." on same;
25. circular re opening of orphanage at Derby, 15 August 1874;

## Other ASRS Minutes & Reports (cont.)

MSS.127/AS/6/1/1/1-66 (cont.)

26. circular, "The duty of the society to the orphans of members", February 1879;
27. circular from Dr. J. Baxter Langley, reasons for his resignation, 24 December 1875;
28. circular to branch secretaries, "The future policy of the society in regard to disputes, wages, and hours on railways", 20 February 1879;
29. circular to members, "The proposed future policy of the society, with draft of rules of a protection fund", 3 June 1879;
30. MS. draft accounts, 1872-84;
- 31 & 41. blank deed of settlement for the Labour College, between the College and the National Union of Railwaymen and the South Wales Miners' Federation (two copies);
32. pamphlet, Richard Bell, *Railway companies and their employes. Statement of cases of victimisation, and correspondence with the Board of Trade thereon*", January 1899, 26pp.;
33. Trade Union Political Freedom League, circular, "Trade Unions and party politics" [1910];
34. MS. letter, A. Liddell, Sec., ASRS Camden branch, - ? Alcock, n.d., re failure of Enginemen & Firemen's Society in 1867;
35. circular supporting election of James Williams as General Secretary [1910];
36. House of Lords' judgment in *Osborne v. Amalgamated Society of Railway Servants*, 21 December 1909;
37. pamphlet, Frederic Harrison, *The Osborne Judgment*, 1910, 11 pp.;
38. TS. letter, George Wardle - Alcock, 1 March 1918, re resignation as editor of *Railway Review*;
39. TS. letter, Solicitor, Board of Trade (? R. Ellis Cunliffe) - Alcock, 26 September 1918, re service of injunction restraining National Union of Railwaymen from paying strike pay (see /51 below);
40. annotated agenda for national conference of signalmen at Derby, 27 July 1893;
42. TS. copy of opinion by A.F. Peterson, K.C., re payment of legal costs of Osborne decision and repayment of contributions to parliamentary fund, 27 April 1910;
43. circular, National Free Labour Association, Railway Workers' Section, "The Amalgamated Society of Railway Servants and its disastrous strike policy", 7 November 1900;
44. National Free Labour Association, Railway Workers' Section, "Manifesto of the National Free Labour Association. To the railway servants of Great Britain and Ireland", May 1907\*;

\*See G. Alderman, "The National Free Labour Association. A case-study of organised strike-breaking in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries" in *International Review of Social History*, xxi (1976), pp. 309-36.

## Other ASRS Minutes & Reports (cont.)

### MSS.127/AS/6/1/1/1-66 (cont.)

45. opinion of Howard Wright, K.C., re the legal position of the Central Labour College, 22 October 1915;
46. pamphlet, Richard Bell, *The attack upon the Amalgamated Society of Railway Servants by the Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen. The A.S.R.S. reply* (1906, 12pp.);
47. MS. letter, John Graham - [Alcock?], 5 May 1910, re C. Bassett-Vincent, *An authentic history of railway trade unionism* (1902);
- 48 - 50. photographs of Unity House trade union staff and of Joint Executive Committee, [1918-19], and of J.H. Thomas, from *Railway Review Art Supplement*, 24 October 1919;
51. writ issued on behalf of the Board of Trade's solicitor, seeking a prohibition under Regulation 42 of the Defence of the Realm Regulations of the National Union of Railwaymen's paying over any of its funds to strikers, 25 September 1918 [cf. /39 above];
52. TS. copy of affidavit of Sir William Francis Marwood, Joint Secretary to the Board of Trade, re same, 25 September 1918;
53. High Court of Justice, King's Bench Division, order for interim injunction, 26 September 1918;
54. Judge's summons, 26 September 1918 [see Bagwell, *op.cit.*, pp. 355-6];
55. pamphlet, Fred W. Evans, *Trade unions and the law* (Liberal Labour League, 1903?);
56. circular advocating purchase of *Daily Citizen* [n.d., 1912-15];
57. circular, King's Cross Publishing Company Ltd., asking for help to raise circulation of *Railway Review* [n.d., 1914-18];
58. rule book, 1875 (Rotherham, 1875, 20pp.);
- 59 - 60. membership cards of J. Abbott: for Goods' & Passenger Guards, Brakesmen, Shunters, Pointsmen, Yardsmen, Signalmen, Switchmen, Porters, Platelayers, &c., Amalgamated Benefit Society, Derby District, 1866, and for Amalgamated Society of Railway Servants, Bedford branch, [n.d., 187- ];
61. subscription list for railway orphanage, Wigston branch, 1874;
62. MS. letter, William Foreman - Abbott, 21 June 1889, re Foreman's pamphlet [probably *Working men and politics*, see Alcock, *op.cit.*, pp. 256-8];
63. MS. letter, W. Sabin of Birmingham - Abbott, 29 January 1899, re "re-classification";
64. circular, "Railwaymen of all grades, are you aware . . ." [benefits of ASRS membership in period of railway amalgamation] (1909);
65. George J. Wardle, *Enginemmen and the Amalgamated Society of Railway Servants. An argument for one union* (London, 1905?, 24pp);

## Other ASRS Minutes & Reports (cont.)

### MSS.127/AS/6/1/1/1-66 (cont.)

66. [included loose, at end of volume; found in *Reports and Proceedings* . . . 1876]  
MS. letter, Clement Stretton [solicitor, of Leicester] - Abbott, 6 July 1881, re electoral register.

## Railwaymen's Parliamentary Representation Association

### MSS.127/AS/6/2/1

Railwaymen's Parliamentary Representation Association, annual general meeting, in Carlisle, 4 October 1911: Secretary's report, balance sheet, agenda, and MS. transcript of proceedings.

The Association was formed in 1910, following the judgment in the Osborne case (*q.v.*) and the opinion of Edmond Browne, K.C. To conform to the terms of the judgment the Association had to be a separate legal entity, but its officers and members were ASRS members, indeed its delegates were the delegates to the ASRS's annual general meeting.

The Secretary's report covers the December 1910 general election, in which the ASRS's M.P.s were financed by a loan of £1000 to the Association from the Labour Party and Messrs. Pattinson & Brewer, ASRS's solicitors. The transcript includes an explanation for James Holmes's withdrawal as Labour candidate for Wakefield, a long discussion led by G.J. Wardle and J.H. Thomas re their salaries as M.P.s and their relations with the Association, and the proposed Trade Union Bill to reverse the Osborne judgment.

See also MSS.127/AS/OC/3/3/50, MSS.127/AS/OC/3/9, MSS.127/AS/OC/3/12/26-8 above.

## Branch balance sheets

### MSS.127/AS/2/1/1-50

Branch balance sheets, 1875-1912.

The series lacks 1883, 1885, and 1890. These volumes should be read with MSS.127/AS/2/2/1-50, which comprise loose papers removed from these volumes. Those letters and notes all concerned the drawing-up of correct balance sheets.

The printed balance sheets, completed in manuscript, vary in lay-out and detail (*see* descriptions below for changes). The earliest include registers of branch members from the formation of the branches and give details of members' age, occupation, and railway line on which employed. The sheets are arranged in alphabetical order of branch name.

See typed list for greater detail.

## Branch balance sheets (cont.)

### MSS.127/AS/2/1/1

Branch balance sheets, 1875. A register of branch members, from the formation of the branches, is on the reverse of the sheets. Includes some contemporary analysis of membership by age and occupation. The balance sheets include details of relief payments.

### MSS.127/AS/2/1/2-13

Branch balance sheets, 1876-89. Balance sheets no longer include register of branch membership on reverse, merely changes in membership: new members, members removed, transferred, or expelled. Occasionally a register is given. The 1884 sheets include an analysis of membership by occupation.

### MSS.127/AS/2/1/14-24

Branch balance sheets, 1891-9. Membership changes and analysis no longer included.

### MSS.127/AS/2/1/25-34

Branch balance sheets, 1900-4. Lists of members receiving donation, suspension, and travelling allowances given on reverse of sheets.

### MSS.127/AS/2/1/35-50

Branch balance sheets, 1905-12. Reverse of sheet includes notes on auditors' duties and printed questionnaire to be filled in by them. Many have been completed.

## Press-cuttings

### MSS.127/AS/10/1/1-9 and MSS.127/AS/10/2/1-5

Press-cuttings concerning the strike proposed in 1907 to secure union recognition, lower hours, and increased pay, and the 1911 railway strikes.

The proposed strike was the culmination of the all-grades movement 1906-7, which sought an eight-hour day, a 2 shilling increase for all grades, and union recognition. The men's case was put in *The railwaymen's charter*, sometimes known as *The green book*, which gave statistics of the men's conditions (MSS.127/AS/1/1/35). Their prime objective was union recognition and when the railway companies refused this, there was strong support for a strike: 76,925 of 97,631 ASRS-members voted in favour of a strike in October 1907.

The Board of Trade and its President, David Lloyd George, intervened at the last moment and persuaded the companies to accept a conciliation scheme which the union then accepted in place of recognition. The failure of the conciliation boards,

**Press-cuttings (cont.)**

**MSS.127/AS/10/1/1-9 and MSS.127/AS/10/2/1-5 (cont.)**

largely through the bad faith of the companies, was a major contributing factor to the 1911 strikes.

These volumes of carefully mounted and identified press-cuttings mirror a wide spectrum of contemporary opinion: national and local, daily and weekly newspapers, from the *Aberdeen Free Press*, the *Lincolnshire Echo*, and the *Yorkshire Herald*, to the *British Weekly* and the *Methodist Recorder*.

See Bagwell, *op.cit.*, pp. 262-308.

**MSS.127/AS/10/1/1-9**

Press-cuttings concerning the threatened 1907 strike for union recognition, lower hours, and increased pay, and the resulting Board of Trade conciliation boards, 1907-8.

**MSS.127/AS/10/1/1**

Volumes of press-cuttings, 16-19 September 1907. Cuttings identified by source and date.

**MSS.127/AS/10/1/2**

Volume as above, 19-24 September 1907.

**MSS.127/AS/10/1/3**

Volume as above, 24 September - 8 October 1907.

**MSS.127/AS/10/1/4**

Volume as above, 3-12 October 1907.

**MSS.127/AS/10/1/5**

Volume as above, 11-19 October 1907.

**MSS.127/AS/10/1/6**

Volume as above, 19-26 October 1907.

**MSS.127/AS/10/1/7**

Volume as above, 26 October - 4 November 1907.

**MSS.127/AS/10/1/8**

Volume as above, 4-8 November 1907.

**Press-cuttings (cont.)**

**MSS.127/AS/10/1/9**

Volume as above, 8 November 1907-24 February 1908. Includes cuttings reporting initial difficulties of the conciliation boards.

**MSS.127/AS/10/2/1-5**

Press-cuttings concerning the 1911 railway strikes and the resulting Royal Commission.

**MSS.127/AS/10/2/1**

Volume of press-cuttings re strike against Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway Co. in Liverpool and resulting "general strike", 7-16 August 1911. Cuttings identified by source and date.

**MSS.127/AS/10/2/2**

Volume as above, 17-20 August 1911.

**MSS.127/AS/10/2/3**

Volume as above, 21-24 August 1911.

**MSS.127/AS/10/2/4**

Volume as above, 24-29 August 1911. Includes many photographs (press-cuttings) of scenes during the strike.

**MSS.127/AS/10/2/5**

Volume of press-cuttings re Royal Commission appointed as part of the strike settlement to investigate the working of the Railway Conciliation and Arbitration Scheme of 1907, 24 August-24 October 1911. Cf *Parliamentary Papers*, 1911, (Cd 5922), xxix, pt I, 663, and 1912-13 (Cd 6014), xlv, 87, for the Commission's report and minutes.

## APPENDIX 1

### A note on the records deposited by the National Union of Railwaymen in the Modern Records Centre

The Osborne Case papers represent only a small proportion of the records of the NUR and its constituents deposited in the Centre. The Amalgamated Society of Railway Servants was also involved in the other equally famous legal controversy of the early years of this century which affected trade unions, the Taff Vale Case, and its papers relating to this have been deposited and form the subject of Occasional Publication No. 3 (details *verso* of title page). Both are backed by the series of printed reports and proceedings (principally of Executive Committee meetings) from 1876 (listed on pp. 19-36), which continue for the NUR to 1953 in the deposit, and by a reasonably complete run of the *Railway Review*.

In addition to the two groups of legal case papers, the reports and proceedings and other minutes, branch balance sheets and press-cuttings listed in these two Occasional Publications, deposited ASRS records include a number of rule books, (Unity House) Building Sub-Committee minutes, 1909-11, signed minutes of Scottish railways' conciliation boards, 1909-19, and R. Bell's papers of the Railway Employment Safety Appliances Committee, 1906-10.

Unfortunately the two smaller unions which came together with the ASRS to form the NUR, the General Railway Workers' Union (1890) and the United Pointsmen's & Signalmen's Society (1880), are represented by less than a single archive box of reports, rule books and balance sheets, although the ASRS reports and proceedings include reports of joint conferences.

Deposited records of the NUR include the reports and proceedings mentioned above, Political Sub-committee minutes, 1920-30; minutes of Cirencester, Hornsey & Wood Green and Stratford No. 1 branches; office circulars, 1924-46; some administrative files, relating *int. al.* to strikes, to *Mosley v. Marchbank* and opposition to Fascism in the 1930s, to industrial unionism and the Triple Alliance, and to relations with other unions, especially between the wars. Relations with ASLEF and the RCA (now the Transport Salaried Staffs Association) feature throughout the deposited records, and the organisation of busmen and signalmen (including by the URS) is also represented. In addition a collection of rule books of some 90 other unions has been deposited, as well as a wide range of twentieth century political pamphlets. Records of the Central Labour College have been included in the deposit, as the NUR was one of its two principal union supporters, and a typescript list of these has been produced.

RICHARD STOREY

## APPENDIX 2

### Notes on the Modern Records Centre for users

The holdings of the Centre are available to all serious researchers, subject only to such restrictions on their consultation as may have been imposed by depositors. Although prior appointment is not obligatory, a few days' notice of a visit can be of assistance both to the researcher and the Centre's staff.

The Centre is located within the Library on Central Campus (a map of the campus is available on request). Its full postal address is:

Modern Records Centre,  
University of Warwick Library,  
Coventry CV4 7AL.

Telephone : Coventry 24011, ext. 2014.

Normal opening hours : 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., Monday to Thursday; 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., Friday. Other times by arrangement.

All material is kept in closed-access secure accommodation and may only be worked on in the Centre, under the supervision of its staff. Some deposits are held under conditions of restricted consultation.

Each accession receives a number in a running sequence (MSS.1, etc.). A numerically arranged *Accessions Register* with alphabetical index is maintained in the Centre. In due course check-lists or catalogues are compiled for each accession, and a set of these is held in the Centre.

A *Selective Index* of names and subjects featuring in these catalogues is maintained on cards in the Centre.

As far as possible, a uniform scheme of arrangement and classification is applied to all accessions. The eleven main classes are:

- /1 minutes (and related papers, such as agendas and reports)
- /2 financial records (e.g. account books, balance sheets, membership & contribution records)
- /3 correspondence (including subject files)
- /4 publications of the institution or individual creating the archive
- /5 other publications
- /6 sub-groups within a deposit (e.g. the personal papers of a member of an organisation handed over to it for safekeeping on retirement)
- /7 miscellaneous (this category may be subdivided in a number of ways, e.g. by alphabetical suffixes : /7/LE legal papers; /7/ST staff records)
- /8 diaries
- /9 agreements
- /10 press-cuttings
- /11 reports

Examples : MSS.5/1/4 : : Accession 5, minutes series, volume 4  
MSS.9/3/24 : : Accession 9, correspondence, file 24.

**Rules for researchers working in the Modern Records Centre**

1. A Research Record form is to be completed on a researcher's first visit.
2. The Visitors' Book is to be signed on each visit.
3. A Document Requisition form is to be filled in for each request for material.
4. No smoking.
5. Pencil only to be used : no ink or ballpoint pens.
6. No documents may be marked.
7. Documents are not to be leaned on or have working materials or other items laid on them.
8. Documents are to be returned to staff in the condition and order in which they are received by the researcher.



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