

# MODERN RECORDS CENTRE INFORMATION BULLETIN

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## Introduction

The period covered by this Information Bulletin has included one very significant change. The Archivist, Christine Woodland, retired at the end of March, although she has since continued to work part-time at the Centre in a consultancy capacity. During Christine's tenure as Archivist from 1997, the Centre made enormous strides in terms of producing electronic finding aids, which have been mounted on the Centre's web site. The Centre has been in the vanguard of the development and implementation of Encoded Archival Description (EAD) and therefore has been able to make an important contribution to projects such as the Archives Hub. Her colleagues will miss her drive, enthusiasm, immense knowledge and warmth.

Staff at the Centre were very pleased to welcome the Rollin family in May. Family members travelled from as far away as the United States to view an exhibition of the papers of A. R. Rollin (1885-1972) (MSS.240). The family also kindly donated additional items for the collection. Aaron Rollin's life began in Dvinsk in Latvia, which was then part of the Tsarist Russian Empire. He escaped from a Warsaw prison, where he was being held as a political prisoner, and began a new life in Britain in 1904. Aaron Rollin had a long and distinguished career as an official with the Tailors and Garment Workers' Union, the archives of which are also held at the Centre (MSS.192/TG). The papers of William Wess (1861-1946), who was involved in the Jewish labour movement in the 1880s, form part of the Rollin collection and were included in the exhibition. Wess's political activities were based primarily in the East End of London. In 1888, he was a witness at the inquest of Elizabeth Stride, a victim of Jack the Ripper.

## Delmas Foundation Grant

The Centre is delighted to be able to announce that it has been given a grant from the Gladys Kriebel Delmas Foundation of New York. The grant will enable the Centre to convert a paper finding aid to the personal papers of Victor Gollancz, the left wing publisher, writer and humanist, to the EAD format. It will also enable an interim finding aid to be created to the papers of Gollancz's publishing company, Victor Gollancz Ltd. Both finding aids will be placed on the Centre's web pages. The Gollancz papers are a very rich resource for modern

European cultural, humanitarian, and political history, particularly relating to reconciliation with Germany, Jewish affairs, and pacifism. Increasing the accessibility of the finding aid will not only enable scholars to make more efficient use of their research time, it will also enable them to discover hitherto hidden synergies.

## **Pay and Power**

The cataloguing of the papers of the Amalgamated Society of Engineers (MSS.259) and associated unions, 1846-1998, is nearing completion as part of the Pay and Power project. The collection includes initiation rite booklets from the early days of the union. Information from the collection will be used for talks and workshops during the next phase of the project in 2006. For further details about the Pay and Power project contact Judith Karena at [Judith.Karena@mlawestmidlands.org.uk](mailto:Judith.Karena@mlawestmidlands.org.uk) or 0121 631 5827.

## **Cataloguing**

### *The BASW Archive (MSS.378)*

The large series of minutes, duly sorted and painstakingly weeded of the many duplicates, is now catalogued and occupies some sixty-five boxes on our shelves. Work is progressing on cataloguing the files relating to acts of parliament, royal commissions, review tribunals, etc., which were of direct concern to social workers. Volunteers have undertaken limited sorting of printed material, and the former chair of the Social Workers' Benevolent Trust is listing the minutes and papers of this Trust (MSS.432), also a part of this archive.

### *TUC archive, 1970-1990 (MSS.292D)*

The cataloguing of the Trades Union Congress archive covering the period 1970-1990 has now been completed, thanks to a grant from the Arts and Humanities Council. The archive comprises over 2300 boxes (59.8 cubic metres) of material. The catalogues will be put on to the Centre's web site shortly, thereby joining the existing web-based electronic catalogues of TUC archives from 1920 onwards. A large amount of material created by the National Economic Development Council (NEDC) has been weeded from the collection as it duplicated the records of the NEDC kept at the National Archives. An exhibition relating to the TUC archive is being organised for October.

### *Transport and General Workers' Union archive (MSS.126)*

Cataloguing has continued on the TGWU archive. The catalogue of the papers of Sir Bill Morris, former General Secretary, has been completed and the papers are now open to researchers (MSS.126/BM). Permission to view them must be obtained in advance from Sir Bill; please contact the Centre for details. The listing of the main series of TGWU subject files (MSS.126/TG) has also been

completed, and the archive is in the process of being sorted, numbered and boxed.

### *Frank Cousins papers (MSS.282)*

This catalogue is now nearing completion. Frank Cousins was the General Secretary of the Transport and General Workers' Union, 1956-1969. He was also Minister of Technology, 1964-1966. His papers include a significant number of files relating to this period in his career. Also amongst his papers are press-cuttings on the London bus strike of 1958, and files relating to the Community Relations Council, which he chaired 1968-1970. General correspondence files cover the period 1953-1986.

### **New deposits**

A steady stream of new deposits, mostly additions to existing collections, has reached the Centre. They are described briefly in the following list. Some of them have yet to be processed, so that their entry here is simply to draw readers' attention to their arrival. As usual, a complete list of accessions will be included in the Centre's Annual Report. Some of the collections are subject to access restrictions; please contact us for further details.

- British Association of Social Workers: Social Workers' Benevolent Trust: minutes, 1999-2002. Earlier minutes have already been deposited. (MSS.432)
- British Educational Research Association: copies of most of the source material referred to in Freedman, Patrick et al, *Quality Conditions for Quality Research* (Nottingham, BERA, 2000). A few additional items of literature which post-date the publication of the book are included, as are press cuttings. (MSS.268)
- GCHQ Trade Unions: correspondence, 1984-88, has been deposited by Richard Gibbens. (MSS.384)
- Jensen papers: Mrs. June Langford has deposited files of her late husband. These include agreements with Harry Ferguson Research Limited, 1964-72; Jensen car costs, 1968-1976; monthly trading reports, 1970-1971. (MSS.205)
- Manufacturing, Science, Finance: files of predecessor unions, 1970s-1990s including amalgamation papers regarding TASS, the National Union of Lock and Metal Workers, and the Association of Scientific, Technical and Managerial Staffs. Also included are files on Rover and Ford workers, 1986-1992. (MSS.79)
- National Cycle Archive: there have been several additions to the NCyA. These include an album of photographs taken in Germany by Ken Rolls in 1938 (MSS.328/N51). The papers of Frank Rowland Whitt have been transferred to the Centre from the

Science Museum. The papers mainly relate to the technical aspects of cycling including brochures, catalogues, newspaper/magazine clippings, correspondence, reports, Whitt's own notes and calculations, and some photographs/slides of bicycles. Also included are issues of various cycling journals and published books ranging from 1870 to 1980. (MSS.328/N49).

- National Federation of Building Trade Employers: printed material, including year books. These date from the 1970s and 1980s and were transferred to the Centre from Gloucestershire Record Office. (MSS.187)
- National Union of Bank Employees: papers and publications relating to the National Union of Bank Employees, BIFU and its successor UNIFI, 1970-2002, with a particular concentration on annual conference proceedings and trade union recognition agreements with UK and international banks. The deposit also includes a complete run of the Bank Officers' Guild/NUBE journal *Bank Officer* from the 1920s to the 1960s. (MSS.56)

## **Staff**

Carole Jones has been appointed as Records Assistant, succeeding Joanne Burman, who left in February. Nouf al-Rawaf has joined the staff as a records assistant. Lizi Bird has been working at the Centre as a volunteer since March. In September she will begin the Archive Administration Masters course at Aberystwyth. The majority of her time at the Centre has been spent sorting the papers of Frank Rowland Whitt for the National Cycle Archive. The Centre is very grateful to Lizi and to Cara Healy, who also worked as a volunteer at the Centre in this period, for their valuable assistance.

## **Postscript**

The Centre's users will be interested to know that the Centre features in two novels by Jonathan Coe: *The Rotters' Club* (Viking, 2001) and *The Closed Circle* (Viking, 2004). The novels are set partly in Birmingham in the 1970s and the present day. The author visited the Centre and used some of our shop stewards' archives for background research. We don't want to spoil the plot for those who haven't read the novels, but suffice to say that the Centre will be tightening up its security as a result!

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For further information about the Centre, its holdings and publications, contact the Archivist, Modern Records Centre, University Library, University of Warwick, Coventry, CV4 7AL; tel. +44 (0)24 7652 4219; fax. +44 (0)24 7652 4211; email: [archives@warwick.ac.uk](mailto:archives@warwick.ac.uk)  
URL <<http://modernrecords.warwick.ac.uk>>