

MODERN RECORDS CENTRE INFORMATION BULLETIN

No. 80

June 2006

ISSN 0309-0418

Introduction

Rumours of Christine Woodland's departure have been reported in many issues of the *Information Bulletin* though she has continued to support the work of the Centre on a part-time consultancy basis for over a year. She will be leaving the MRC on 30th June. She has been a tremendous help and vital support since her official retirement over a year ago and all the staff would like to thank her and wish her a long and happy retirement.

Since the last *Bulletin* Martin Sanders has joined the staff as a Senior Assistant Archivist and has already made a valuable contribution in his work on the Social Work exhibition and new subject guide described below.

Research Awards

A meeting of the Academic Committee of the MRC took place on 2nd May at which the Committee approved applications for MRC bursaries for five postgraduate students. The following were successful:

PhD students: Chris Moran: Whitehall, official secrecy and disclosure 1945 – 1975. Deborah Wood: Women and radical reform politics in Staffordshire. MA Students: Dr Michael Leyland: British Nuclear Test Veterans Association. Henrietta Ewart: Irish migrants in Coventry 1940 – 1960. Madeleine Charles: Occupational health, railway employees and female clerks.

All the students will be using a range of trades union, pressure groups and political material held at the MRC.

E.P Thompson Bursary

The winner of the Edward Thompson Memorial Bursary, Jameel Hampton has been using the Centre for research on disability policy. He has accessed the papers of the Disability Information Group, the TUC, the papers of the Moral Welfare Workers Association and the National League for the Blind and Disabled collection.

Social Work and Medicine Exhibition

At the end of June a small exhibition is being staged in our foyer which will illustrate the rich potential of the Centre as a source for the study of the history of medicine, health care and social work in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. The exhibition will coincide with the annual conference of the Society for the Social History of Medicine on the theme of 'representations of health: historical perspectives'. The conference is being jointly organised by the Centres for the History of Medicine at the Universities of Warwick and Birmingham. The exhibition reflects some of themes being considered at the conference, such as industrial health, disability and therapy, child health, mothers and children, cancer in the twentieth century and medical practice. It also features a display of copies of documents from the Centre's nationally important holdings of archives of social workers' organisations. These chart the history of the various disciplines within the profession from the 1890s to the 1970s. And if you thought that it would be impossible for a hospital social worker to present her job in an entertaining way, this part of the exhibition may change your mind.

New Subject Guide

The Centre's holdings of archives relating to the development of social work from the late nineteenth century onwards are among the most important in Britain. A summary of these sources is now available as Information Leaflet 13. Listed in this leaflet are the relevant organisations whose archives are held here, with summaries of their history and of the nature of their archives. The organisations include the British Association of Social Workers (BASW), now the main professional organisation in the field, and the archives of its predecessor bodies, which merged in 1970. The information in the leaflet will also be available on the Centre's website. A further leaflet on MRC sources for the History of Health and Work is also being produced by Vicki Long from the Centre for the History of Medicine. Please contact us for copies of both leaflets.

Cataloguing

TGWU Archive

The ordering and full cataloguing of the large archive of the Transport and General Workers' Union (MSS.126/TG) continues. Two thirds of the archive is now fully catalogued and available on the MRC website (<http://www.warwick.ac.uk/services/library/mrc/ead/126tg.htm>).

This includes the papers relating to some of the TGWU's most important areas of interest, including dockers and road transport

workers (passenger and commercial), as well as nearly 100 files relating to the General Strike of 1926. Permission must be obtained from the TGWU to view these archives.

National Cycle Archive

Additional archives received from the Cyclists' Touring Club following its move to new headquarters in Guildford and two further cycling accessions (MSS.328/N52 and N54) have been catalogued in XML. Lists of about thirty separate accessions from private individuals have also been compiled.

Other catalogues completed in recent months include the Gollancz Publishing archive (MSS.318) which is now available on the internet at: <http://www.warwick.ac.uk/services/library/mrc/ead/318.htm>

Pay & Power

As part of the Pay & Power project of MLA West Midlands we are arranging a promotional event to take place on 22nd June at MRC. This will be aimed mainly at the University Library staff and is intended to explain the nature of archives and archive work with a focus on the collections recently catalogued by Andrew MacLeod. MRC has also contributed some material towards the Coventry Archives Pay & Power promotional event on 13th June.

General Strike anniversary

The 80th anniversary of the General Strike of 1926 was marked by the Society for the Study of Labour History (SSLH) Conference held at Keele University on May 6th. Helen Ford gave a short presentation at the conference about the resources of the MRC relating to strikes and lock outs.

Advisory Board Lecture

The 2006 Advisory Board Lecture will be held on 30th November and the speaker will be Professor Pat Thane. The title of the talk will be announced later.

New deposits

The following deposits have been made since February 2006. A complete list will be included in the Centre's Annual Report.

- Amalgamated Association of Operative Cotton Spinners of Lancashire and Cheshire. Annual and quarterly reports from 1912 – 1963 (MSS 467)
- COHSE additional papers. Includes papers from National Union of County Officers, minutes, correspondence, some branch records; papers re merger with UNISON c.1930 - 1990's. (MSS.229/CO)
- National Cycle Archive. Box of photographs and the papers of A. Kempson. (MSS.328)
- National Union of Teachers. Additional deposit of 14 boxes (MSS.179)
- TASS: Tube Investments Conveners' Files c.1973-1986. Four large boxes. (MSS.549)
- Papers of Professor H. A. F Turner, Montague Burton Professor of Industrial Relations, University of Cambridge. About 50 box files of research papers on industrial relations and trades unions. (MSS.550)
- Small poetry press papers including drafts, correspondence and business papers, 1960-1970's. (MSS.548)

Staff

Martin Sanders joined the MRC from Lichfield Record Office. He has also worked at the Churchill Archives Centre in Cambridge, and Gloucestershire Record Office. Besides learning the day-to-day ropes, his main tasks so far have been the production of the exhibition and a new subject guide described above.

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

