

MODERN RECORDS CENTRE INFORMATION BULLETIN

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Strongroom re-shelving

Following the completion of the reshelving of our upper strongroom, the collections which were housed in an outstore during this work became available again from 1 June. The new shelving is of an improved design and has given us additional storage space for future archive accessions.

Cataloguing and access

The number of publicly available record descriptions on our catalogues database now stands at over 203,800.

Notable recent additions to the database have included descriptions of the archives of (collection references given in brackets):

- National Joint Council for the Engineering Construction Industry (NJE);
- National Cyclists' Union, earlier the Bicycle Union (NCA/BU);
- National Union of Seamen (NUS) (additional records);
- National Union of Sheet Metal Workers and Coppersmiths (SMB) (additional records);
- Amnesty International (AMI) (additional records);
- Confederation of British Industry (CBI) (additional records);
- Operational Research Society (ORS) (additional records);
- Socialist Reproduction (SOR);
- Wallpaper Manufacturers Limited (WPM);
- Association of Learned Societies in the Social Sciences and related bodies (ALS);
- Professor William Brown, industrial relations specialist (BRN).

Child Care Archives Conference

The conference was held at the Research Exchange in Warwick University Library on 10 June. It was arranged in response to the completion of the British Association of Social Workers (BASW) archive catalogue by James King last year and was a joint event with the Child Care History Network and the Centre for Medical History at Warwick.

There was a wide range of speakers who regularly use or have access to child care records, including representatives of Barnardo's and Action for Children, and a number of archivists and academic researchers.

James provided a talk on the cataloguing of the BASW collection and a good discussion at the end of the day resulted in a number of interesting points for future action in this area.

Talks and presentations from the Conference can be seen on the CCHN website at <http://www.cchn.org.uk/>.

Website developments

We now have a new section of the website for slideshows of photographs and other images (named 'Image Galleries'). This currently contains photographic slideshows of the General Strike in 1926, Russia in 1924, and the camp at North Stoneham in Hampshire which was set up to care for the children of Basque refugees from the Spanish Civil War, 1937.

The 'Image Gallery' part of the website has been renamed 'Archive Exhibitions', and contains both textual and pictorial material. The latest addition to this section is an on-line version of the exhibition currently in our searchroom, '125 years of the Beautiful Game: football, politics and society', which has been staged to mark the World Cup.

University of Warwick archive

Since the beginning of this year the archive has been inaccessible while work was completed on the refurbishment of the upper strongroom. However, we have still been able to answer enquiries and meet demand thanks to our store of digital resources based on material from the university collections and to the retention of spare copies of official university publications.

In March the digitised visual resources from the University Archive were used extensively alongside printed material for a History of Art seminar on campus architecture which took place in the Teaching Grid.

More recently, images were supplied for use in a presentation given at an open day and there has also been a steady stream of phone calls and e-mails from different sectors of the university and from external researchers asking about facts and dates relating to campus history, course regulations, and pictures of the early days of Warwick.

Work has begun on entering the existing University catalogue onto the Calm database. The catalogue is very extensive and as we work through it we have been formulating its hierarchical structure to reflect as closely as possible the complex and evolving structure of the university administration which produced the records. Since January of this year we have entered over 3000 records.

Work by volunteers

Carolyn Ewing, Julie Moores and Richard Storey, have all continued their voluntary work, and Miriam Hay, a Warwick student and daughter of an archivist who is thinking of carrying on the family tradition, has also joined us to continue work on the index to the first membership register of the Amalgamated Society of Railway Servants.

We extend our thanks to all our volunteers for their invaluable assistance.

Use of the Centre

The research subjects of visitors to the Centre, as recorded on their registration forms, have again been diverse. Since the last Information Bulletin in February, they have included those listed below.

Warwick researchers

- Childhood in the 19th century;
- Women's history;
- The architecture of Congress House, the Trades Union Congress headquarters;
- Government Communications Headquarters (GCHQ);
- Trade union history in Birmingham;
- The Howard League for Penal Reform.

External researchers

- Basque children refugees;
- Anglo-Japanese relations;

- Voluntary associations in Britain, 1940-1970;
- Management consulting;
- The Green movement;
- Trade union political funds;
- The Spanish Civil War;
- The political economy of labour markets;
- Stalinist purges;
- The history of the visually impaired;
- The emergence of women into public life in Victorian Leicester;
- Private armaments companies in Great Britain before 1914;
- The Mini car;
- Grunwick strikers;
- Appeasement, 1937-1939;
- The motorcycle industry;
- The abolition of capital punishment;
- Jewish migrants;
- Royal correspondence of the Young Women's Christian Association;
- Oil spills;
- Trotskyism in the United Kingdom;
- Mid Wales social history;
- Flint glassmakers;
- The culture of cars;
- Conscientious objection in World War I.

For further information about the Centre, its holdings and publications, contact the 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>