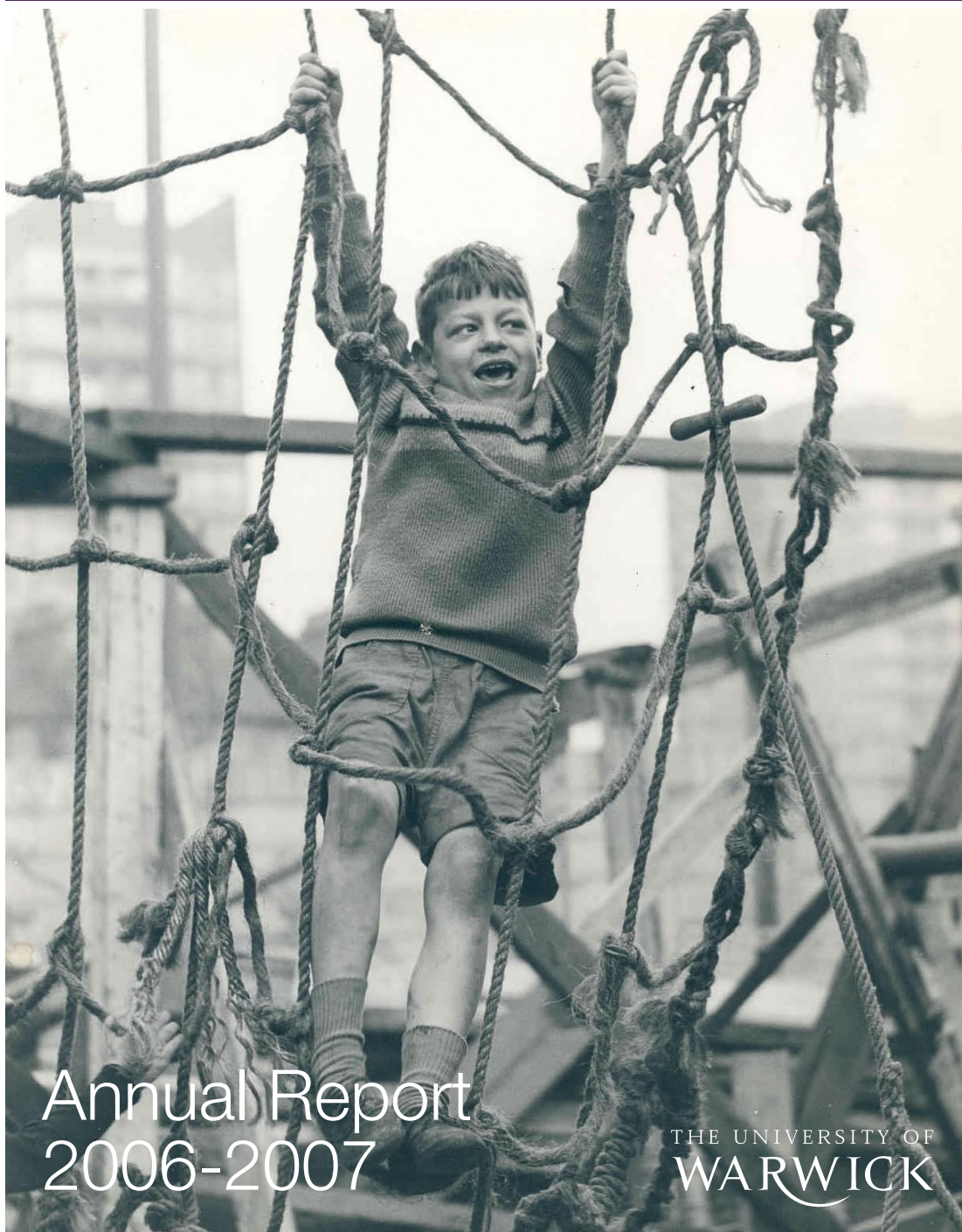


Library

**Modern
Records Centre**



Annual Report
2006-2007

THE UNIVERSITY OF
WARWICK



Cartoon from Engineering & Allied Shop Stewards National Council. c1941.



Soldiers with gun at Newcastle Station during the General Strike, 1926.



Advertising leaflet for the United Kingdom Sponsoring Authority for the International Exchange of Young Agriculturists, 1949, from the TGWU archive (MSS.126/TG/RES/GW/2/1).

Cover image: Boy on a rope – from a collection of playground photographs within the Lady Allen of Hurtwood papers.

NOTE: Figures in brackets denote last year (2005-2006)



Introduction

It is sometimes the unglamorous work that goes on behind the scenes which produces the most surprising and encouraging results. The main theme for this year has been access, with all the staff at the MRC involved in the cataloguing of a number of previously unlisted collections as well as the addition of many older catalogues to the new archive database. This has improved access to a considerable range of material. We have already found the database helpful in answering enquiries and we are working hard to make these benefits available to researchers and students through the new internet search facility. We hope to launch this within the following academic year 2007-2008.



Detail from booklet 'What Unionists have done for Workers' (Union of Communication Workers. MSS.148/UCW/6/13/24/9)

We were very pleased to receive the coveted award of Designated Status from the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council in March 2007. This award is recognition of the work of the Centre and an acknowledgement of the value of our collections both nationally and internationally.

The award was also a timely reminder of the role of the Centre within the University. It is easy to become consumed with the daily demands of the service, but we should take every opportunity to look to the bigger picture and re-evaluate the service and facilities within the context of the wider learning environment, and in particular Warwick's strengthened research agenda. MRC should have a key role to play in the University's research strategy in the future.

The year ahead holds many challenges – not least the refurbishment of our largest strongroom, which will involve a major logistical exercise to remove over six kilometres of material. This will inevitably mean some disruption, though we will endeavour to keep this to a minimum.

Our thanks go to all the individuals and organisations who have supported us during the year, including: the Confederation of British Industry, the Transport & General Workers' Union and the Trades Union Congress.

Using the archives/Outreach



In line with other archive services we are experiencing a steady increase in remote access and enquiries, while the numbers visiting the Centre remain fairly constant.

We received 375 (387) visitors of whom 88 were from within the University. The total number of visits was 1007 (1011).

University readers made a total of 344 visits. We recognise that this number is still too low, though we are confident that once the new database and search facility is available on the internet this will increase.

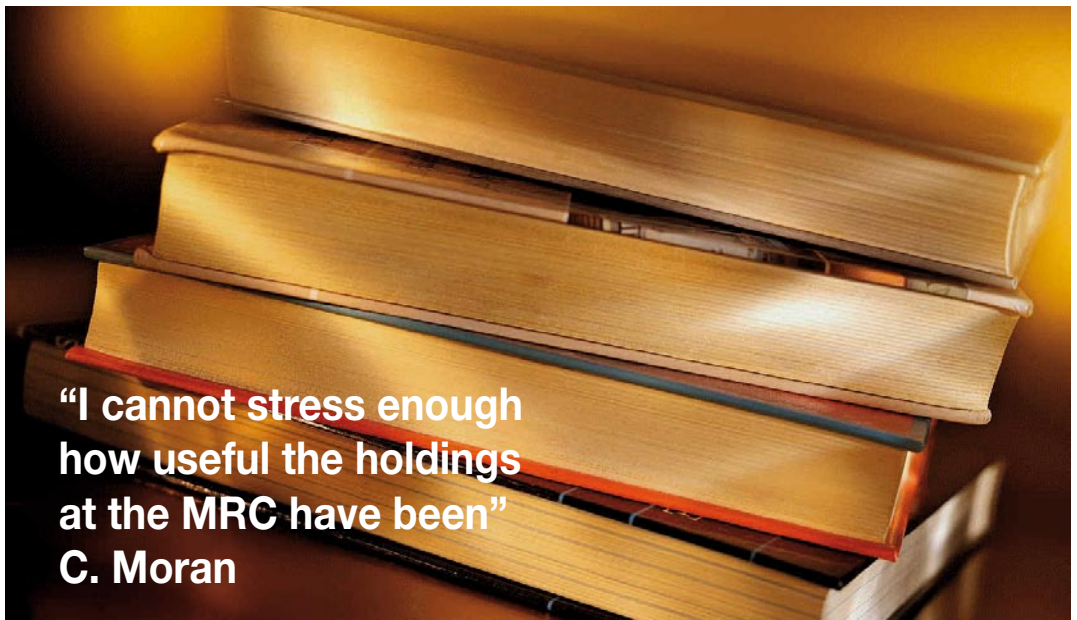
The archive of the TUC remains the most heavily used collection, with over 300 requests for access during the year. The TGWU archive and the collections of the various engineering unions were also well-used.

Over 17,000 digital photographs were taken by researchers and 31,000 documents were produced.

Thesis readers made 951 visits to look at 1,332 theses during the year.

Overall enquiry numbers continue to rise, with most arriving by email and telephone. Family history remains popular and a major source of enquiries alongside a range of other topics such as the Chile Solidarity Campaign of the 1970s, Anti-Vietnam war protests of the 1960s and research into post Second World War immigration and employment patterns.

The Centre's website has been updated during the year and received nearly 200,000 hits.



Inductions for students



Photographs courtesy of Kara Eggenon

During the year we provided induction sessions for Sociology, Politics and History students as well as the annual session given by The National Archives held at the Centre. History postgraduates on the *Historical Research: theory, skill and method* course and undergraduates on the *Visual Sociology* course attended sessions with a chance to handle archives and discover relevant sources.

The Centre also gave sessions to undergraduates engaged in Sociology Field Studies (2 sessions) and undergraduates on the history department's *Making of the Modern World* course.

The Centre was also represented at the conference for new Warwick research staff organised by the Centre for Academic and Professional Development.

In May we hosted an exhibition by Sociology students based on their project work in oral history. The students interviewed older relatives and friends and presented their work supported by photographs and documents from within the MRC. The exhibition was well attended and the students themselves were surprised at the wealth of resources available at the Centre.

Close ties to the Centre for the History of Medicine continue and the Centre once again hosted a workshop for the CHM in December.

Evening talks were given to two external groups - Coventry Family History Society at Tile Hill in September 2006 and Kenilworth FHS at the Centre in November 2006. MRC also hosted a meeting of the Society for the Study of Labour History in March 2007.

Cataloguing

Pressure to provide archive sources on the internet, changes in the patterns and methods of learning and an increased focus on research at Warwick will all have an impact on the Centre and lead to increasing demands on the staff and resources of the MRC. In order to meet these challenges we need to be able to provide fast and easy access to our collections and the huge wealth of material within them.

The new archive database will go a long way towards making the materials more visible and widely used and it is our intention to launch the internet search facility in 2008. We have therefore concentrated heavily on adding catalogues to the new system over the last academic year and will continue to add to the database for the foreseeable future.

There are now over 330 collections consisting of over 65,000 records on the new database. Although many of these collections were previously available through the Centre's website they could not be searched easily or alongside other related collections. The new database will bring related material together and enable searches of many of the older paper based catalogues.

Among the key collections which have been made more accessible this year are the papers of the various post office unions and those of the Iron & Steel Trades Confederation. Both of these extensive collections contain papers on a wide range of topics including equal pay, industrial diseases, welfare and post-war reconstruction.

The collections of several postal unions, including the Union of Post Office Workers, the Fawcett Association, and the Postal and Telegraph Clerks' Association also contain a wealth of material of wider social and economic interest.



"Borstal schoolroom" 1902, Howard League for Penal Reform (MSS.16A/7/23)

Notable parts of the collection include research into the cost and standard of living (with detailed returns from a survey of members in 1926), records of the campaign for equal pay in the Civil Service during the 1930s-1950s, and documents relating to the 1971 postal strike and the Grunwick dispute. Later records of the Communication Workers' Union, 1995-2007, have also been received and catalogued.

We have also added some of the teaching unions papers to the new database, including the Headmasters' Association, 1894-1977, the Headmasters' Conference, 1904-1975, the Association of Headmistresses and the Association of Assistant Mistresses. These contain many items relating to educational developments and social issues throughout the twentieth century.

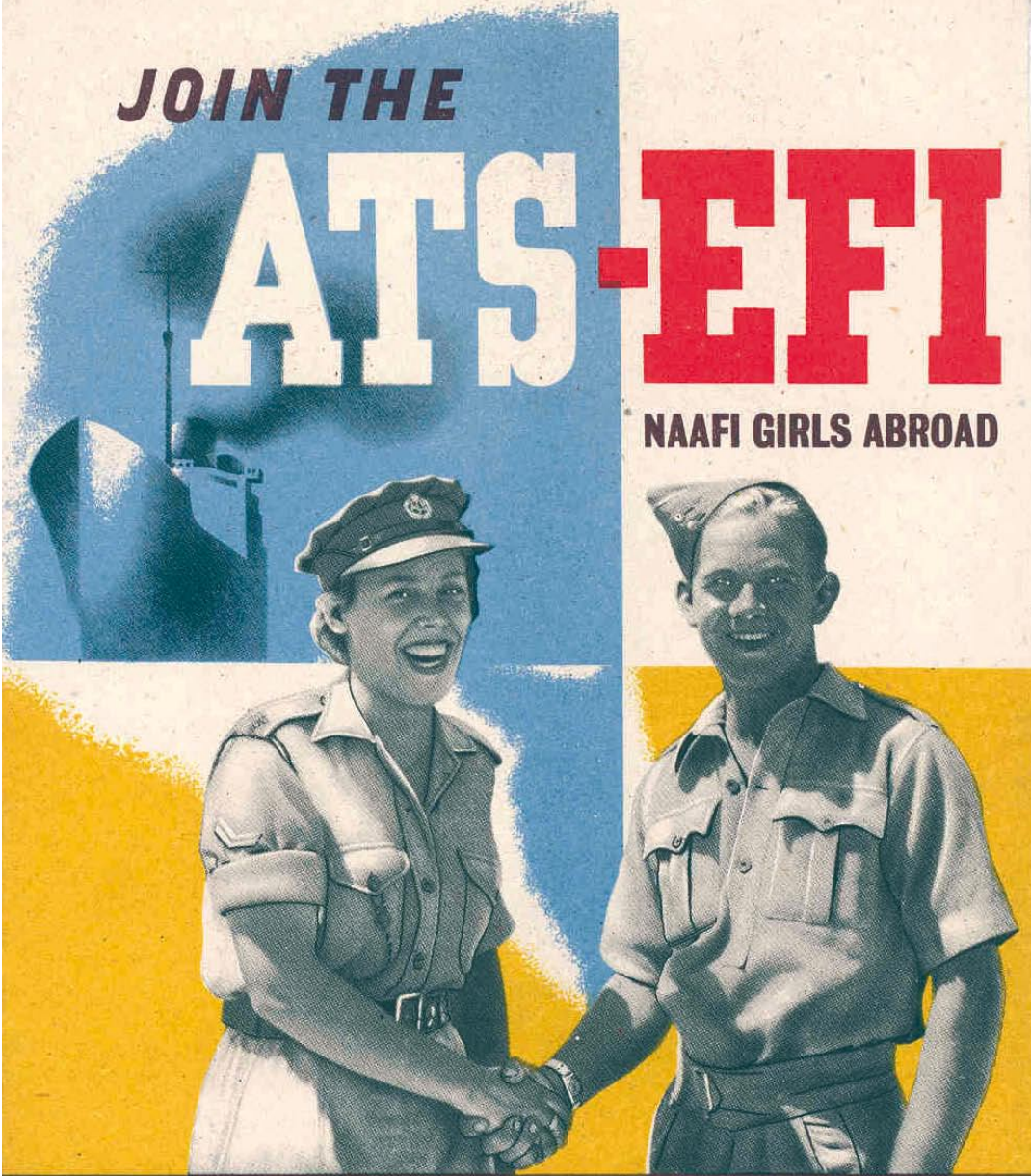
The papers of the Howard League for Penal Reform and several other political and campaigning organisations were added, as well as the papers of individuals including Sir Victor Gollancz, Jack Jones, Clive Jenkins, Lady Allen of Hurtwood, Reg Groves and Lord Morris.

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*from Lady Allen of Hurtwood collection (MSS.121/
NS/3/3/22)*

The catalogue of the Transport & General Workers' Union archive continues to grow thanks to the work of James King and funding from the TGWU. We were delighted that the TGWU has agreed to further extend James's contract for another six months, which should enable us to produce a guide to the collection. The catalogue is now over 80% completed.



Victor Grayson, the MP who mysteriously disappeared in 1920. From the Reg Groves papers (MSS. 172/VG/19)

The National Cycle Archive

There have been three main deposits in the NCA this year, including one large deposit of over 28 boxes from the Cyclists Touring Club. Some of the earlier deposits have now been added to the new database and there is now a concerted effort to add the huge collection of journals to the system.

Monica Ory, who did a great deal of work on the National Cycle Archive, retired in July. Her

detailed knowledge, helpfulness and work on the collections will be greatly missed.

Once again we would like to give a special note of thanks to David Lambourn, a local (University) volunteer who has continued to help with the enormous task of sorting the NCA papers. His commitment and hard work have been of great benefit to the Centre.

The University Archives

This year, the many events organized by the university and the continuing development of the campus have helped focus attention on Warwick's past as well as its future, leading to many visits to the archive. Over the past few months there have been a number of reunions for students who studied in the 1960s, 70s and 80s organized by the Alumni Office, the exhibitions for which were supplied with material from our collections.

More recently, the refurbishment and redesign of the university's main library prompted the consultation of photos and designs of the original building by architects and library staff

and the appointment of the new Vice-Chancellor resulted in a request for information about the history of his residence. We are also hoping to assist with a future exhibition relating to the 60th anniversary of the university's teaching training department in 2008, with another planned for this September relating to a reunion of past students who spent part of their studies in Venice.

Progress continues to be made with the organization of the archive – with work mainly carried out on collections relating to university finance.



Library interior c.1967

Storage

The refurbishment and replacement of shelving in our largest strongroom is due to take place early in 2008. All of the boxes and items will have to be removed to temporary accommodation elsewhere, while the current shelves are dismantled and new shelving installed.

The result will be an increase in capacity of up to 30%, which will enable us to reunite some collections which are currently split and provide expansion space into the future.

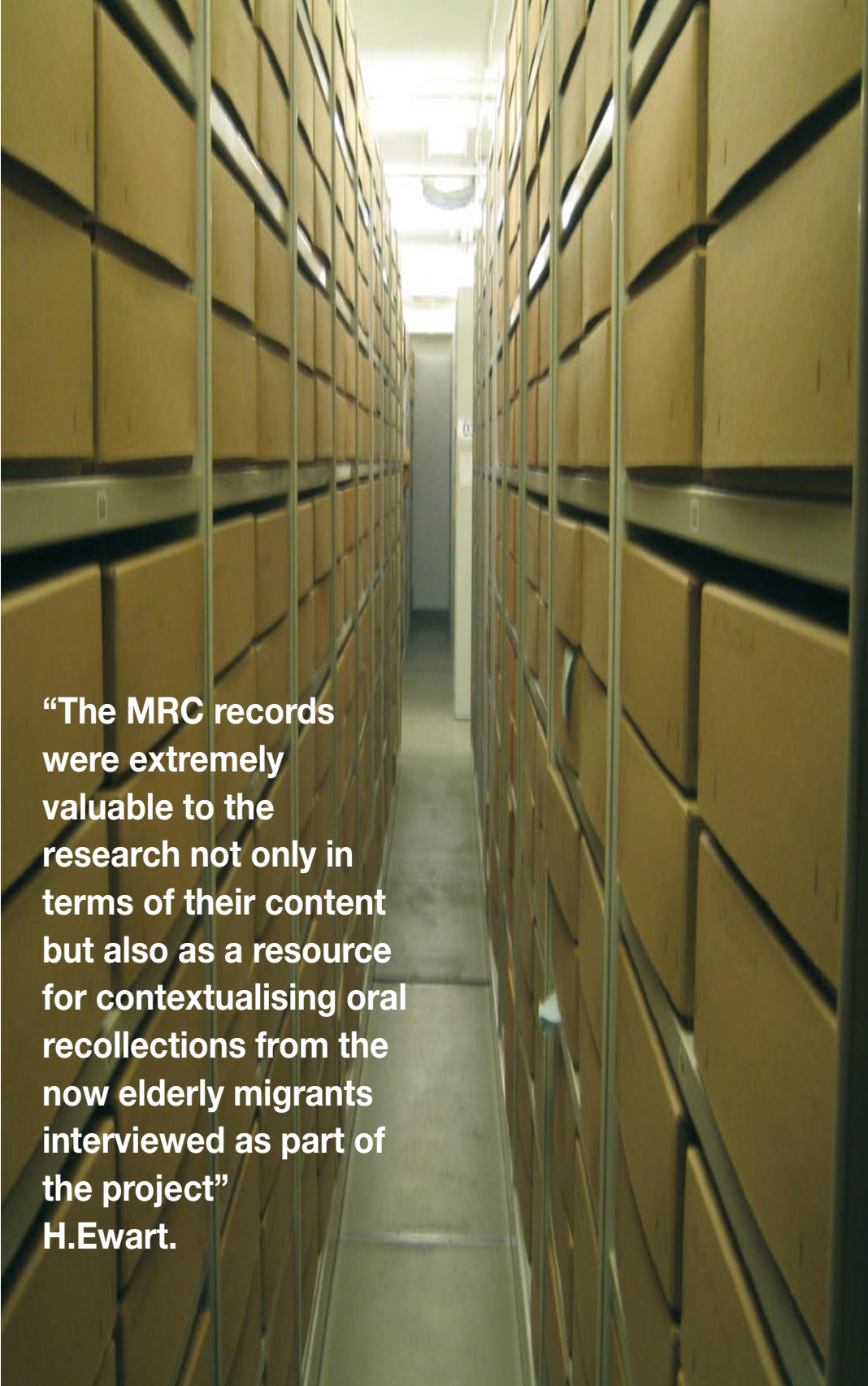
It does mean that most of this material will be unavailable to researchers for a short period (hopefully no more than 10-12 weeks).

Staff

There has been only one major change to the staff this year. Monica Ory retired in July having agreed to continue to work with us for one more year in July 2006. We are very grateful for all her work on the National Cycle Archive and on the papers of the British Association of Social Workers.



Caption 



**“The MRC records were extremely valuable to the research not only in terms of their content but also as a resource for contextualising oral recollections from the now elderly migrants interviewed as part of the project”
H.Ewart.**

Appendices

New deposits

There were 41 deposits during the year, many of which were additions to previous collections. Among the new material received were the papers of Alan Fisher, former General Secretary of NUPE and President of the TUC, Tom Litterick MP, the Community and Youth Workers' Union (now part of Unite) and the union Prospect.

Acc No.	Title	Deposit Date
554	Transport and General Workers' Union: Health & Safety Department. Publicity material	04/08/2006
555	Central Midlands Branch of the Graphic, Paper and Media Sector of Amicus. Records of branches, printed material and misc. papers	15/08/2006
556	Papers of Rodney Bickerstaffe. Personal papers and official papers of UNISON; conference papers, videos and publicity material	18/08/2006
557	Papers of Wapping Dispute. Records of SOGAT and NATSOPA. Deposited by Billy Osborne, Father of the Sogat Day Machine Chapel at Times Newspapers.	26/09/2006
558	A E Stubbs Lantern Slides	14/08/2006
559	Publications of the Engineering Employers Federation	04/09/2006
560	National Flint Glass Makers' Society. Quarterly Reports	24/08/2006
561	Institute of Management Services. trustees' report and financial statement for the year ended 31 December 2005	11/09/2006
562	Papers of Alan Fisher. Personal papers and printed material of Alan Fisher, General Secretary of NUPE, 1968 - 1982, and President of the TUC	11/09/2006
563	Records of the Tea Council of GB. Minutes and administrative records	11/09/2006
564	Certification Office for Trade Unions and Employers' Associations	20/09/2006
565	National Union of Teachers	28/09/2006
566	Unison. Committee minutes and papers	03/10/2006
567	Unison Eastern Region. Minutes and reports for TU and Joint Councils	04/10/2006
568	A E Stubbs Papers	06/10/2006
569	United Kingdom Society of Coachmakers. Stockport Branch Minutes	10/10/2006
570	National Union of Sheet Metal Workers and Coppersmiths: Quarterly journals and annual balance sheets and reports	16/10/2006

571	Civil Service Clerical Association: Organisation committee minutes, 1950-1969; organisation and education committee minutes, 1970-1975	19/10/2006
572	Ron Todd Papers. General Secretary of the Transport and General Workers' Union, 1985-1992	25/10/2006
573	Transport and General Workers' Union: Education Department Materials	31/10/2006
574	Letters of Tom Mann and Victor Grayson	01/11/2006
575	National Joint Council of Engineering and Construction Industry (Industrial Relations)	06/11/2006
576	Videos of rally on the 'Eve of Victory Parade' celebrating end of Gulf War, 1991	07/11/2006
577	Trade Union Convenor's Records: Ryton Plant	16/11/2006
578	Trade Union Convenor's Records: Stoke Plant	16/11/2006
579	Records of the Grantham and Newark branch of the National Union of Bank Employees	22/11/2006
580	Papers of Sir John Habakkuk and the Iron and Steel Board	06/12/2006
581	Confederation of British Industry	12/12/2006
582	Commercial Vehicle and Road Transport Club (CVRTC). Newsletters	22/01/2007
583	Prospect: Union of professionals	25/01/2007
585	Papers of Tom Litterick, Labour MP for Birmingham Selly Oak	04/03/2007
586	Amalgamated Society of Woodcutting Machinists	21/03/2007
587	Community and Youth Workers' Union	04/04/2007
588	International Socialists	16/04/2007
589	National Union of Printing, Bookbinding and Paperworkers: Dartford branch	18/04/2007
590	Rubery Owen. Additional records	15/03/2007
591	National Association for Pastoral Care in Education	03/06/2007
592	National Poor Law Officers' Association	15/08/2007
593	Communication Workers' Union	25/06/2007
594	Papers from the Royal Commission on the National Health Service	26/08/2007

Statistics

Archives

Total researchers for archives: 375
(includes UWA, external users and BP)

Internal readers: 88

External readers: 287
(81 from other Higher Education institutions)

BP archive readers: 105

Thesis readers

Total: 951

Theses produced: 1,332

Special Collections

Items produced: 107

Evening visits

Total: 301

Archives readers: 148

Theses readers: 104

BP readers: 49

Visits

Number of visits for archives: 1,007
(made by 365 people)

Number of visits for theses: 951

Total number of visits: 1,958

Inductions / Student groups

11 student groups visited between October 2006 and March 2007.

Total number of students: 169

Enquiries made by email, post and telephone: 1,038

Documents produced: 31,019

Photocopies produced: 5,625

Web visits: 200,236



Cartoon from the Engineering and Allied Trades Shop Stewards National Council papers about wartime production (c. 1941)

Further Information

Advisory Board Members:

Mr R. Bickerstaffe (Chairman)
Ms A. Bell* (University Librarian and Secretary)
Professor P. Burnham*
Professor W. Grant*
Professor D. Howell
Professor R. Hyman
Mr M. Jones (TUC)
Professor M. Luddy*
Professor H. Marland*
Dr J. Melling
Lord Morris of Handsworth
Mr S. Newens
Ms C. Smith (CBI)
Professor M. Terry*
Professor P. Thane
Dr M. Thomson*

* Members of the Academic Committee

Modern Records Centre Staff

Ms Anne Bell, University Librarian, Director
Helen Ford, Deputy Archivist
Carole Jones, Records Assistant
James King, Senior Assistant Archivist
Elizabeth Morrison, Records Assistant (part-time)
Martin Sanders, Senior Assistant Archivist
Andrée Whitaker, Records Assistant (part-time)
Elizabeth Wood, Assistant Archivist

Publications

The Centre's Annual Reports from 1981 and Information Bulletins from 1974 are available on request. Annual Reports from 1996-1997 and Information Bulletins from 1998 are also available on the Centre's website.

The Taff Vale case : a guide to the ASRS records, 1978, £2.00

The Osborne case papers & other records of the Amalgamated Society of Railway Servants, 1979, £2.50

The Confederation of British Industry and predecessor archives, 1997, £5.00

The International Transport Workers' Federation archive, 1985, £2.25

Women at work and in society, 2nd, enlarged, edition, 1991, £4.00

A postman's round (extracts from the diary of a Victorian letter-carrier in E. London), reprint, 1991, £3.50

The Trades Union Congress archive 1920-60, 1992, £4.00

The Trades Union Congress archive 1960-70, 1998, £3.00

Employers' & trade associations' history, 1992, £3.75

Tom Mann: a bibliography, 1993, £3.00

Automotive history sources in Coventry archives, 1996, £4.00

The personal papers of Sir Victor Gollancz, 1997, £3.00

Rubery Owen Holdings Ltd Archive, 1997, £3.50
Register of business records of Coventry & related areas, pub. Lanchester Polytechnic, 1977, £3.00

Professor Sir George Bain and Jack Jones CH, The Bullock Committee and the Low Pay Commission: some reflections, Advisory Board Lecture, 29 November 2001 (free)

Information Leaflet series include:

- No. 1 Notes for Researchers, free
- No. 2 Pacifist history, 10p
- No. 3 Taff Vale Case additional papers, 10p
- No. 4 CBI predecessor archive, free
- No. 5 Bevin TGWU papers, 10p
- No. 6 Notes on local labour records, 20p
- No. 7 Engineering Employers' Federation records, 10p
- No. 8 Papers of R.A. (Dick) Etheridge, 20p
- No. 9 Trades Union Congress deposited records, 75p
- No. 10 Cinema history sources, 40p
- No. 11 Road haulage history sources, £1.00
- No. 12 Sources for the history of cycling, free
- No. 13 Sources for the history of social work
- No. 14 Sources for the history of health and work

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