

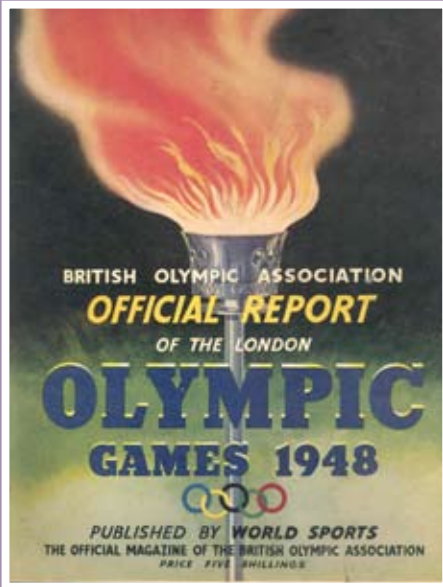
Library

**Modern
Records Centre**



Annual Report
2007-2008

THE UNIVERSITY OF
WARWICK

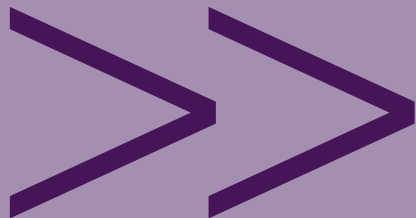


Programme of the 1948 Olympic Games held in London



Poster for the People's Olympiad of 1936

Cover image: Moroccan water carrier for miners working on "Barrage de Bin el Ouidane". Edelman papers (MSS.125/6/1)



Introduction

This year has been one of expansion, both physically in our storage areas and digitally on our website.

The beginning of 2008 saw the emptying and re-shelving of one of the strong-rooms in the Centre, during which over 6 kilometres of archives were moved and new electronic shelving installed to provide greater capacity.

Our digital expansion is a result of the rapid increase in digital access to primary sources and the wider impact of new media on archive services. The Centre has improved its digital presence through a range of images and additional facilities, as well as easier access to its catalogues.

Details on both of these developments can be found in this report. They will have long-term positive impacts on the facilities and services of the Centre.

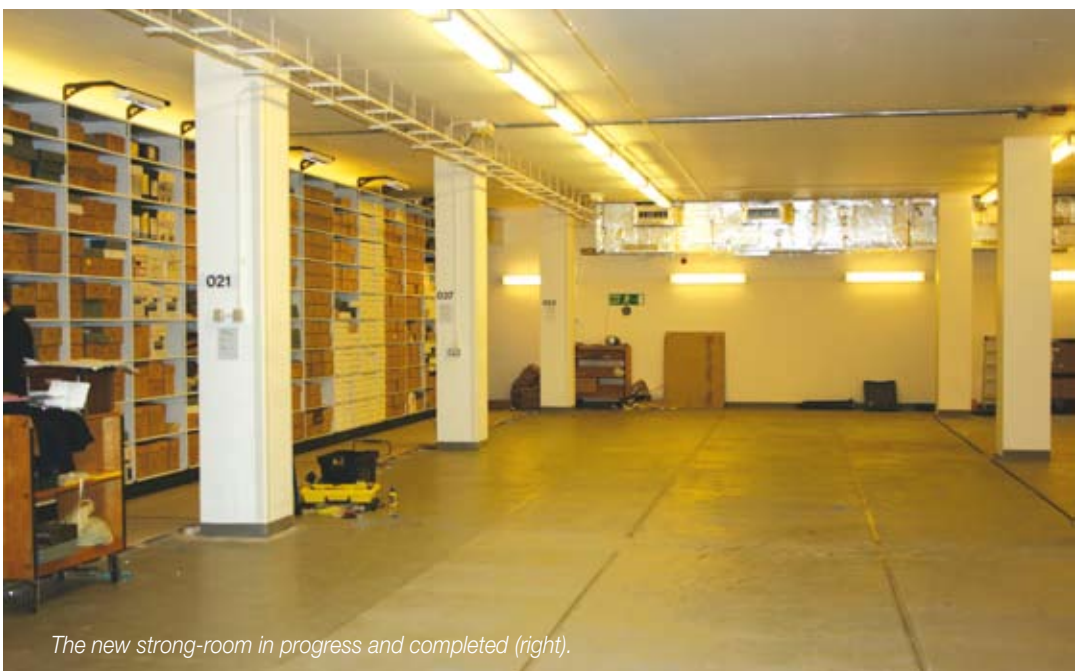
Storage improvements

The continuous flow of deposits has always presented a challenge to the Centre and lack of space has become a serious problem over the last few years.

The project to re-shelve the lower storage area began in January 2008 and was carried out in two phases. It was a large logistical operation and required about half of the collections to be moved off site for six months. A series of large containers stored the collections in the Library's external store while old shelving was dismantled and new shelving installed. The work was completed in July 2008 and has provided an increase in capacity of over 11,000 boxes.

We continued to provide a visitor and enquiry service throughout the project and the most heavily-used collections remained in the building.

The whole exercise will be repeated in the upper strongroom in 2009/10 and the result should be an overall increase in capacity of nearly 30%. This should enable us to continue collecting for many years to come.



The new strong-room in progress and completed (right).



Digital access and web sites

This year has seen significant development of our website as a source of information about our archive holdings. In June, after much preparatory work, we launched our new archive catalogue database. It considerably enhances the ability of researchers to identify sources in our holdings which may be relevant to them. There are over 145,000 records and 1,000 collections now on the system with more being added all the time.

The Centre has already found it useful in responding to enquiries and in identifying items for exhibitions and the on-line resources recently developed. It is now possible to search for a word or phrase across all the catalogues and to search for the catalogues of particular collections like the TUC, or of collections relating to particular themes such as Health & Welfare or Transport. Nearly all our collections are represented by at least a summary description in the database, and an ever-increasing number also have a detailed catalogue. These can be browsed on the screen and, in some cases, also as printable documents.

Another exciting addition to the website is our Image Gallery, which consists of on-line versions of themed archive exhibitions staged at the Centre, usually in conjunction with events such as workshops and seminars. This gives the exhibitions a more widely accessible and permanent form and will be done as a matter of course with any future exhibitions. So far the Gallery features exhibitions on motherhood, freedom and liberty, the struggle for equal pay and the Transport and General Workers' Union archive.

As a further development of the Image Gallery, we began building up a series of webpages with images of documents of particular relevance to specific University of Warwick undergraduate modules in order to encourage more student use of the Centre's vast range of resources. This is already proving popular with the academic staff concerned.

Alongside each image there is a short description of the document and a link to its entry in our on-line archive catalogues. This places the item in its context and can sometimes lead to the discovery of related

items. We hope that this will help students to become familiar with the catalogues and enhance their awareness of archives as a source. So far we have liaised with academic staff in the history and politics departments to produce resources on British Culture and the Great War, Antifascism, Resistance and Liberation in Western Europe, Governing Britain since 1918, and the Making of the Modern World. We hope to add further modules in the future.



Transport and General Workers – Unite!

A significant milestone was reached this year when James King completed the catalogue of the Transport and General Workers' Union archives in May 2008.

With the financial support of the T&G (now part of the new union, Unite), over 1,100 boxes of material have been catalogued, covering every aspect of the work and interests of Britain's largest trade union. In addition to the union's own archives, this collection includes the archives of three General Secretaries - Ernest Bevin, Jack Jones and Bill Morris - as well as more than eighty of the unions that amalgamated to form the T&G in 1922 or joined it later.



Guests and speakers at the launch of the TGWU catalogue at MRC.

The catalogue was formally launched on 12 June 2008 at an event attended by many of the union's members, university alumni and other interested parties. The evening was a great success, with a welcome by Professor Robert Palmer and talks by Jim Mowatt, Director of Education and Development for Unite, and Nina Fishman from the University of Swansea, a regular user of the Centre. A brief guide to the collection has been produced and an exhibition of items from the archive is currently on display in the searchroom and on the MRC's website. Our thanks go to Unite, the Union and the west Midlands Region of Unite to their financial support of this event.

Other catalogues

The cataloguing of the extensive archive of the National Union of Public Employees, earlier the National Union of Corporation Workers, was completed. Containing over 1,000 items, the archive is an excellent source of information on the development of trade unionism among local authority and health service workers from the 1890s to the early 1990s.

*Sultan of Rabat, Morocco 1948.
Edelman collection (MSS.125)*



Other newly catalogued collections included:

- International Marxist Group, (1948)-1999 [MSS.128]
- Papers of industrial relations specialist Professor R H 'Bob' Fryer, 1962-1985 [MSS.373]
- Papers of the industrial dispute at Grunwick Processing Laboratories Limited, 1975-1978 [MSS.484]
- Association of Public Passenger Transport, 1913-1975 [MSS.481]
- Papers of Frank Chapple (later Lord Chapple of Hoxton), the controversial general secretary of the Electrical, Electronic, Telecommunication and Plumbing Union, 1935-1996 [MSS.387]
- Records of the Society of Chiropodists and Podiatrists (formerly the Society of Chiropodists) [MSS.418]
- Papers of Eleanor Hickman, volunteer at North Stoneham Camp for Basque Children, [1935]-(1938) [MSS.393]
- Records of the East London Ropemakers' Trade Union, 1890-1895. [627].

Further progress was also made on the cataloguing of the vast archive of the British Iron and Steel Federation and associated bodies.

The papers of Maurice Edelman MP for Coventry were also catalogued. His strong interest in Europe (particularly France) is reflected in documents relating to his time as a delegate to the Council of Europe and his work for the Western European Union. The collection includes correspondence with a wide range of political and artistic figures, including Harold Wilson, Marc and Valentina Chagall, Anthony Burgess, Charles de Gaulle and Henry Moore, demonstrating Mr Edelman's broad interests.

‘Wellcome’ to the British Association of Social Workers.

In June 2008, work started on fully cataloguing the archive of the British Association of Social Workers, expanding on the initial work done by Monica Ory, and funded by a grant from the Wellcome Trust. This archive covers the administration and work of BASW from its foundation in 1970 to the present day. The BASW collection will join the papers of Eileen

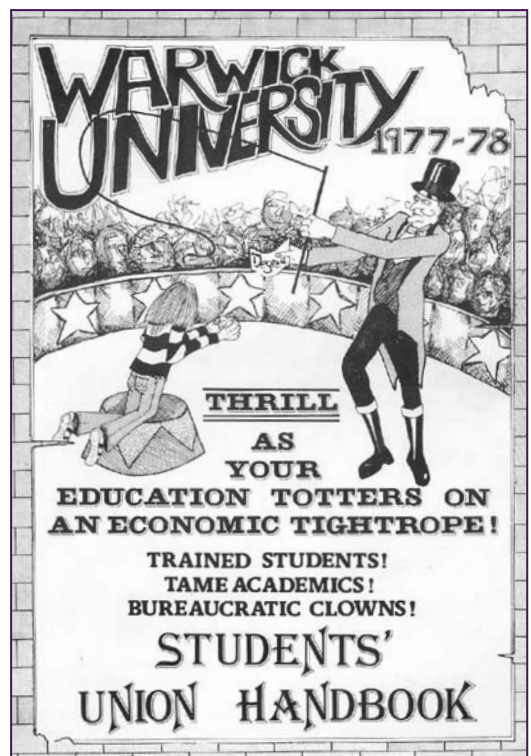
Youngusband and the archives of BASW's predecessors, which include the Association of children's officers and the Institute of Medical Social Workers, to form a key resource for anyone researching the history of social work and social and health policy in Britain during in the twentieth century.

University Archives

The University Archive has received requests from all quarters of the university over the last academic year – including the Centre for Caribbean Studies, the Arts Centre and the Language Centre. In addition, research has been conducted by students studying at Warwick and elsewhere regarding protests on campus, the Coventry College of Education and department syllabuses. Student newspapers and Lord Rootes reports have also been consulted.

At the start of this year much time was spent preparing for the Institute of Education's 60th anniversary celebrations, The event was held at Westwood on 17th May with Baroness Morris (BEd. 1970-74) as the VIP guest. A good range of photographs can be seen on the Warwick Institute of Education website. Both 2007 and 2008 also saw the provision of material for reunions of students who took part in the University's Venice programme and of those who studied at Warwick between 1982 and 1985.

Student newsletter



The end of last year, meanwhile, was dedicated to helping with the up-and-coming audit. Throughout, there have been enquiries concerning intake figures, photographs of eminent people associated with Warwick and the history of positions within the university. There has been interest in Warwick's academic buildings, including the Math's Research Centre Houses and various other university properties. We have also had to piece together the story of Warwick's Centre for British and Comparative Cultural Studies and Centre of Translation

and Comparative Cultural Studies. Overall, all sections of the archive have been well used.

*Maths Research Centre
Houses, University of Warwick.
(UWA/II.B.1/1)*



Talks and Outreach

In addition to the induction sessions for students, staff have provided talks and introductions to sources for Open Studies Genealogy (two classes) in June 2008, and a meeting of the Social Work History Network held at Warwick in July 2008.

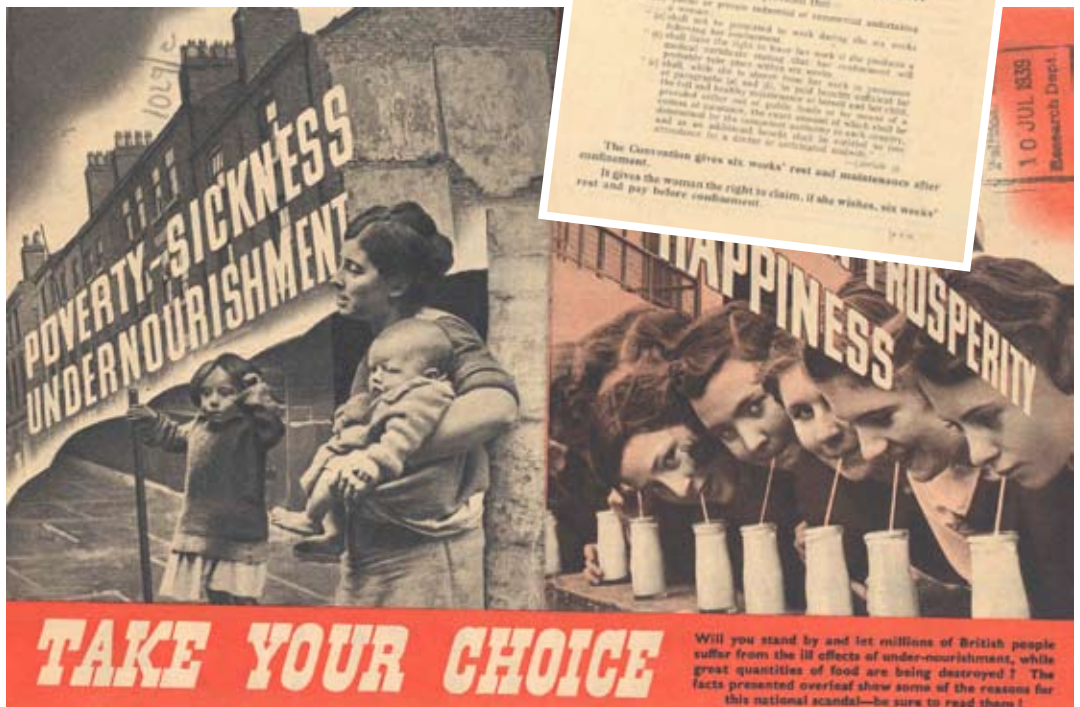
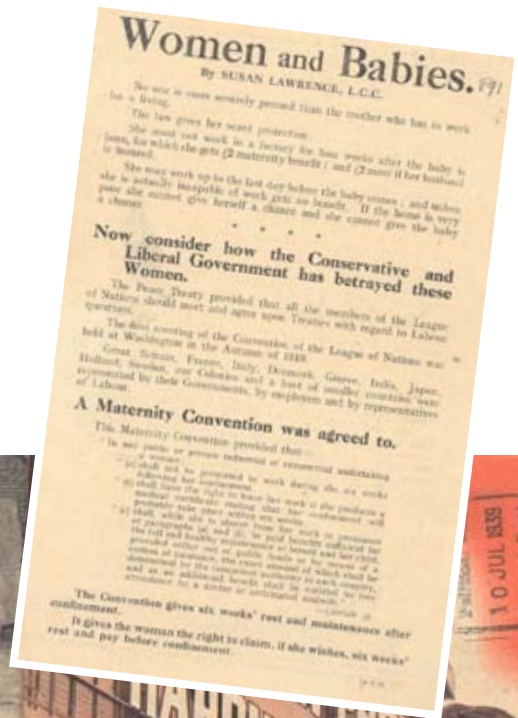
Helen Ford attended a one day conference in Exeter in November 2007 and gave a paper on the resources held at the MRC relating to the southwest.

MRC acted as host for the Centre for Medical History in June when a conference on 'Advice to Mothers' was held. The MRC offered a small exhibition of documents on motherhood and maternity care for the Conference and a selection of this material is now available on-line in the Image Gallery.

The Centre was visited by Lord Morris of Handsworth in July 2008. Lord Morris sits on the Centre's Advisory Board and his papers are deposited here as part of the TGWU archive.



Bill Morris



Labour party leaflet from the TGWU papers. (126/TG/RES/X/1029c)

Labour Party leaflet (MSS.148/UCW/6/13/41/7)

Accessions and Statistics

Although the MRC remained open and continued to answer email and telephone enquiries, the unavailability of many of the collections during the re-shelving project has had an impact on the visitor figures during 2008.

The total number of visitors dropped to 279 (365), though the number of visits by readers from other Higher Education institutions rose to 233 (182). Total number of archive visits to the Centre was 832 (1007).

However the enquiries received (by email, telephone and post) have risen to 1036 (938) and the number of website visits also continues to rise, to 211,302 (198,153). This reflects the increasing trend towards remote and digital access.

Enquiries covered a wide range of subjects and predictably included a number of key anniversaries such as the formation of the NHS and the many 1968 events such as the student protests and the Vietnam war.

Grateful thanks are extended to all depositors and contributors and in particular to the union Unite, the Confederation of British Industry and the Trades Union Congress.

2007/2008 Statistics Summary

The total number of visits made to the Centre was 1,695 (1,958) broken down as follows:

Archives

Total visits: **832** (1,007) made by
279 (375) readers.
Internal reader visits: 279 (344)
External reader: 215 (287)

Student inductions: 9 groups totalling 132 (169) students

Theses

Total: **863** (951) visits.
Theses produced: 1,108 (1,332)

Evening Visits

Total: **222** (301)
Archive readers: 135 (148)
Theses etc: 66 (104)
BP readers: 21 (49)

Special Collections

Items produced: **135** (107)

Enquiries

made by email, post and telephone: 1,036 (938)

Web Visits: **211,302** (198,153)

Documents produced: 28,565 (31,019)
BP: **1,966** (3,641)

Photocopies: **4,317** (5,625).
Digital images taken: 24,480 (17,211)

Accessions

There were 50 deposits during the year.

Acc No.	Title	Deposit Date
595	Equal Opportunities Commission. Reports	01/08/2007
596	Records of the Clearing Bank Union	17/08/2007
597	Records of the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation and the National Union of Knitwear, Footwear & Apparel Trades and predecessors	15/08/2007
598	Papers of Sue Hastings on Equal Pay	28/08/2007
599	National Union of Civil and Public Servants	17/09/2007
600	Inland Revenue Staff Federation/National Union of Civil and Public Servants	19/09/2007
601	Socialist Party /Militant (100 box files)	05/10/2007
603	Society of Radiographers (25 boxes)	10/10/2007
604	Rodney Bickerstaffe's papers relating to the campaign for the national minimum wage	31/10/2007
605, 617	Commercial Vehicle and Road Transport Club	07/11/2007
606	Massey Fergusson Joint Shop Stewards Committee (1 box)	03/12/2007
608	National Union of Teachers. Annual reports	16/10/2007
610	Correspondence and papers re Michael Meacher's candidacy for the Labour Party leadership (1 file)	28/11/2007
611	International Transport Workers' Federation. Additional papers	27/11/2007
612	Society of Civil and Public Servants (4 boxes)	30/11/2007
613	Confederation of British Industry (196 boxes)	11/12/2007
614	National Association of Teachers in Further and Higher Education (NATFHE) (25 boxes)	04/12/2007
615	Fire Brigades Union Publications	02/01/2008
616	Association of Scientific Workers. Index cards.	10/01/2008

618	CND. '2nd Generation': The Magazine of Youth CND	02/06/2008
619	NZ Dept of Labour. Equal Pay Files	03/02/2008
620	Bristol Unity Players. Additional papers	04/02/2008
621	Imperial Industries Club. Two minute books	10/03/2008
622	'Workers Hammer', newspaper of the Spartacist League, no 186, winter 2003-2004	12/03/2008
623	Rubery Owen. Staff photographs	02/12/2007
624	Papers of Jon Appleton (NALGO, etc.)	02/04/2008
626	National Union of Press Telegraphists (NUPT). Photographs	12/04/2008
627	East London Ropemakers' Union (1 box)	01/05/2008
628	Journals of the Wolverhampton and District branch of the National and Local Government Officers Association	05/06/2008
629	National Union of Hosiery and Knitwear Workers and The National Union of Knitwear, Footwear and Apparel Trades	10/06/2008
630	Society of Lithographic Artists, Designers, Engravers and Process Workers (1 vol)	14/06/2008
631	National Union of Vehicle Builders (40 boxes)	19/06/2008
632	RMT York Office (2 boxes)	10/01/2008
633	Transport and General Workers' Union. The Record	04/04/2008
634	Tickets and programmes for National Union of Journalists Wales News Dinner and South Wales Press Ball	24/06/2008
636	Railway Signalmen's United Aid and Sick Society	30/07/2008
639	National Union of Teachers and National Association of Teachers of Further and Higher Education (NATFHE) /Association of University Teachers (AUT), now UCU (30 boxes)	08/08/2008
640	Social Workers' Benevolent Trust (SWBT)	12/08/2008
641	Trades Union Congress. Reports	04/08/2008
642	Transport and General Workers' Union. Additional material	12/08/2008

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
Ms. J Henderson (TUC)
Professor H. Marland*
Dr J. Melling
Lord Morris of Handsworth
Professor S. Palmer
Ms C. Smith (CBI)
Professor M. Terry*
Professor P. Thane
Dr M. Thomson*

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