

# MODERN RECORDS CENTRE INFORMATION BULLETIN

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## *1. Twenty-fifth Anniversary*

The Centre celebrated its 25th anniversary in October 1998 with a seminar and a party. Professor George Bain, chairman of the Centre's Advisory Board as well as Vice-Chancellor of Queen's University, Belfast, talked about the pre-history of the Centre. He, with Professors Hugh Clegg and Royden Harrison, was one of the 'prime begetters' of the Leverhulme Trust grant which established the Centre in 1973. Richard Storey, the Founding Archivist, reflected on the Centre's development, and Professor Chris Wrigley of Nottingham University considered the Centre from the researchers' viewpoint. A new sources booklet (no. 10) was launched at the party: Alan Crookham, *The Trades Union Congress Archive 1960-70* (University of Warwick Library Occasional Publications No. 30, ISBN 0 903220 41 5, 1998). The booklet describes the papers in the TUC's latest deposits, MSS.292B and MSS.292C. They cover two periods in the TUC's history, primarily 1960-70, but a significant amount supplements the earlier 1920-60 deposit. The archive gives a comprehensive account of the TUC's interest in the economy, international affairs, education and industrial relations. The booklet is available from the Centre, price £3.00 (including inland postage and packing). Please make cheques payable to 'University of Warwick Foundation.'

## *2. Cataloguing developments*

Alan Crookham has begun the work of revising the Centre's *Summary Guide*, described in the last newsletter. The work, funded by the HEFCE, is to make the *Summary Guide* more comprehensive and to make it conform with the new International Standard for Archival Description (ISAD(G)). It involves compiling name authority records for the organisations whose archives are held by the Centre. These records will be contributed to the National Council on Archives' National Names Authority Files project, so that archivists working on related archives held elsewhere will be able to use the records to speed up and improve their own listing work.

The previous newsletter also reported that the Centre had been fortunate in obtaining a grant from the Gladys Kriebel Delmas Foundation via the

Research Libraries Group (RLG). The grant will pay for the cost of converting three of our finding aids to electronic format and then inserting minimum EAD tags. The converted finding aids have recently been delivered and we are checking them for conformity to our style. We hope to be able to mount them on our web site in the near future, which will add over 1,000 pages of finding aids. The finding aids converted describe the TUC archives, 1960-70 (MSS.292B); the files added to the TUC archive 1920-60 (MSS.292C); and the archive of the International Transport Workers' Federation (MSS.159).

### 3. *New deposits*

Other archives continue to be deposited. They are described briefly in the following list.

- *British Council Staff Association:* Files relating to the activities of the BCSA and the Trade Union Side at the British Council, 1940s-1980s. They include minutes of staff committees within the Council, office bulletins and trade union side papers. (MSS.381)
- *Confederation of British Industry:* The CBI has made an additional deposit, as part of its ongoing programme.
- *Electrical Trades Union:* The AEEU has added additional material relating to Les Cannon's case against the ETU in 1961. (MSS.387)
- *Fire Brigades Union:* Some additions have been made to the FBU archive. They include publications, 1960s-90s, officers' speeches, 1995-8, and a correspondence file on disarmament, 1987-8. (MSS.346B)
- *Victor Gollancz papers:* Livia Gollancz has very kindly added a box of additional papers: letters of condolence sent to her mother on her father's death. (MSS.157).
- *Inter-Banks Organisation & Methods Association:* The Association was formed in December 1960 as an informal organisation to promote the discussion of topical issues. Members included various banks and banking associations, as well as other financial institutions. The Association was wound up in 1998. Minutes, newsletters, papers given and correspondence relating to meetings, 1961-90s have been deposited. (MSS.394)
- *International Transport Workers' Federation:* A large number of photographs, as well as additional circulars and publications have been deposited. (MSS.159)

- *National Cycle Archive:* The CTC has added more recent files to its archive. (MSS.328/CTC)
- *National Union of Railwaymen:* Bob Rubie has kindly deposited some additional NUR archives, including conference papers for various grades, 1983-91. Although Bob Rubie held a number of branch and regional positions within the union, these papers reflect the activities of the union at a national level. (MSS.127)
- *National Union of Teachers:* Further additions have been made to this extensive archive. They include minutes for the Education Committee, 1960-77, the Advisory Committee for primary schools, 1959-69, and the Orphanage and teachers' benevolent fund, 1880-1900. There are also reports, 1879-1908, NUT annual reports, 1872-1986, and Burnham Committee papers, 1950s-80s. (MSS.179)
- *North Stoneham Camp:* The North Stoneham Camp was established in 1937 for the children of refugees from the Spanish Civil War. This deposit is mainly photographs of the camp, taken by Eleanor Hickman, a volunteer at the camp. The Centre is very grateful to Mrs. Valerie Vowles, Eleanor Hickman's daughter, for the deposit of this collection, which complements the Wilfrid Roberts archive already in the Centre. (MSS.393)
- *Operational Research Society Archive:* Reports compiled by British Gas North Western Operational Research, 1981-94, have been added to the ORS archive. (MSS.335/GAS/NW)
- *Society for Research into Higher Education:* Additional papers have been deposited. They include conference papers : 1994 'the student experience'; 1995 'the changing university'; papers for various committees and groups, 1980s: regional branches; international committee; publicity & recruitment; activities committee; publications committee; forum; distance education group; course monitoring group; validation study group (MSS.323).
- *Paul Tofahrn papers:* Mr. Harold Lewis, former General Secretary of the International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF), has very kindly donated part of his unpublished memoirs which describe the later stages of Tofahrn's ITF career. Tofahrn was Assistant General Secretary of the ITF 1938-56. (MSS.238X/6)
- *Transport and General Workers' Union:* Richard Storey, now commissioned by the TGWU, has continued to sort through material still with the Union and this has led to additional papers being deposited in the

Centre. They includes files relating to disputes, dockers, canals and waterways, industrial relations with Ford Motor Co., support for the miners in 1984/5, relations with SOGAT, especially the Wapping dispute, and toxic nuclear waste. (MSS.126/T&G)

- *Transport Salaried Staffs' Association:* A significant addition has been made to the TSSA archives. It includes Finance Committee minutes, 1916-76, financial records, and the diary of Irish Assistant Secretary J. T. O'Farrell relating to his trip to the British Commonwealth Relations conference in Sydney, 1938. (MSS.55B)

#### **4. *Staff***

Two new members of staff have joined the Centre, Sarah Hepworth and David Bishop, both funded by the HEFCE. Both of them are newly-graduated MAs in archive administration. As well as getting her MA from University College London, Sarah got a distinction and shared the Churchill-Jenkinson prize. Her thesis, 'Implementing EAD at the Peabody Museum: a case study', was based on a project she undertook at Harvard University. David obtained his M.A.R.M. from the University of Liverpool. A copy of his thesis "The Role of the Archivist in the Collecting of Oral History" is available on-line, at the UK Society of Archivists Film and Sound Group site. The address is: <http://www.pettarchiv.org.uk/fsg-db1.htm#DBISHOP>. Both are making great progress cataloguing previously unlisted material.

#### **5. *Telephone and Fax number changes***

Please note that from 30 June 1999 the Centre's telephone and fax numbers will change to (tel.) +44 (0)24 7652 4219 and Fax. +44 (0)24 7652 4211.

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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  
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URL: <http://www.warwick.ac.uk/services/library/mrc/mrc.html>