

MODERN RECORDS CENTRE INFORMATION BULLETIN

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1. *Introduction*

This *Bulletin* records another busy five months at the Centre. In addition to personnel changes, the Centre's staff has been kept busy accessioning a large number of deposits, some of them very large and complex.

2. *RSLP Mine of Information*

The Centre is a partner in a project funded by the Research Support Libraries Programme entitled "A Mine of Information: Cataloguing the South Wales Coalfield". The project is led by the University of Wales, Swansea. Its aim is to improve access to research resources relating to the South Wales Coalfield. It will do this by creating online catalogue records for the relevant material located in partner institutions. The records will be held in EAD and MARC databases at UWS. Researchers will be able to cross-search these via the Web. For its part in the project, the Centre is contributing catalogue records for the archive of the Trades Union Congress. The archive comprises some 20,000 files from 1920 to 1987 and includes much material of relevance to mining, industrial health, industrial disputes, nationalisation, and records of local Trades Councils. We are currently updating the existing typed list of the TUC records from 1920 to 1960 (1500 pages) by converting it to EAD and editing it to ISAD(G) standards. We will contribute the resulting EAD records to the project, along with the 7000 existing EAD records describing the files for 1960 to 1970. So far, the list has been successfully converted to EAD and, to give researchers immediate access, it can be found in the Centre's on-line guide to holdings (<http://www.warwick.ac.uk/services/library/mrc/>). Researchers should be aware that editing of the list is still in progress. As a further part of the project, we will also be compiling an index of Welsh place names to enhance access to information relating to the South Wales Coalfield and surveying the Centre's other holdings for relevant material.

3. *Higher Education Archives Hub project*

The HE Archives Hub project is going into a second phase, to add more records and increase its usefulness (<http://www.archiveshub.ac.uk>). The Centre's application to participate in this second phase was successful. We will be able to complete the compilation of collection-level descriptions for the Centre's own archives, as well as to compile them for the other universities in the West Midlands which have archival holdings: Birmingham, Coventry, Keele, and Staffordshire. The work will begin in September 2001.

4. *Web page developments*

Charles Fonge has redesigned and revised the Centre's web pages, and compiled web pages for the West Midlands Regional Archives Council. The Centre's web pages have been revised to bring their style into line with that of the University's main pages and to extend their scope in the light of new pages and additions. Their revision also means that users with disabilities will be able to access them in a text only version and via screen readers. The pages will be readable by lower specification machines and should be more easily found by search engines. The Centre has recently purchased XML software. This will enable us to continue creating our catalogues in the SGML format but would-be readers will no longer have to have an SGML browser. This will make our collection-level and detailed finding aids widely accessible. Meantime use of our web pages continues to climb at an astonishing rate; there are frequently over external 2000 visits a week. A computer is now available in the searchroom for researchers wishing to use our electronic finding aids.

5. *Gillian Rose exhibition*

A small exhibition of annotated books and papers from Gillian Rose's papers is on display in the Centre's searchroom, to complement a workshop held in her memory in December. Professor Rose (1947-1995) was Professor of Sociology at Warwick 1989-1995. The text of her inaugural lecture, 'Athens and Jerusalem: A Tale of Three Cities,' is included in the exhibition. Professor Rose's papers are held in the Centre, while her books are held in the University Library. The papers are not yet listed and are only available for research under strict conditions. (MSS.377)

6. *Women's History seminars*

New this term has been a series of seminars on aspects of Women's history, usually held at 5 pm in the Centre's searchroom. Anne Summers spoke on 'Lieutenants, custodians, or just one step behind? Paradigms of women's public agency 1800-1930' and Lucy Bland on 'The trial of Mme Fahmy: Orientalism, sexual perversity and miscegenation in 1920s Britain'. A further seminar took the form of a training session on sources for women's history. The next seminar will be on March 6th: Garthine Walker, 'Just stories: women's subjectivity and tale-telling in early modern England.' A postgraduate workshop will be held on 27 April and a day conference on writing women's history on 12 May.

7. *New deposits*

Archives continue to be deposited in large quantities. They are described briefly in the following list. Some of them have yet to be processed, so that their entry here is simply a 'marker.' As usual, a complete list will be included in the Centre's *Annual Report*. Please note that some of the collections are subject to access restrictions.

- *Civil Service Clerical Association*: papers of F. G. Fallows, member of the Land Registry branch, and trustee of the Association, 1927-1954. (MSS.48/6)
- *Institute of Management Services*: An addition to the deposit has completed our run of *Management Services. Journal of the Institute of Management Services*, 1957-2001
- *Iron and Steel Trades Confederation*: Quarterly Reports, 1984-90 have been added to the archive. A further 137 boxes have been added to the archive, extending the series of papers, circulars, and correspondence held in the Centre to the 1990s. They include correspondence with other unions and the TUC, with government, and international connections. As well as predictable concerns, there are files on apartheid in South Africa, and human rights in Argentina. An alphabetical subject index gives access to material created in the 1950s-80s. Some of the correspondence is preserved in microfilm format. Not open for research. (MSS.36)
- *Operational Research Society*: The International Federation of Operational Research Societies (IFORS) is an international organisation of national societies whose primary object is the advancement of operational research. Its aims are the development of Operational Research as a unified science and its advancement in all nations of the world. IFORS was established in 1959 and its initial membership consisted of the Operations Research Society of America, the Operational Research Society of the United Kingdom, and The Société Française de Recherche Opérationnelle. The retiring Secretary has deposited four large boxes of papers. (MSS.335/IFORS).
- *Organisation and Methods Society*: An addition to the deposit has extended our run of the Society's journal, *Management in Action*, 1970-82. (MSS.357)
- *Post Office Engineering Union*: This addition to the archive consists mainly of files produced during the 1980s and deals particularly with the privatisation of the telecommunications industry. The files relate in particular to the Privatisation Campaign, 1980s, Industrial Democracy, 1970-1980s, POEU publications, 1970s-1980s, National Communications Union Special Conference agendas and reports, 1980s - 1990s, and a large number of subject files. (MSS.135E)
- *George Renshaw*: A pioneer member of the Communist Party of Great Britain, and an active member of the Minority Movement. He produced such papers as the *Railway Vigilant* and the *Busman's Punch*, and was for many years on the industrial staff of the *Daily Worker*. His family has deposited the originals of material that the Centre had microfilmed some years ago, plus a few extra items. (MSS.104)
- *Society for Research in Higher Education*: Papers of Prof. Donald Bligh relating to his work on university entrance. (MSS.323/6/Bligh)

- *Society of Chiropodists and Podiatrists*: General Council papers, 1950-84 (incomplete); Whitley Council for Professions Allied to Medicine papers, 1946-85 (incomplete). (MSS.418)
- *RMT: National Union of Railwaymen*: Additions have been made to the published material held by the Centre. Reports and proceedings to 1989; reports of annual and special general meetings to 1990; *Railway Review* (*Transport Review* from 1977), 1879-1990. (MSS.127/AS and NU)

8. *Staff*

Richard Temple is on a year's secondment organised by VSO to the National Records Service (NRS) in The Gambia. He sent this news for the bulletin. The NRS is the repository for government archives in The Gambia and the earliest records there date back to the early nineteenth century. In his capacity as a records management adviser, Richard is helping to appraise the backlog of semi-current files and assisting in the preparation of a guide to the NRS's holdings. The semi-current records include many files seen at ministerial level in The Gambia, mainly since independence in 1965. Although the files cover a large range of policy areas, the particular significance of some aspects of The Gambia's development is clear. The files of the Agriculture Department, for instance, reveal policy-making of great strategic importance as The Gambia's economy has traditionally been based on rural production.

Caroline Hughes has joined us while Richard is away. Caroline's face may be familiar as she did her pre-course work experience in the BP Amoco Archive. She completed the MA in Archives and Records Management at UCL in 2000. Her MA report was a listing project and commentary on the records of the Oman Archive, part of the Middle East Centre Private Papers Collection, at St Antony's College, Oxford.

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