

# MODERN RECORDS CENTRE INFORMATION BULLETIN

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## **Storage update**

As many of you will have noticed from our website we have now started the re-shelving project. About half of the collections have been removed from the lower strongroom and are temporarily being stored off-site. A list of the collections which are now unavailable can be seen on our website.

The whole strongroom will be re-shelved in two phases: The work of dismantling half of the current shelving and installing part of the new shelving has begun and will continue for the next three weeks. We will then need to move the other half of the collections onto the new shelving while the other side of the room is replaced. We are aiming to have the collections back by early to mid May but will of course keep everybody informed of progress via the website.

## **Equal Pay**

The Centre hosted an interesting Advisory Board meeting and lecture last November around the Equal Pay material received last year. The TUC produced a film about the history of the struggle for Equal Pay based on archive material and we were able to show the film as part of this event. We also produced a small exhibition of archives on Equal Pay which can still be seen at the Centre. Additional material will be received to build this archive.

## **University Archives**

Preparations are underway on campus for the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Institute of Education, which will be celebrated in May by past staff and students at an evening event. Organizers have been working with a wide collection of the Modern Record's Centre's archive material relating to the Institute's long and complex history, which started out as a Men's Emergency Training College shortly after the Second World War and later became the Coventry College of Education. Following a merger with the University of Warwick, its records were eventually transferred to the University Archive where they are being catalogued along with more recent papers. The project has uncovered graduation photos from the 1940s,

THE UNIVERSITY OF  
**WARWICK**

albums of trainee teachers in their sports teams, images of the college buildings and interiors and examples of students' work.

At the same time, there are two further general reunions planned for April and May to be attended by students who started at Warwick in 1967, 1972, 1977 and 1982. This will involve work with staff from the Alumni Office who will look at student publications, prospectuses, and photographs from the archive.

Ongoing work, meanwhile, includes a survey of the archives' contents in readiness for audits occurring in November, which has resulted in further intakes of committee papers from University House and future cataloguing amendments being planned.

## **Cataloguing and Access**

We have recently added the 400<sup>th</sup> collection onto the CALM database which takes the total number of records on the system to over 110,000. We have also now started to produce downloadable and printable catalogues from the system including many which were previously unavailable.

Key additions to the database now include a large part of the TUC archive and many of the early engineering unions, a number of the car industry collections including Standard Motors, and a range of individuals' papers.

Among the larger collections now available are the archives of the National Union of Public Employees (MSS.281). Previously finding aids to these records were limited but the CALM database now contains 1165 records and the archive fills over 200 boxes. It ranges in date from the late 19th century to 1994 and includes extensive series of minutes and papers, records concerning public sector joint negotiating bodies, relations with other unions, industrial action and the Labour Party, and circulars and journals.

The archives of the following organisations and individuals were not fully catalogued before or did not have a full catalogue accessible electronically.

The Institute of Personnel Management and related bodies and individuals (MSS.97); The International Marxist Group (MSS.128); Sir William Guy Granet, railway director (MSS.191); George Proctor, member of a commission of enquiry of English workmen sent to investigate social conditions in Germany in 1905 (MSS.216); Society of British Gas Industries (MSS.231); David Michaelson, shop steward and writer (MSS.233); Professor Bob Fryer, Warwick University industrial relations specialist (MSS.373 and part of MSS.281). Other collections which are now in the database include Lady Allen of Hurtwood (MSS.121);

Sir Joseph Hallsworth (MSS.70); Aaron Rapoport Rollin (MSS.240); William Wess (MSS.240W) and Richard Crossman (MSS.154). Organisational archives now available to search include the Howard League for Penal Reform (MSS.16) and the Young Women's Christian Association (MSS.243).

The papers of Maurice Edelman MP (1911-1975) have recently been included. Mr Edelman represented the north and north-west areas of Coventry as an MP between 1945-1975, worked as a journalist, and produced a number of best selling novels during the 1960s and 1970s. All aspects of Mr Edelman's career are represented in this collection, which includes constituency and political subject files, draft novels and published articles. Edelman's 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. 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, demonstrates Mr Edelman's broad interests.

We are still hoping to launch the new on-line catalogue this spring and have now started to consolidate much of the data and develop the website pages required to host the system.

## **TGWU**

Nearly four years' of cataloguing work is approaching the final stage and preparations are now underway to launch the catalogue and celebrate the project. James King is now preparing a guide to the collection and we hope to hold a launch event at the Centre in May or June.

James has recently been working on the papers of the Research Department which amounts to over 253 boxes of files, including 160 boxes on general workers (MSS.126/TG/RES/GW), 22 boxes on dock workers (MSS.126/TG/RES/D), 19 boxes on commercial road transport workers (MSS.126/TG/RES/RTC), and 11 boxes on passenger transport workers (MSS.126/TG/RES/P). The final part of the Research Department archive consists of a large series of reports and publications on a wide range of subjects collected by the department from many different organisations (MSS.126/TG/RES/X). Over fifty boxes of these have been catalogued so far and this work is ongoing.

## **National Cycle Archive**

Many of the NCA and CTC collections are now available in the archive database and should enable quicker and more effective searches across the collections. Carole Jones has also been adding

the many and varied cycling journals onto the new database and this has already proved a valuable aid to answering enquiries.

## **New deposits**

As our loading bay and strongrooms are largely inaccessible we have temporarily halted the arrival of additional collections at the Centre. However, we continue to receive enquiries from depositors and should be receiving a number of interesting deposits later in the year. These will include:

- Records of the Biscuit Cake Chocolate & Confectionery Association
- Papers of Peggy Preston, peace campaigner
- National Postgraduate Committee records

Among the collections received between October 2007 and February 2008 are:

- The National Association of Teachers in Further and Higher Education (NATFHE). (Acc.614)
- Additional records for the International Transport Workers Federation (Acc. 611)
- Additional records of the Confederation of British Industry (Acc. 613)
- Additional records of the Society of Civil and Public Servants (Acc.612)
- Fire Brigades Union publications (Acc. 615)

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For further information about the Centre, its holdings and publications, contact Helen Ford, 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](mailto:archives@warwick.ac.uk)  
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