



WARWICK
THE UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

Modern Records Centre
Annual Report 2015-2016



Once again I'm pleased to report that the MRC has enjoyed a busy and successful year. During 2015-2016 the MRC extended its educational and promotional activities further than ever with a series of evening talks and lively exhibitions.

Meleisa Ono-George joined the MRC for twelve months and took on the challenges of community engagement and the Widening Participation *Archives aLive* project we had started in 2014. She improved our engagement with social media and helped to embed the Centre's relationships with academics, the Students Union and local organizations in Coventry.

A successful Community Speaker Series, a lively Twitter presence and interesting changes to our website have all helped to publicise and promote the Centre's work on and off the campus.

Some of the other highlights this year include the successful bid to catalogue the Bill Wedderburn papers, the digitisation of many thousands of document on the Russian Revolution and the completion of the catalogue of Eric Hobsbawm's papers. Details on all these events are given in this report.

Education and Outreach

Meleisa Ono-George, a Research Fellow in the History Department joined the MRC as Education and Outreach Officer in Sept 2015. She has been an energetic and proactive advocate for the MRC throughout the year, helping to strengthen and enrich both academic engagement within Warwick and its work with the wider local community.

Within Warwick, the Centre has sought to increase student use of the resources and to support the University's 'student as researcher' programme. The Centre has a key role to play in helping students to develop and improve their research skills as well as supporting innovative teaching methods with original and digitised archive sources.

We have provided our regular inductions on archives and archival research for Warwick university modules in departments such as History (including History of Medicine, Comparative American Studies), Sociology, Theatre Studies, Warwick Business School, Centre for Lifelong Learning, History of Art, and English. A total of 558 students came through MRC during the academic year and we provided 42 hours of teaching time.

In addition, 157 students and 30 members of staff have participated in our evening events or attended exhibition launches. The new Community Speaker Series (CSS) and Open Education Series (OES) have brought in new audiences and encouraged students to use archives and the MRC outside of the classroom.



Beginning with an exhibition for Black History Month in October 2015, the Centre has produced archive displays and materials to support all the Community Speaker Series and other events such as LGBTQ History Month.

A cheery Christmas food and drink display made good use of some of the larger items in the Brewers Society archives.

Community Speaker Series

The CSS offered an opportunity for community members, independent scholars, academics, and students to come together to discuss topics of local importance to the Coventry/Warwickshire area. Each talk was accompanied by an exhibition of related archival material held at the MRC and an opportunity for the audience to handle original sources. We ran five events during the year:

We were fortunate to be able to launch the series with a talk by Professor James Hinton, former chair of CND Project's Committee whose papers have been deposited at MRC. 'Reflections on the 1983 Deployment of Cruise Missiles at Greenham Common' attracted a large audience, many of whom had been participants at the Greenham camp.



In December the topic was 'Celebrating British Black and Asian Shakespearians' and our speaker was Jami Rogers, Research Fellow on the Black British and Asian Shakespeare Project. This was supported by an exhibition: Exploring the Minority Arts Archives.



'NHS: Past and Future' was the topic in February 2016. Our speakers were Roberta Bivins, Principal Investigator for The Cultural History of the NHS project and Anna Pollert, Chair for the South Warwickshire Keep Our NHS Public Campaign.

We supported with an exhibition on The Politics of Health Care in Britain.

To support International Women's Day in March our fourth CSS event was 'Women and the Global Refugee Crisis'.

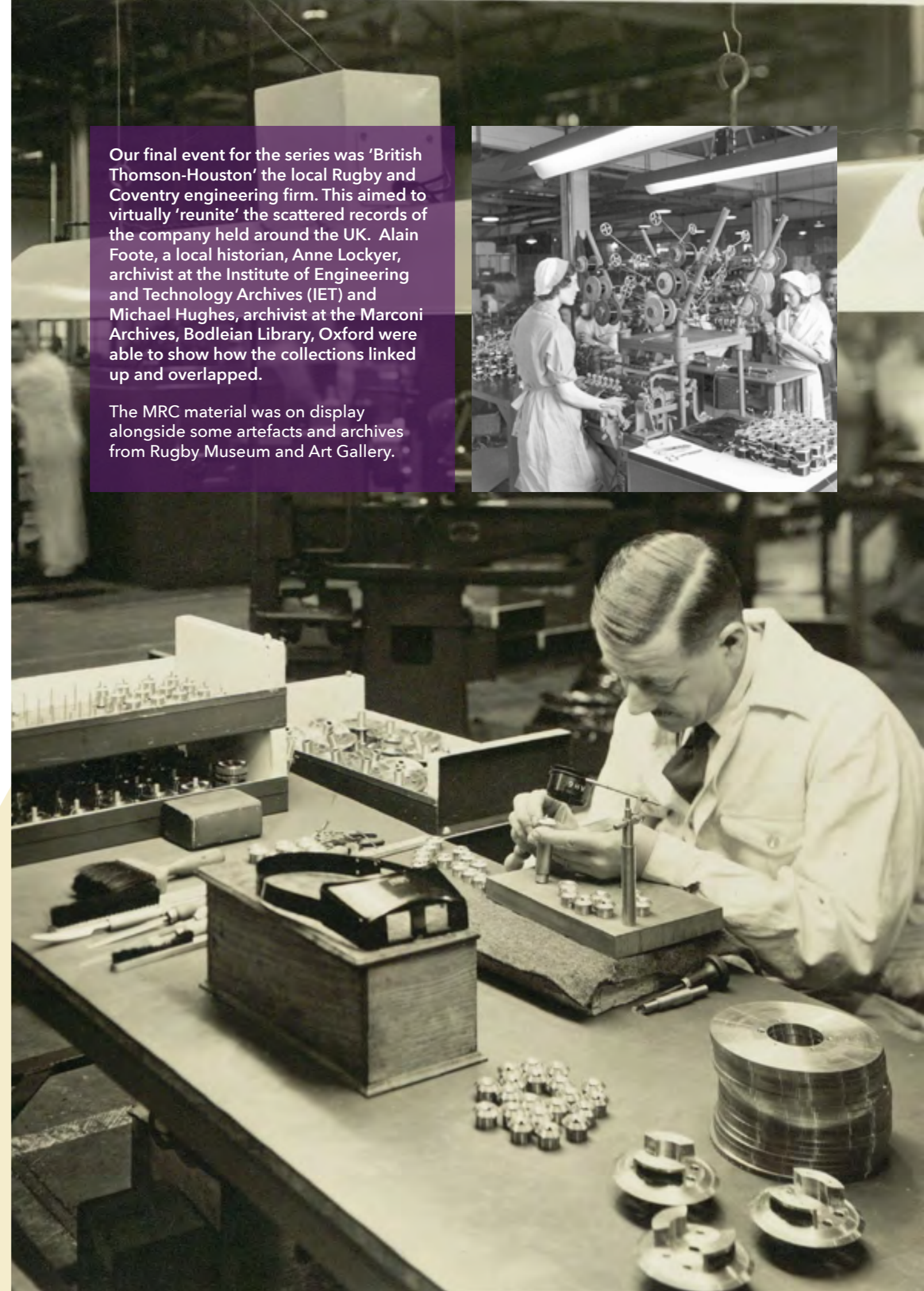
Speakers were Cassie Adjei, from Coventry Refugee and Migrant Centre; Nof Nasser Edin and Nour Abu Assab, Directors of the Centre for Transnational Development and Collaborations; Vicki Squire, University of Warwick; and, a speaker from Birmingham Asylum and Refugee Association. Co-sponsored by the Borders, Race, Ethnicity and Migration (BREM) Network. A postgraduate student from the Centre for Applied Linguistics and PAIS emailed us to say:

"I just wanted to quickly thank you for organising it. It was really thought-provoking overall, but for me personally, the contributions of those affected by the racist migration regimes constituted the most important moments. That's something that occurs far too rarely in the academic context.



Our final event for the series was 'British Thomson-Houston' the local Rugby and Coventry engineering firm. This aimed to virtually 'reunite' the scattered records of the company held around the UK. Alain Foote, a local historian, Anne Lockyer, archivist at the Institute of Engineering and Technology Archives (IET) and Michael Hughes, archivist at the Marconi Archives, Bodleian Library, Oxford were able to show how the collections linked up and overlapped.

The MRC material was on display alongside some artefacts and archives from Rugby Museum and Art Gallery.



Widening Participation and Archives aLive

The MRC has been actively involved with the University's Widening Participation programme for a number of years and in 2014-2015 had successfully obtained a grant for a two year project, *Archives aLive*.

Nuala Clarke brought together 19 year 9 students from two different schools for a series of workshops on the theme of 'unemployment'. The students used archive research to explore topical themes around unemployment, such as gender, race and immigration issues, as well as strikes and protests. They worked with a local artist to create characters and stories connected to the struggles of unemployment in the 1960s and 70s.



In the second half of the project the students used this research as the basis for a film trailer. The trailers they produced were based on an 'imagined film' featuring the characters they created during the first year. Working with students from the Film and TV Studies Department, the students learned how to develop a narrative based on their archival research, write a screenplay, and create a storyboard. Students also learned about film history and production, as well as more technical skills around sound and filming. The footage for the trailers, along with corresponding storyboards and film notes were then sent to be professionally edited. The final trailers were screened in the Arts Centre Cinema at a premiere event. Students gave a short introduction to their film and their creative process. The screening was followed by a Q&A session, which allowed students to engage with the audience, hear feedback and reflect on the work they had done.

Our thanks go to the teachers and pupils of Bilton School, Rugby and Westwood Academy, Coventry as well as MRC staff Nuala and Meleisa for their hard work and fantastic film trailers.

The final film of the student's work can be seen on the MRC's website and was more recently shown at the annual archive conference DCDC16:

<http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/services/library/mrc/eventsandseries/archivesalive/>



Meleisa has also worked closely with local organisations such as Culture Coventry during the year and supported the Women's Health and Wellness Exhibition held at Coventry Library by providing an archival exhibition of material relevant to theme. She produced a pack of visual archival materials of 1950s Coventry to assist elderly people with Alzheimer's from the local area recall places and people in the past. These materials, which included photographs, advertisements and city development plans, were used as part of a 'memory box' available in Coventry Library

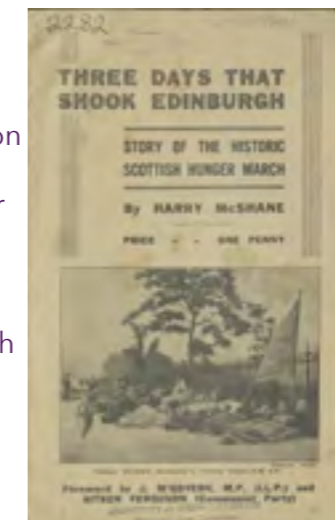
The MRC hosted the Embracing Africa exhibition, an arts and crafts exhibition. This was part of a larger project, sponsored by the Heritage Lottery Fund and managed by the Highlife Centre in Coventry.



Digitisation

This year Gareth Carter, our Digitisation Assistant, has worked on two major digitisation projects. Our 2015 project to digitise more than 250 sources on British healthcare between 1900 and 1948 was completed, and has seen a variety of material on the pre-NHS period made available online, including sources on the Beveridge Report and National Health Service Acts. It also covers topics such as maternity and child care, nutrition, the nursing profession and the role of almoners.

Our second digitisation project focuses on the relationship between Britain and Russia during the pre-Stalin years of 1917-1928. This work is still in progress and will be completed by 2017 for the anniversary of the Russian Revolution. It makes available more than 600 sources on the decade following the Russian Revolution and will contribute to a national network of events and resources being coordinated by the Marx Memorial Library.





To mark the 100th anniversary of the Easter Rising, we launched the online collection From Easter Rising to Civil War: Ireland, 1916-1922 - a small selection of postcards, photographs, illustrated booklets and reports on the Easter Rising of 1916, the Irish War of Independence and the Irish Civil War.



University Archives

The most important development this year has been the progress that has been made in dealing with the back-log of committee minutes and photographs deposited by the Estates Department in previous years as well as with the identification and cataloguing of the vast amount publicity shots once held by External Affairs. This has led to an increase in the range of material now accessible to our researchers.

Work has also begun on descriptions of records from the Arts Centre, which cover everything from annual reports and education projects to programmes, flyers, brochures, posters and scripts. There has also been a significant deposit of exhibition-related material from the Mead Gallery which, it is hoped, will be catalogued in the near future.

An unexpected deposit came from Estates in July when we took receipt of material relating to Warwick's foundation, including a booklet of maps which contained suggested sites for the new institution - some of which were quite surprising. We were also grateful when the daughter of Sir Christopher Zeeman (the Founding Professor of the Maths Department) offered to deposit some of his papers relating

to his work at Warwick. In addition to all this activity, work has started on appraising existing collections so as to de-duplicate our holdings.

There has also been a steady stream of enquiries, with research into student protests of the 1970s, Lord Rootes, student drama societies, the early development of the University, the Centre for the Study of Social History, higher education funding, the teaching of science and mathematics and famous alumni. There were also many queries which were answered remotely relating to course proposals and University procedure.

In collaboration with Rob Talbot, Digital Development Manager at the University Library, Liz Wood developed an interactive map to showcase our existing digital collection on the 1926 General Strike. The online resource uses 'pins' on contemporary Ordnance Survey maps to link to information about local events during the strike. Liz has also written an article about this useful addition for the Archives and Records Association ARC magazine.



Audio digitisation

The fifty-five magnetic tape recordings digitised for us in 2016 by Mike Hirst (DAS-360) featured Harry McShane, the veteran Marxist activist from Glasgow, and Eric Hobsbawm, the distinguished Marxist historian. The McShane recordings are of interviews conducted by Joan Smith in about 1972 for McShane's autobiography, Harry McShane: no mean fighter (London: Pluto Press, 1978). Although of variable sound quality, they provide detailed insights into his long career on the left, including his opposition to the First World War and his leadership of hunger marches organised by the National Unemployed Workers' Movement in 1930s.

Amongst the papers of Eric Hobsbawm were a number of cassette recordings. They cover his dictated correspondence, showing the wide range of his academic and other contacts, and of lectures and interviews, including one

with the American playwright Arthur Miller for 'Marxism Today', 1988. As with most of the other items in the Hobsbawm archive, they are currently only available with the permission of his literary executors.

Helen Ford gave talks to a range of groups including AGRA (The Association of Genealogists & Researchers in Archives), Rugby Family History Group, the National Railway Museum in York, the TUC and the Fire Brigade Union. A talk at Ruskin College Oxford in April aimed to develop closer links in trade union education and raise awareness of the MRC resources for students.

Accessions and Cataloguing

We officially launched of the new online catalogue Epexio in August 2015. This has had a marked impact on our enquiries and the ability of researchers to find resources. It has helped in teaching sessions with students and external researchers have provided positive feedback on its clarity and ease of use.

The ability to open up digitised documents and transcripts within the catalogue is a great advantage and we will be making some of our born digital archives available through the catalogue soon.

We have had more than 242,000 specific catalogue page views since launch and over 11,000 users. These are high figures for an archive catalogue and underline the importance of 'discoverability' for any archive service.

Selected collections catalogued during the year include:

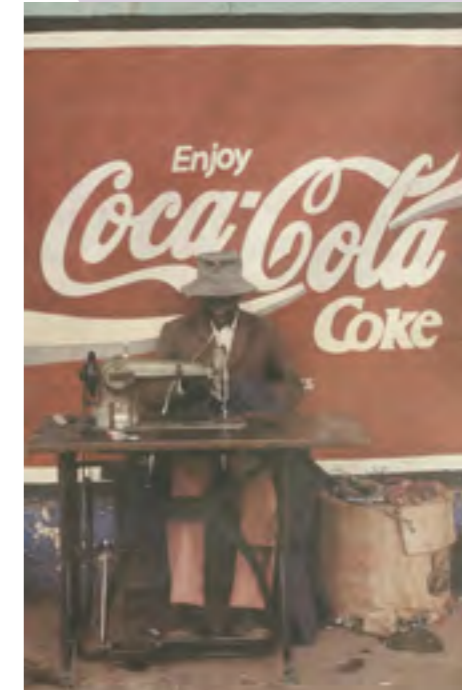
- ▶ Records of the Association of Professional Recording Services, earlier the Association of Professional Recording Studios, 1947-1999. This archive is a significant source for the commercial, technical and artistic aspects of the recording industry. It includes over 250 member files relating to studios, manufacturers and suppliers in the UK and elsewhere, and records of the British Record Producers Guild, later Re-Pro.
- ▶ Business research material of Professor Andrew Pettigrew, (1961)-1989, including sound recordings and transcripts of interviews with senior managers in the automotive, merchant banking, insurance and publishing industries.
- ▶ Additional records of the National Association of Teachers in Further and Higher Education, 1970s-2007, including material relating to racial equality, anti-racism and women's rights at work.



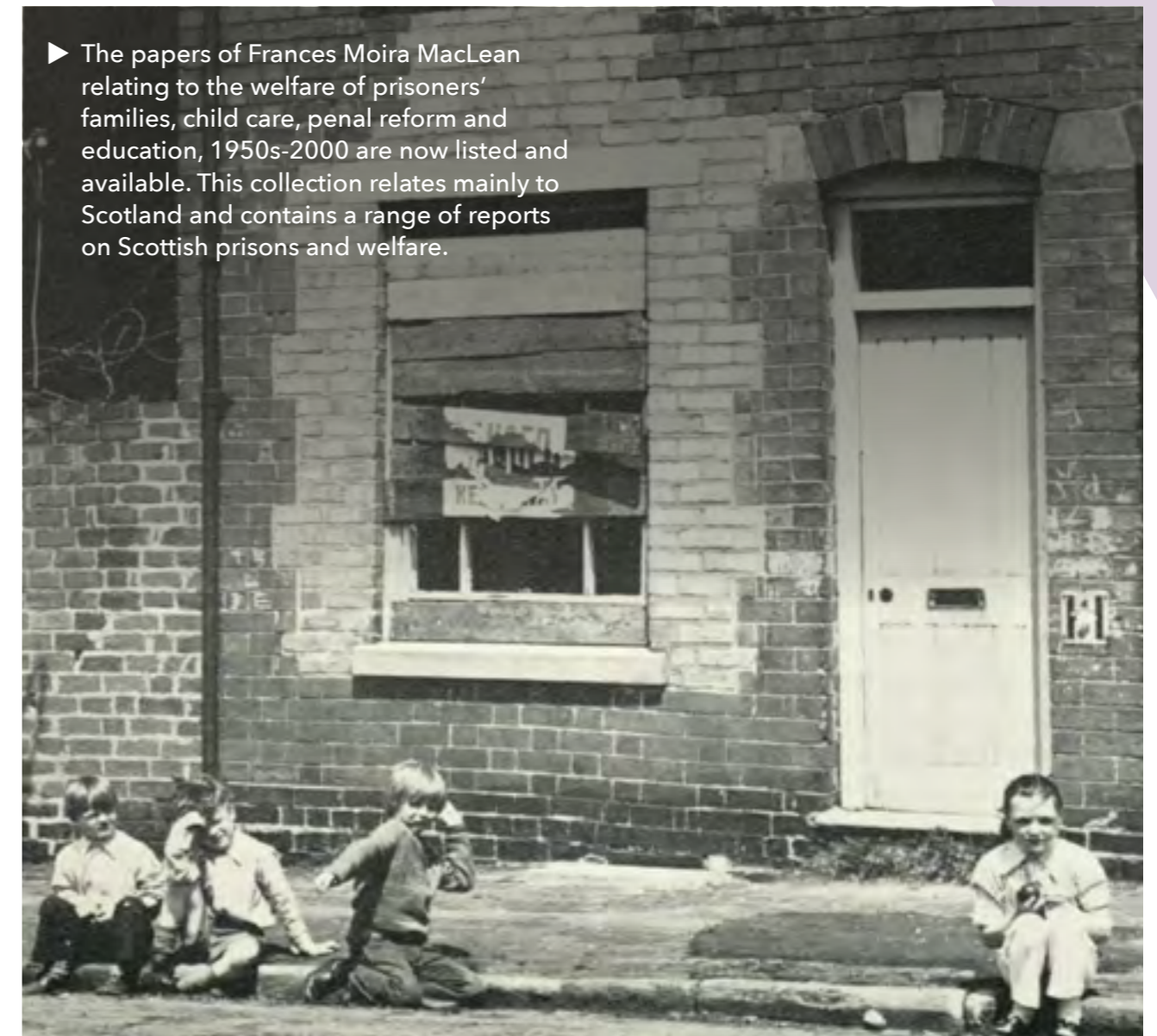
- ▶ Additional records of the Transport and General Workers' Union, including recruitment leaflets and photographs of general secretaries, labour politicians (Keir Hardie, Ramsay MacDonald, Ernest Bevin, Harold Wilson) and others. Also files of the articles and speeches of Arthur Deakin, (General Secretary of the TGWU) and a large series of early twentieth century pamphlets on poor law and socialism collected by Ron Todd.



- ▶ Additional records of Brenda Dean, Baroness Dean of Thornton-le-Fylde, printing trade union official, relating to the dispute with News International over the Wapping plant, 1986-1996, including recordings of television news coverage and printed campaign material.
- ▶ The records of Tourism Concern, a pressure group campaigning in the United Kingdom and internationally for ethical tourism. These records add to our holdings about environmental issues, global development and human rights.



- ▶ The papers of Frances Moira MacLean relating to the welfare of prisoners' families, child care, penal reform and education, 1950s-2000 are now listed and available. This collection relates mainly to Scotland and contains a range of reports on Scottish prisons and welfare.



Other smaller catalogued collections include:

- ▶ Additional records of the Communication Workers' Union and predecessors, 1957-2004, including sound recordings and video.
- ▶ Copies of *Big Flame*, *Red Pepper* and other left-wing/radical publications collected by Steve Bond, 1965-2010.
- ▶ Records of Douglas Rookes relating to the Rookes versus Barnard landmark legal case over the closed shop, 1956-1976.
- ▶ The records of the Cambridge branch of the Fire Brigades Union including papers on the dispute and lockout of 1951, Cambridge branch minutes and the national firefighters strike 1977-1978.
- ▶ Papers and publications collected by Joseph Blewitt, a shop steward on the Austin Maxi production line at British Leyland, Oxford, in the 1960s and 1970s.



Records of Professor Eric Hobsbawm, historian, (1850)-2015

Between 2013 and 2015 the Modern Records Centre acquired the archives of Eric Hobsbawm in three deposits. The contents of the 108 boxes have now been catalogued in full, although permission is currently required from Professor Hobsbawm's literary executors to see unpublished material.

The collection includes correspondence, research material, drafts of articles and lectures, and copies of press coverage. Although most documents are from the latter part of Professor Hobsbawm's career, there is also a small amount of material relating to the Communist Party Historians' Group during the 1940s-1950s and family papers from the 1910s-1930s.



Accessions

We received fifty-five accessions during the academic year. Easily the largest of these was the sixth Trades Union Congress deposit, consisting of around five hundred boxes of subject and correspondence files, minutes and reports, dating predominantly from 1990-2000. Whilst not as extensive or comprehensive as previous deposits the files provide valuable material on key issues such as Europe, environmental politics, devolution and unemployment.

Other notable accessions were:

- ▶ Additional records of World University Service, the educational charity, 1974-1985; these files will be added to the main WUS archive providing further reports and papers on the refugees from Chile and other programmes. Some of this material has recently been used for an Undergraduate Research Support Scheme project on Chilean Refugees in the UK.
- ▶ Records of Scott Bader, an international chemical company which was given to its employees by its founder, Ernest Bader. This is an interesting and unusual business collection with material on employee participation and employee ownership as well as personal papers of Ernest Bader - an early proponent of pacifism, ecology and vegetarianism. The collection contains Quaker material, journals on the peace movement, China and India, Christian ethics and local communities.
- ▶ Records of Professor Lord Robert Skidelsky, economist and politician, 20th-21st centuries.
- ▶ Records of predecessors of Unite, including the National Union of Agricultural Workers and various print unions, 1910s-2000s.

Fans of cricket and statistics may be interested to know that we took in the records of Mr Tony Lewis, statistician, relating to the Duckworth-Lewis scoring method for interrupted one-day cricket matches, c1992-c2001. These were deposited as part of the Operational Research Society archives and contain technical explanations and details of the method.



The Wedderburn Papers

Following the successful application for funds to the National Cataloguing Grant Programme, Helen Hargest was appointed Assistant Archivist for the one year project in March 2016. Currently, she is listing the contents of the 100 boxes prior to arranging and numbering the papers for the online catalogue.

The following topics have been listed and by July 2016 filled 50 archive boxes:

- EEC, EC, EU, EFTA, EU social policy ECJ, ILO
- Annotated books/articles (general), annotated books/articles (Otto Kahn-Freund)
- International Conferences including EUI
- Bullock Committee papers
- Donovan Commission
- Employment Act 2002
- Freedom of Association
- GCHQ
- House of Lords miscellaneous papers
- Labour government 1997-2010



Promotion and publicity about the collection is underway. Helen's first blog, 'Lord Wedderburn and the European Question', appeared in June, ahead of the EU Referendum: <https://warwickmrc.wordpress.com/>

A further blog will be posted in Autumn 2016 on Wedderburn's conference doodles. Helen is also currently writing an article about the project for the December edition of ARC, the monthly magazine of the Archives and Records Association.

Collection use

Once again, the Modern Records Centre has hosted researchers and received enquiries from across the United Kingdom, Europe, and the United States. We've also received visitors from Canada, Argentina, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, Oman, India and Japan.

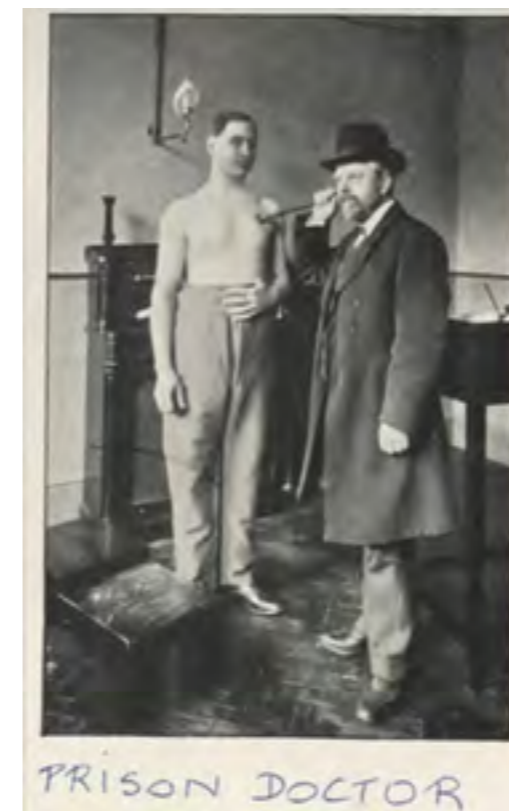
The most heavily-used collection continues to be the Trades Union Congress and regular researchers will be pleased to know that the most recent deposit of TUC files brings the collection up to the year 2000.

The Eric Hobsbawm Papers have attracted interest already despite the current restrictions on access. One Warwick academic has used them to look at Hobsbawm's interest in jazz.

The Brewers and Licensed Retailers' Association, Iron and Steel Trades Confederation and Coventry Borough Labour Party have all been accessed and used for articles and publications.

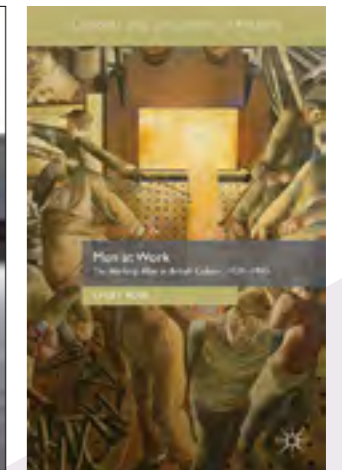
Two large Warwick academic research projects have made good use of the Centre this year, both based in the Centre for the History of Medicine. The 5 year project on the *Cultural History of the NHS* began in January 2016 and a number of researchers on the project have spent time in the MRC using a variety of collections including the NUPE, COHSE and UNISON archives.

The second project *Prisoners, Medical Care and Entitlement to Health in England and Ireland, 1850-2000* has made good use of the Howard League for Penal Reform archive in particular.



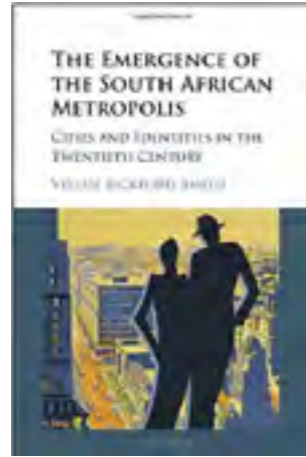
Some of the more esoteric subjects researched in the MRC have been:

The de-skilling of the profession of cinema projectionist following the advent of digital projectors; The 'Jellicoe Express', a Royal Naval train that ran from London to Thurso (for Scapa Flow) during the First World War; the landed elite's relations with the Muslim communal movement in the Punjab; the role and representation of educational method in late Victorian/early Edwardian children's literature; ships' figureheads; cycling societies in Polish territories at the turn of the 19th and 20th centuries and music related to the city of Hiroshima following the atomic bomb.



A selection of books which have credited the MRC includes:

- Chandrika Patel, *The Taste of British South Asian Theatres: Aesthetics and Production*, Lulu Publishing Services, 2015
- Matthew Anderson, *A History of Fair Trade in Contemporary Britain 2015: From Civil Society Campaigns to Corporate Compliance*, Pen & Sword, 2015
- Linsey Robb, *Men at Work: The Working Man in British Culture, 1939-1945*, Palgrave Macmillan, 2015
- Stephen Wade, *The Justice Women: The Female Presence in the Criminal Justice System 1800-1970*, Pen & Sword, 2015
- Matthew Richardson, *The Hunger War: Food, Rations and Rationing, 1914-1918*, Pen & Sword, 2015



- Mark Hampton, *Hong Kong and British culture, 1945-97*, Manchester University Press, 2015
- Mustafah Dhada, *The Portuguese Massacre of Wiriyamu in Colonial Mozambique*, Bloomsbury, 2015
- Helen Glew, *Gender, Rhetoric and Regulation: Women's Work in the Civil Service and the London County Council, 1900-55*, Manchester University Press, 2016
- Greg Patmore, *Worker Voice: Employee Representation in the Workplace in Australia, Canada, Germany, the UK and the US, 1914-1939*, Liverpool University Press, 2016
- Jo Stanley, *Cabin 'Boys' to Captains: 250 Years of Women at Sea*, The History Press, 2016
- Lynn Schler, *Nation on Board: Becoming Nigerian at Sea*, Ohio University Press, 2016
- Jameel Hampton, *Disability and the Welfare State in Britain: Changes in Perception and Policy, 1948-1979*, Policy Press, 2016
- Vivian Bickford-Smith, *The Emergence of the South African Metropolis: Cities and Identities in the Twentieth Century*, CUP, 2016
- Matt Houlbrook, *Prince of Tricksters: The Incredible True Story of Netley Lucas, Gentleman Crook*, University of Chicago Press, 2016
- Kimberley Reynolds, *Left Out: The Forgotten Tradition of Radical Publishing for Children in Britain, 1910-1949*, OUP, 2016

38 articles in journals cited MRC sources. They included *Contemporary British History*, the *Journal of European Social Policy* and *Journal of Global History*. Some examples include:

V.C. Hollman (Universidad de Buenos Aires) Glass lantern slides and visual instruction for school teachers in early twentieth-century Argentina. *Early Popular Visual Culture*, vol.14, issue 1

Daniel Renshaw (Brunel University) Prejudice and paranoia: a comparative study of antisemitism and Sinophobia in turn-of-the-century Britain *Patterns of Prejudice*, vol.50, issue 1. Published online: 19 Jan 2016

Christopher Phillips (Leeds Trinity University) Logistics and the BEF: The Development of Waterborne Transport on the Western Front, 1914-1916 *British Journal for Military History*, Volume 2, Issue 2

Grace Huxford (University of Bristol) The Korean War Never Happened: Forgetting a Conflict in British Culture and Society *Twentieth Century British History* First published online: April 25, 2016

Maria Framke (Universität Rostock) Political humanitarianism in the 1930s: Indian aid for Republican Spain *European Review of History*, vol.23, issue 1-2 Published online: 21 Apr 2016

Mark J. Crowley (Wuhan University) Inequality' and 'value' reconsidered? The employment of post office women, 1910-1922 *Business History* Published online: 10 Mar 2016

Alex Sutton (University of St Andrews) British Imperialism and the Political Economy of Malayan Independence *The Journal of Imperial and Commonwealth History*. Published online: 19 May 2016

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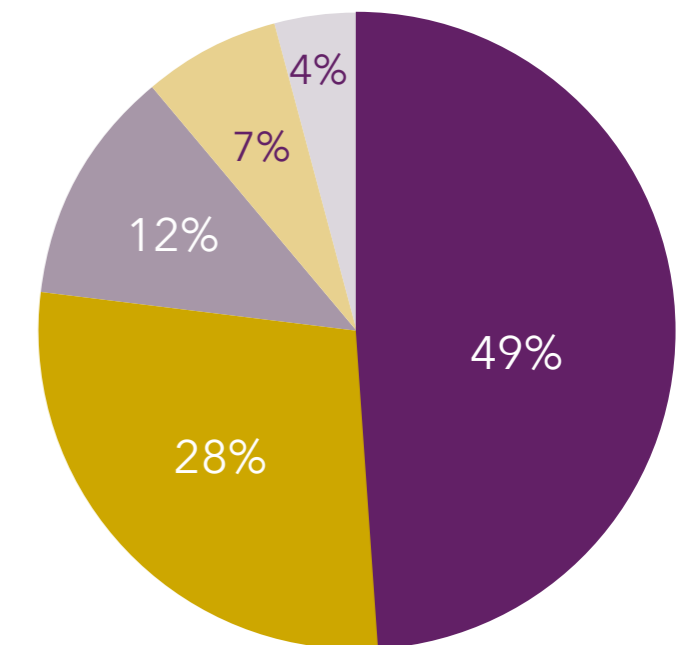
We have had a number of eager and helpful volunteers over the year, many with an interest in training for a career in archives. Our thanks go to:

▶ Victoria Baker who worked on the Howard League photographs and some of the Scott Bader records.

▶ Maia Reneau who added a variety of items to the catalogue and indexed some railway material.

▶ Kayleigh Leech who did her work placement with us.

Breakdown of the MRC Readership:



- MRC archive readers - Internal
- MRC archive readers - Other UK HEI
- MRC archive readers - Other
- MRC archive readers - Overseas
- University of Warwick Archive Readers

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