



Nurse with Child
1937

Annual Report 2009-2010

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During 2009 an exciting project was launched to improve and upgrade the facilities of the Centre and enable much greater flexibility in its use.

With the prospect of this major physical redevelopment due to take place in early 2011 this year has been marked by a large fundraising drive and a number of high profile visitors. We have engaged numerous organisations in the work of the Centre during the year and developed links with a range of partners and potential users.

Many of our key depositors such as the major unions and the CBI have been valuable supporters throughout the process and we have been able to identify some significant opportunities and ideas for future collaboration.

The plans for the redevelopment include dedicated teaching space which will benefit Warwick students and academics in particular. An improved exhibition area is also planned. We will also have the ability to hold events and meetings in the Centre without disruption to researchers.

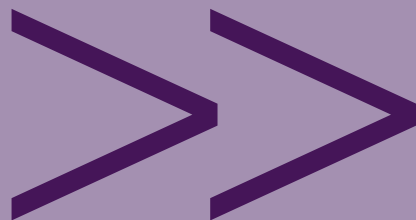
Visitors to the Centre during the campaign included: John Cridland, CBI; Jim Mowatt, UNITE; Lord Moser;

Mick Shaw, Fire Brigades Union; David and Jim Owen, Rubery Owen Ltd.; Ed Sweeney, ACAS; Rodney Bickerstaffe; Ian Manborde, Ruskin College; Roger McKenzie, Unison; Rebecca Amiel and Mark Sinfield from the Barry Amiel and Norman Melburn Trust; Andrew Jones and Paul Varney from the 29th May 1961 Charitable Trust.

We have received financial support from a wide range of unions, organisations and individuals as well as alumni and friends who gave as a result of the telephone campaigns and direct mail. We would like to extend our grateful thanks and appreciation to all those who have contributed to the project.

Another major achievement this year was the installation of new shelving in the upper strong-room to provide additional capacity. This has also enabled us to re-organise a number of collections and reunite some scattered material. It has provided much needed space for the University archive and other ongoing collections.

Front cover: Nurse with Child' taken at the North Stoneham Camp for Basque refugee children in 1937 from Eleanor Hickman collection.



Digital resources

The digitization of parts of our collections continues to be a major focus of our activities and one that is likely to occupy a more central role in the work of the Centre. The demand for research material to be made accessible and available on-line will continue and the MRC will need to digitize an increasing amount of its resources.

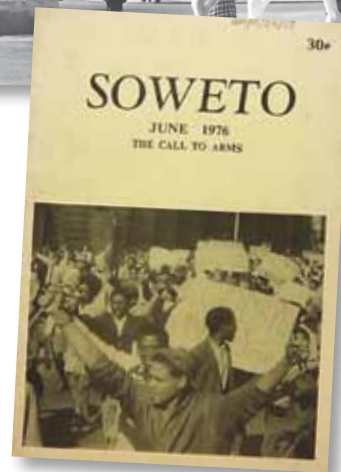
We now have 16 webpages which provide resources for 13 undergraduate modules in the History, Politics and Sociology departments – additions for the 2009/10 academic year included ‘The Victorian City’ and ‘The Sociology of Education’.

Seven new online exhibitions have been produced over the past year, including material relating to 125 years of football (to coincide with the World Cup), the Cold War, History of the Cinema and the 1910 Cradley Heath Chainmakers’ Strike.

A new image gallery section has been added to the website, which contains slideshows of photographs relating to the 1911 Transport Strike, Russia in 1924, the General Strike, Nazi Germany in 1936, and North Stoneham camp for Basque refugee children.

Exhibitions were also put together for a number of conferences held at Warwick including Sub-Saharan Africa, the South Asia Studies Conference and the Standing Conference on University Teaching and Research.

In March the Centre hosted part of a workshop organised by the Economic History Society and the Voluntary Action History Society entitled ‘Charity begins at home’. Material relating to the provision of medical services to the poor, adventure playgrounds and almshouses was brought together for an exhibition to illustrate some of the research interests of those attending.



Catalogues

More than 70 new collection descriptions have been added to the database and full lists are now available for a number of interesting deposits ranging from the papers of the Auto-Cycle Union to the Knitting Industries Federation. Over 45,000 items have been added this year.

Among the papers of individuals listed during the year were those of Brenda Dean, Baroness Dean of Thornton-le-Fylde. As General Secretary of SOGAT in 1985-6 she led the union during the ‘Wapping dispute’ with News International, and the collection contains important resources on the development of this momentous strike. These papers are a valuable addition to the collections of SOGAT itself and other printing unions.



*Bill O'Neill and Brenda Dean, July 2009.
Photograph courtesy of Bill O'Neill.*

In July 2010 a ‘reunion’ meeting between Baroness Dean and Bill O’Neill (former Executive Vice President of Human Resources and chief negotiator for News International) took place in London as part of a larger oral history project about the dispute. Both Brenda and Bill recounted the events of the strike from their perspectives and helped to bring the story to life. The proposed oral history project will involve a number of partners such as the Bishopsgate Institute and the TUC Library. MRC would be a major contributor of archival and documentary sources to support the project.

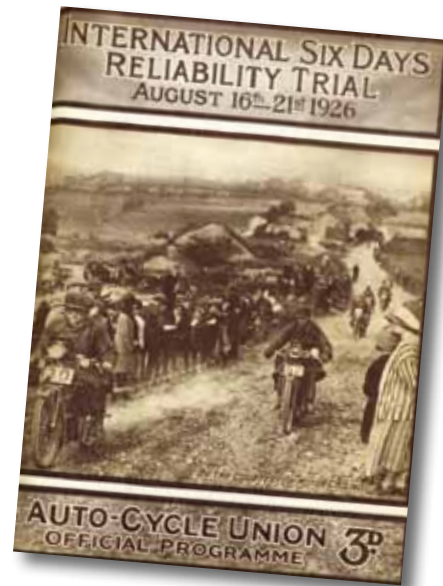
The papers of Alan Wainwright Fisher were also listed. Fisher was General Secretary of the National Union of Public Employees (NUPE) and a member of the TUC General Council between 1968 and 1982. His archive contains files regarding lectures given by Fisher between 1972 and 1982, and his membership of several company boards and health service commissions.

Several collections belonging to key figures in industrial relations such as Sir George Bain, Richard Hyman and H A F 'Bert' Turner have also been added. Bain was deputy director then director of the Social Science Research Council Industrial Relations Research Unit (IRRU) at Warwick, 1974-1981, and professor of industrial relations, 1979-1989. Hyman was professor of Industrial Relations at Warwick Business School until 2001. His archive includes papers relating to research for a history of the Workers' Union [published in 1971], the reorganisation of the National Union of Railwaymen, industrial relations in Coventry and the International Socialists. H A F 'Bert' Turner was professor of industrial relations at the universities of Leeds and Cambridge.

The papers of the Auto-Cycle Union were catalogued during the year. Founded in 1903, the ACU had the aim of developing motorsport through clubs and arranging touring facilities for individual members. It is the governing body for motorcycle sport throughout Britain and was a founder member of the Federation Internationale de Motorcyclisme (FIM) in 1904.

The archive dates from 1903 to 1999, and mostly consists of minutes, accounts and other administrative records. Some programmes and reports of 6 days reliability trials, 1912-1933, and TT races, 1930-1959, are also included.

Numerous smaller collections have been expanded or sorted and temporarily listed including the Eric de Mare collection (Social Credit publications) and International trade union publications. Additions to the National Cycle Archive, Amnesty International and to the CBI and ITF have also been listed.



Marxism and the Left

The Modern Records Centre holds one of the largest collections of Trotskyist archives in Britain. Catalogues for all of these archive collections have now been completed, allowing researchers unprecedented access to information about the British Trotskyist movement from the 1930s onwards.



Our holdings include the official archives of key Trotskyist groups, such as the Revolutionary Socialist League (better known as Militant) and the International Marxist Group, as well as collections donated or deposited by significant figures within the Trotskyist movement, including members of the Balham Group, the first Trotskyist organisation in Britain, and Tony Cliff, the founder of the International Socialists (later the Socialist Workers' Party).

The archives include internal policy documents, minutes and correspondence; as well as propaganda material such as newspapers, journals, pamphlets and leaflets. Many of the documents relate to the regular internal debates over the direction of the Trotskyist movement and relations between different individuals and political groups. The collections also contain a wide range of material, particularly publications, relating to protest and campaign movements from the 1930s onwards.

These encompass support for the Spanish Civil War, opposition to Stalinist purges and the Second World War, the anti-nuclear and anti-Vietnam War movements, anti-racist and anti-fascist protests, and opposition to the Poll Tax.

The archives also provide a valuable source for research into the history of the Labour Party. The Militant archive contains publications and administrative records (including signed minutes) of the official youth sections of the Labour Party – the Labour League of Youth and Labour Party Young Socialists. The divisive period in the 1980s is shown through the archives of Pat Wall and Terry Fields, two of the three Militant-backed Labour MPs, and through files on Militant-controlled Liverpool City Council and the expulsion of Militant supporters from the Labour Party.

Further information about Trotskyist archives at the Modern Records Centre is available through our online subject guide.

Other collections now available include those of the Socialist Vanguard Group, c1928-1958; Socialist Vanguard/Socialist Commentary, 1934-1975; Socialist Union, 1950-1960.



National Union of Teachers

Cataloguing of the copious archives of the National Union of Teachers (MSS.179) has resumed after several years' hiatus. By far the largest of the teachers' unions, representing primary and secondary school teachers in England and Wales, the NUT was formed in 1870. The NUT deposited many of its archives in the Modern Records Centre between 1978 and 1998, but until now these were not particularly easy to search. Most of this main deposit is now on the online catalogue and comprises approximately 750 boxes of material, covering all the many committees and activities of the union, which extended into every aspect of education and child welfare as well as the interests of teachers themselves. In general, this deposit covers the period from the foundation of the union until the 1970s.

A further major deposit was made in 2006 and will be catalogued after completion of the first stage. It extends the archives into the 1980s and also fills some of the rare gaps in the main deposit. As well as the archives of the NUT itself, the main deposit includes the archives of the Teachers' Panel of the main Burnham Committee, the statutory negotiating body which determined teachers' salaries from 1919 to 1987. The general secretary of the NUT was leader and secretary of the panel for most of its existence.

In addition to the ongoing NUT catalogue, lists have been completed for the Campaign for the Advancement of State Education (earlier the Confederation for the Advancement of State Education) and the Association of Technical Institutions.



Volunteers

We have continued to benefit from the hard work of a number of volunteers. Julie Moores and Carolyn Ewing have provided regular and valuable assistance in sorting and listing many collections, and helping to reorganise the strongroom. In addition, Miriam Hay continued the work begun by other volunteers on the index to the first membership register of the Amalgamated Society of Railway Servants. Richard Storey has also continued to provide additions to lists and accessions.

Julie Moores has listed a large number of collections focussed mainly on the construction industry: the National Federation of Construction Unions, the National Engineering Construction Employers' Association (this completed as part of her archive training course), the Oil and Chemical Plant Constructors' Association and the Engineering Construction Industry Association.

Carolyn Ewing worked on the archives of the Coventry Workshop, a number of furniture trades' collections and two Royal Commissions, on criminal procedure and legal services.

The Coventry Workshop was an independent research, education and advice centre set up as a charity in 1975 to work with local trade union and community organizations on unemployment. Its aim was to provide information research and help to develop campaigns. It was wound up in 1988.

More recently Carolyn has been providing detailed descriptions of the papers of Bob Willis, General Secretary of the London Society of Compositors / London Typographical Society (1945-63) and Joint General Secretary of the National Graphical Association after merger (1963-9).

We are very grateful to all our volunteers and in particular to Julie and Carolyn for their hard work and commitment to the Centre.



Publicity and Outreach

A number of educational links have been developed this year which aim to promote the Centre's resources to new and different audiences.

Active links were established with Unison in particular and the Centre has agreed to contribute resources for its adult education programmes within the union. This includes material from past campaigns against public sector cuts as well as significant events in the union's history.

We hope to develop similar partnerships with Ruskin College and other institutions and unions.

To celebrate the completion of the British Association of Social Workers catalogue in 2009, the MRC, the Child Care History Network and the Centre for the History of Medicine at Warwick organized and co-hosted a one day conference on child care records in June 2010. Users, holders and providers of child care records were brought together in a full programme of speakers which included children's charities, academic researchers and archivists. James King from the Centre gave a talk on the BASW archive. The day provided a very interesting and valuable insight into the issues surrounding access, use and protection of these records.

In July, Liz Wood and Martin Sanders began publishing a weekly "blog" under the title 'Yesterday's News Today' as part of the Knowledge Centre, a new website which aims to ensure that the university continues to be the primary source of knowledge and learning for Warwick alumni. As the name of the blog implies, they have been using items from the holdings to illustrate earlier perspectives on issues and events making the news today.

They have drawn on the existing Topical Document website feature and the on-line archive exhibitions and resources for Warwick modules.

Liz has also recently completed an alphabetical index to the stonemasons' register of obituaries between 1886 and 1911. This is available on our website and should prove extremely useful for genealogists. The intention is to add more indexes for other occupations in the future.



Bottom Photograph copyright of Craig Fees, June 2009.

University of Warwick

Two key projects have occupied the University of Warwick Archive (UWA) this year: the reorganization of the university archive since its return following the refurbishment of the Modern Records Centre's strongroom and the migration of university archive catalogues into the Centre's Calm database (which should improve access to information from the collections). To date, 6111 items have been added to the database.

Considerable use of the archive has been made in the last academic year, with research topics ranging from student reaction to Vietnam, the design of teaching and learning spaces on campus, employment and professional development at Warwick, the emergency training scheme for teachers after the Second World War and the history of the Psychology Department. There has been interest from both the Communications Office and Student Admissions and Recruitment regarding the Warwick Manufacturing Group and images of the early days of the university, and there continues to be interest in the archive's photographs of student life and its source material on the design of Warwick's campus. More unusual requests have been made by a student interested in archaeology who asked to study aerial shots of the university and its environs, some external researchers enquiring about details of bands who have played at Warwick and another who was interested in the development of the Economic Department's syllabus over the past three decades.

The archive has also proved useful in helping to provide details about the foundation of departments, in establishing a variety of dates and facts, and in tracking down images requested by alumni. We have also provided the Library with a series of images showing the

changes in its interior design and décor. On top of enquiries and updating Calm, university departments continue to deposit new material, including some interesting documents relating to the archaeological excavations carried out on campus in the 1990s and a brief history of Cryfield Farmhouse.



2009/2010 Statistics Summary

A total of 1064 visits were made to the Centre by 395 researchers between August 2009 and July 2010. Remote enquiries (mainly email and telephone) and website visits have also increased this year reflecting the clear trend towards digital access and use of resources.

The Centre hosted induction sessions for Warwick students from a range of courses and departments. Numbers vary from year to year depending on which courses are current. We provided 13 sessions for students during the autumn term 2009 and spring term 2010. Sessions were given on the Victorian city, 'Race, Difference and the Inclusive Society', Life Writing (biography and autobiography), Visual Sociology (alongside the BP Archive) and Field Studies in Sociology among others.

The number of students in these groups has increased considerably so that most of the classes had to be held in the main Library rather than in the MRC. One of the major benefits of the 2011 redevelopment plans will be the provision of dedicated teaching space for Warwick students and external visitors.

The number of thesis readers has dropped this year. This is probably due to the increase in the number of theses now available digitally. Visits to our web pages continue to rise and we have received more enquiries about the use of the images externally during this year.

Archives

Last year's figures in brackets

Total visits: 1064 (1,029) made by 395 (390) readers.

Internal (Warwick) reader visits: 399 (395)

External reader visits: 665 (634)

Archives produced: 32,360 (36,018) includes BP: 5,675 (1,214)

Student inductions: 13 (16) groups totaling 186 (205) students

Theses

Total visits: 599 (893)

Theses produced: 1,233 (1,532)

Evening visits

Total: 292 (280)

Enquiries:

Email post and telephone: 1,116* (1,001)

Web visits: 275,668 (231,950)

Photocopies: 2,682 (4,790)

Digital images taken: 27,117 (27, 443)

*1,059+57 UWA

Accessions 2009-2010

There were 46 deposits during the year.

Acc No.	Title	Deposit Date
697	Diaries and papers of Ron Savage, Industrial Relations Manager at British Leyland, Longbridge	07/08/2009
698	Unison (additional)	10/08/2009
699	Papers of Margaret Buckley, local novelist.	
700	British Universities Industrial Relations Association (BUIRA) additional records and Central Arbitration Committee awards	13/08/2009
701	Two photographs of steel workers	15/08/2009
702	Company leaflets and books from the Chartered Management Institute (formerly the British Institute of Management)	26/08/2009
703	Cyclists' Touring Club (additional)	03/09/2009
704	National Cycle Archive additions	03/09/2009
705	Society for the Study of Labour History	15/09/2009
706	Additional records of Richard Crossman	18/08/2009
707	Tariff Reform League: address to Joseph Chamberlain by the West St. Pancras branch	20/09/2009
708	Books from the collection of Charles Jarman, General Secretary of the National Union of Seamen	17/06/2009
709	Transport and General Workers' Union: Health & Safety Department	17/08/2009
710	Membership Records of the Society of Municipal and County Chief Librarians (later Librarians Section of the Federated Union of Managerial and Professional Officers)	16/10/2009
711	Copies of "The Week" Marxist journal and related publications, mainly assembled by Chris Arthur, academic	27/10/2009
712	Fire Brigades Union additional files	30/10/2009
713	Prison Service Equal Pay (PEP) files	11/11/2009
714	Confederation of British Industry (additional)	18/11/2009
715	Papers of Mr Brian Wood as a member of the Institute of Administrative Management council and Manchester/North West branch	19/11/2009
716	Ministry of Health Departmental Whitley Council minutes	27/11/2009
717	World University Service (WUS) /Academics for Chile campaign papers	30/11/2009
718	West Midlands Engineering Employers' Association/EEF West Midlands: minutes of management board and annual general meetings	09/12/2009

719	Papers of Albert Victor Palmer	10/12/2009
720	Commercial Vehicle and Road Transport Club (CVRTC) Newsletters 2009	
721	National Postgraduate Committee	15/12/2009
722	Saxon Cycles catalogue	29/01/2010
723	'Thrust', magazine of the Glacier Metal Company Limited	08/02/2010
724	<i>UC - Magazine for Members of the University and College Union</i>	
725	Newspaper editions covering notable events	17/02/2010
726	International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF) additional records	21/02/2010
727	Chris Bambery: International Marxist Group (additional)	04/03/2010
728	Leamington Peace Festival	08/03/2010
729	BMC training papers of Christopher Holmes	19/03/2010
730	George Hewitt, cyclist: certificates, diaries, photographs, press cuttings	23/03/2010
731	Engineering Employers' Federation (EEF) additional records	09/04/2010
732	File of papers of the Assistant Masters Association (AMA)	12/04/2010
733	Mining crisis and General Strike newspapers	13/04/2010
734	Basque Children of '37 Association UK	18/05/2010
735	Photocopies of photographs of Edmund Cathery, general secretary of the National Union of Seamen, 1894-1926, and family	25/05/2010
736	National Joint Council for the Engineering Construction Industry	01/06/2010
737	Papers of Tony Hitchens	11/06/2010
738	Financial records of the Anti-Nazi League	22/06/2010
739	National Cycle Archive additions	07/07/2010
740	Association of Technical Institutions; additional CVCP /UUK and some Association of Colleges of Further and Higher Education.	08/07/2010
741	Knitting Industries Federation.	08/07/2010
742	Papers of Professor Ken Bowen of the Operational Research Society	16/07/2010
743	Video recordings of Unison and Labour Party conferences and television broadcasts featuring Unison officials	20/07/2010

Further Information

Advisory Board Members:

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 Ms R. Donaghy
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 Professor S. Palmer
 Professor M. Terry* (retired)
 Professor P. Thane (until July 2011)
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*Members of the MRC Academic Committee

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