

MODERN RECORDS CENTRE INFORMATION BULLETIN

No. 71

February 2002

ISSN 0309-0418



1. *Introduction*

In the period covered by this bulletin, we have concentrated on revising and implementing new standards of listing and indexing the Centre's holdings, and making information about those holdings available via the Internet.

2. *XML*

Charles Fonge has overseen the conversion of the Centre's electronic finding aids to the XML format. This has enabled the finding aids to be rendered on the Web in the widely available HTML format. The way in which the finding aids are displayed on the website has not yet been perfected, but we hope to rectify this and improve their presentation in the near future. The finding aids can be browsed using the Centre's *Summary Guide*; free-text searching can be used within documents using your web browser. Please visit and let us know what you think: <http://modernrecords.warwick.ac.uk>

3. *Archives Hub*

Earlier bulletins have reported on the Centre's participation in the Archives Hub (formerly the Higher Education Archives Hub). The Centre bid successfully to lead a consortium project to compile collection-level descriptions for five universities in the West Midlands. The universities involved are Birmingham, Coventry, Keele, Staffordshire, and Warwick. The project will complete the compilation of collection-level descriptions for the Modern Records Centre's holdings and compile descriptions for the holdings of neighbouring universities. The proposal also includes collection-level descriptions for the BP Archive, which is based at the University of Warwick, and which shares a searchroom with the Modern Records Centre. 685 records will be submitted; they will include index headings for corporate and personal names, subjects and place names. The project began in September 2001 and is now underway. Completed collection level descriptions may be consulted on the Hub website at (<http://www.archiveshub.ac.uk>).

4. *Access to Archives (A2A)*

The Centre has been a partner in two bids to the Heritage Lottery Fund for the retrospective conversion of paper lists, part of the Access to Archives project (A2A) led by the Public Record Office (<http://www.pro.gov.uk/archives/A2A/>). Both these projects are now completed and several hundreds of pages of the Centre's finding aids are now available and are searchable. Further applications are planned.

5. *Trade union and Employers' association publications*

One of the Centre's strengths is its holdings of trade union and employers' association publications. In part this was mirrored by the University Library's own holdings, but information about the two sets of publications, physically close, was only available in part on separate systems: the Centre's finding aids and the Library's OPAC. The RSLP Access programme has enabled the Centre and the University Library to rationalise their holdings. The combined sets have been catalogued onto the Library's OPAC, so that information about them is brought together and made easily accessible.

6. *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.

- Percy Allott was Secretary of the City District of the National Amalgamated Union of Shop Assistants, Warehousemen and Clerks, 1918-45. He was also a left-wing Labour Party activist and parliamentary candidate (in 1928) and a prolific poet. The deposit contains scrapbooks compiled by him, 1915-62 (including one exclusively on the pioneer of adult education Horace Fleming); subject files relating to NAUSAWC, the Labour Party, and Allott's personal life and political interests, 1919-1963; and many original copies of his poems. (MSS.431)
- S. Baatz: International Marxist Group papers: publications, pamphlets, leaflets, flyers, publicity material, discussion documents and information sheets produced by a variety of mostly left-wing organisations, both York-based and national, collected 1972-73 while the depositor was a student at York University and member of the IMG. (MSS.433)
- Engineering Employers' Association: a large additional deposit has been made. It includes case registers, 1941-59; wage movements figures, 1897-1925; wages index registers, 1947-1960; signed agreements, 1931-1978; wages agreements; circular letters, 1987-99; conference committee minutes, 1949-1974; national conference proceedings, 1975-81 (incomplete). (MSS.237)
- George Gibson (1885-1953) was founding Secretary of the National Asylum Workers' Union in 1910. He was General Secretary of the NAWU (later the Mental Hospital and Institutional Workers' Union), 1913-48, and a member of the General Council of the TUC. In the 1940s he was also a Director of the Bank of England and Chairman of the North Western Electricity Board. The deposit contains copies of correspondence and papers, 1941-49; a copy of his reminiscences; and a history of trade unionism presented to him by the TUC on his retirement and signed by the members of the General Council. (MSS.421)

- Institute of Management Services: an additional deposit includes papers from the bodies that merged to form the Institute. They include papers of the Motion Study Society of Great Britain, the Work Study Society, the Institute of Economic Engineering, and the Society of Industrial Engineers. The deposit also includes some papers of the Institute's Financial Sector Specialist Group, 1980-96. (MSS.414)
- Frida Knight, (1910-1996): papers relating to her support of the UCATT strike in Shrewsbury, 1970s. (MSS.430)
- Low Pay Commission. A further two boxes, containing the research commissioned by and written evidence to the Commission, have been deposited. (MSS.392)
- National Glass Workers' Trade Protection Association: Dr T. Spencer has deposited an abridged version of his Ph. D. thesis 'The Development of the Yorkshire Glass Industry, c. 1800-1940,' 2 vols. (MSS.385)
- National Graphical Association (London Region): An additional deposit which includes annual reports, 1966-1991, various minutes series, 1965-1996, and annual conference reports 1964-1986. The deposit also includes some earlier material for the London Typographical Society: annual reports, 1955-6, annual conferences, 1955-1965; for the London Society of Compositors, additions to the *London Typographical Journal*, 1906-11, and miscellaneous additions to the Printing Machine Managers' Trade Society. Executive Committee minutes for the London Region of the Printing and Kindred Trades Federation, 1920-1955 (incomplete), are also included. (MSS.28 and MSS.39)
- National Cycle Archive: Additions to the archive include *The Bath Road News*, 1913-1958, (incomplete, with gap 1927-1941), the journal of The Bath Road Club, founded in 1886, and probably based in London. (MSS.328/N032)
- Dr G. Pugh: An additional small deposit of papers relating to Militant, 1970s. (MSS.329)
- Public and Commercial Services Union: a small additional deposit, mainly printed items from various unions. (MSS.415)
- Social Workers' Benevolent Trust: The trust was established in 1971 to give financial help and support to people engaged in professional social work. The deposit includes minutes, annual reports, annual audited accounts, application forms and related correspondence, 1977-97. Applications and case records are closed for 100 years. (MSS.432)
- Society for Research in Higher Education: additional papers. (MSS.323)
- Union of Post Office Workers / Union of Communication Workers: an additional deposit comprising videos relating to particular issues in the

1980s, including the Miners' strike, and annual conferences 1984 and 1987. (MSS.148)

7. *Staff*

Previous bulletins have reported Richard Temple's secondment to the National Records Service (NRS) in The Gambia, organised by VSO. We look forward to welcoming Richard back in April. In the meantime we have been joined by two new colleagues.

James King joined us in September 2001. He qualified in June 1999 and then worked for Cambridgeshire County Council (where he was Records Manager), at the Historical Manuscripts Commission and, most recently, as an archivist at the British Railways Board Records Centre. James is working on various projects, including listing the records of the National Union of Teachers and updating the Centre's indexing procedures and databases.

Rachel Wood joined us in October 2001. Since qualifying in June 1997 Rachel has worked in local authority archives and comes to us from the Somerset Record Office in Taunton where she was Outreach Archivist. Funded by the RSLP Access programme Rachel is working on various projects including listing the records of RELEASE and the National Union of Teachers.

Janette Martin spent a six weeks' secondment at the Centre thanks to an award from the Sharing Museum Skills Millennium Awards scheme. Janette is an Assistant Archivist at the Labour History Archive and Study Centre (LHASC), which is managed by the John Rylands University Library of Manchester and housed at the National Museum of Labour History. The LHASC's collecting policy focuses on the political wing of the labour movement and its two major collections are the Labour Party archive and the Communist Party of Great Britain archive. The collections in Manchester compliment those held in Warwick and for many years the two repositories have enjoyed a good working relationship. Janette created and revised EAD collection level descriptions for the HE Archives Hub and created authority records and subject index terms.

For further information about the Centre, its holdings and publications, contact the Archivist, Modern Records Centre, University Library, University of Warwick, Coventry, CV4 7AL; Telephone +44 (0)24 7652 4219; Fax. +44 (0)24 7657 2988; email: archives@warwick.ac.uk. URL: <http://modernrecords.warwick.ac.uk>