



**WARWICK**  
THE UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

Modern Records Centre  
**Annual Report 2014-2015**



## Introduction

2014-2015 has been an action packed year. We have developed links and projects with new and different audiences and researchers, extending our educational work and introducing many more students and schools to the archives we hold. Nuala's Archives aLive project was particularly exciting and certainly enthused some of our younger visitors.

The Centre also started to work with the Students Union on a series of talks and exhibitions and this has provided a foundation for a programme of events which we hope to develop in the next academic year. Details on all of these activities are included in this report.

The fiftieth anniversary placed significant demands on the Centre and provided impetus for the digitisation of large amounts of the University's material including many photographs and student publications. Our front cover this year shows the building of the main Library in June 1966 and highlights the dramatic changes which have occurred to the Warwick campus over the 50 years.

We have delivered talks to external audiences, hosted exhibitions and even took part in the Cheltenham Science Festival alongside Warwick's Science Faculty with tea, cake and photographs of our LEO computer material (suitably protected).

An interesting and eventful year!



## Collections/Accessions

We received 62 deposits during the year ranging in size from a few items to several hundred boxes. Some of the highlights are listed below.

By far the largest deposit during the year was the archive of the Writers' Guild of Great Britain, which arrived in March 2015 and fills well over 400 boxes. The WGGB was founded in 1959 and is a trade union representing professional writers in all fields, including television, film, theatre, radio, books, poetry, animation and videogames. As well as committee minutes and administrative material the archive also includes journals and pamphlets, correspondence files with members, negotiations and agreements with production companies and publishers, files relating to individual plays and screenplays, and correspondence and publications of other writers' organisations, including overseas and international organisations. There is also a large collection of theatre, television, radio and film scripts sent to the WGGB by members for registration purposes.

The papers of the peace activist and campaigner Keith Forrester Paton, also known as Keith Motherson (1948-2009), were deposited in August 2014. They include correspondence and many leaflets and pamphlets connected with his campaigning activities, including peace, gender discrimination and feminism, Scottish independence and nuclear disarmament, and also on Marxist and anarchist politics.



A substantial addition was made to the existing civil service union archives of the Public and Commercial Services Union in September 2014. This consists of circulars and briefings, conference papers, annual reports and publications from the last 15 years.

The West Midlands business Rubery Owen Ltd also deposited more records in September 2014. These include historical material collected by the Company Secretary (including ledgers with details of all company employees who served in the Second World War), historic group advertising brochures and research and development reports.

## Frances Moira MacClean MBE

The papers of the Scottish journalist and penal reform campaigner Frances Moira MacClean MBE were deposited in July 2015. MacClean was particularly interested in the welfare of prisoners' families, facilities for children visiting prisons and education for inmates and her papers predominantly contain correspondence and publications relating to these interests, especially in Scotland.



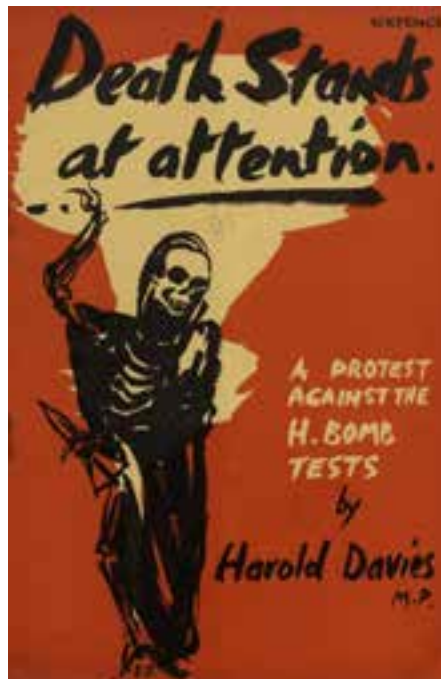
The union Unite deposited additional historical records of several of its predecessor unions in autumn 2014. Significant among these are records of the Amalgamated Union of Foundry Workers and the National Union of Sheet Metal Workers and Braziers and the National Society of Coppersmiths, Braziers and Metalworkers; additional records of the Electrical Trades' Union/Electrical, Electronic, Telecommunication and Plumbing Union; records of the Amalgamated Society of Scale Beam and Weighing Machine Makers/National Union of Scalemakers and various branch records of the United Commercial Travellers' Association.

The archives of the pressure group Tourism Concern were deposited in the Centre in October 2014 by the founder Alison Stancliffe. Established in 1988, Tourism Concern campaigns nationally and internationally for ethical tourism. The archives contain correspondence and papers relating to the organisation's administration and campaigns and also its publications.

The archives of the Communication Managers' Association were deposited in January 2015. The Association of Post Office Controlling Officers was formed in 1952 by the amalgamation of three earlier associations and represented management staff in the Post Office (including the telecommunications departments). It was renamed the Post Office Management Staffs Association in 1969 and the CMA in 1981 after British Telecom was separated from the Post Office. Now part of Unite, it retains its separate name and identity.

Dr Fred Barker donated his research papers to the Centre in May 2015. He collected these in the early 1980s whilst researching his PhD "British Scientists, the Bomb and Cold War Politics, 1945-58". The collection includes papers relating to the Atomic Scientists Association, Science for Peace, the Pugwash Conferences on Science and World Affairs and CND, as well as relevant pamphlets and interviews with a number of prominent individuals involved in these bodies.

Archives of local business Coventry Climax Ltd were also deposited in March 2015. This Coventry-based manufacturer of engines (and later of fork-lift trucks) was founded in 1903 and traded until 1986, when it went into receivership, with its fork-lift business being purchased by Kalmar Ltd. The papers, which extend into the Kalmar period, include minutes, annual reports and accounts.



The papers of Joseph Blewitt, a TGWU shop steward on the Austin Maxi production line at British Leyland, Oxford, in the 1960s and 1970s, were also donated to the Centre by his son in July 2015.



## Student and School Engagement

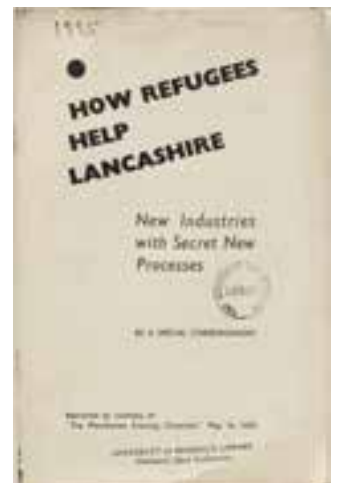
This year the Centre gave inductions and talks to more than 500 students from ten university departments, providing over 40 hours of teaching.

Sessions were run for the modules 'Crime and Punishment' (History), 'Britain in the 20th century' (History), 'Britain in the 1970s' (History), 'Revolution and Empire' (French Studies), 'Life Writing' (English and Comparative Literary Studies), 'Researching Society and Culture' (Sociology), 'Drama and Melodrama from Diderot to Hugo' (French Studies), 'Racism and Xenophobia' (Sociology), 'Images and Representations of the Hispanic World' (Hispanic Studies), 'Qualitative methods' (Sociology), 'Re-imagining the University' (Institute of Advanced Teaching and Learning) and 'Making History' (History), as well as for all new Theatre and Performance Studies undergraduates, Masters students studying the History of Art, and Doctoral students at Warwick Business School and the Centre for Arts Doctoral Research Excellence.

We have used the holdings of the MRC and library special collections to create new online resources for two modules. The resources for 'Racism and Xenophobia' (Sociology) contain five case studies, and look at subjects including Jewish settlement in the late 19th century, refugees and anti-fascism, and post-Windrush Afro-Caribbean migration. The resources for 'Film in the Weimar Republic and under National Socialism' (German Studies) provide online access to publicity material for 10 key German films watched by the students as part of the module.

Existing online resources have been revised for the module 'History of France' (History), providing access to selected documents in full.

In May 2015 we started to digitise more than 250 sources on British healthcare before the foundation of the NHS. The digitised documents date from 1900-1948 and focus particularly on the debate over how the health of the nation should be managed and the campaign for a state-run health service. We also worked to digitise past issues of the University of Warwick's student newspaper *The Boar*, ready for the university's 50th anniversary later this year.



## MRC joined with the Warwick Students' Union for its Open Education Series.

This series of five fortnightly events took place between January and March and explored questions of race, resistance and political struggle from the late nineteenth century onwards.

It consisted of a series of panels, lectures and seminars led by guest speakers, academics and members of the University of Warwick community. The seminars utilised the resources of the Modern Records Centre and allowed attendees to engage with original source material.



## Outreach: Schools and visits

We were very pleased when Nuala successfully bid for Widening Participation funding to support a new project working within the WP programme. Archives aLive aims to bridge the gap between the university and surrounding schools and colleges by working with students, who are least likely to consider higher education. This innovative project served as a great opportunity to introduce them to archives, as well as higher education.

Throughout June, we hosted a series of workshops that focused on exploring and developing research skills; thinking critically about the implications of the selected archive sources and gaining an understanding of effective research dissemination. The project focused on the theme of unemployment, an issue that is especially relevant to today's younger generation.

Our first session allowed the students to discover archives for themselves through a varied selection of material and helped students to develop source analysis skills; the second introduced the theme of unemployment and students conducted research into this topic using selected archive sources; the third session was dedicated to exploring unemployment through a sociological perspective; and for the final session in June, the students produced a creative response to their research with guidance from a local artist. The workshops were supported by some undergraduate social science students, who took to the archives with enthusiasm and helped to prompt and challenge the school students.

It was a joy to watch our visitors engage with and discover archives. Here are some of their responses to the project:

---

"Before doing this I struggled quite a lot, and now that I have started doing this it has given me a better way of learning"

"The thing I enjoyed most was ... getting hands on with the archives and seeing them in real life"



Not only was this project beneficial in developing the students' research skills but also in demonstrating that their work can be creative and provocative.

The final session of the June workshops encouraged the students to get creative and use the archives as inspiration for artwork and photographs. The students were split up into groups and each one given a small selection of archive sources. These sources focused on events such as factory automation or the impact of Thatcherism. Using these sources, they had to imagine and create a character, someone who could have been in a protest around the 1970s and 1980s. When they had outlined their characters, they were asked to design and make a suitable protest placard, which conveyed their character's reason for protesting. We were all pleasantly surprised with the creativity the students demonstrated. After the placards were finished, we took pictures of the students with them, emulating a protest, to use in an exhibition in the MRC.

The students will return in November to work with Warwick's Theatre Studies department. They will be exploring ways to interpret their archive research and turn it in to a creative performance piece. We're really looking forward to seeing what they come up with!







In June the Centre once again hosted a Saturday workshop for UNISON members to explore their union's campaigning history. It was well attended and enjoyed by all.

Talks were given to the Leicestershire and Rutland Family History Society at Hinckley, the Birmingham & Midland Society for Genealogy and the National Railway Museum, York.

### LEO archives

The MRC was invited to join the Warwick Marquee at Cheltenham Science Festival as part of the University's 50th Anniversary celebrations. The Science Faculty hosted a Lyons tea room event and used photographs from the MRC's collections to promote an area of research not often associated with the Centre. The papers of John Simmons, statistician and one of the developers of the first business computer at Lyons, form part of the archives of the Institute of Administrative Management. Photographs of early computers from the University archives were also used.

As a result of this collaboration, the Centre has hosted a meeting with members of the LEO Computer Society with a view to develop the LEO archives and collaborate with postgraduate research in early computer history.





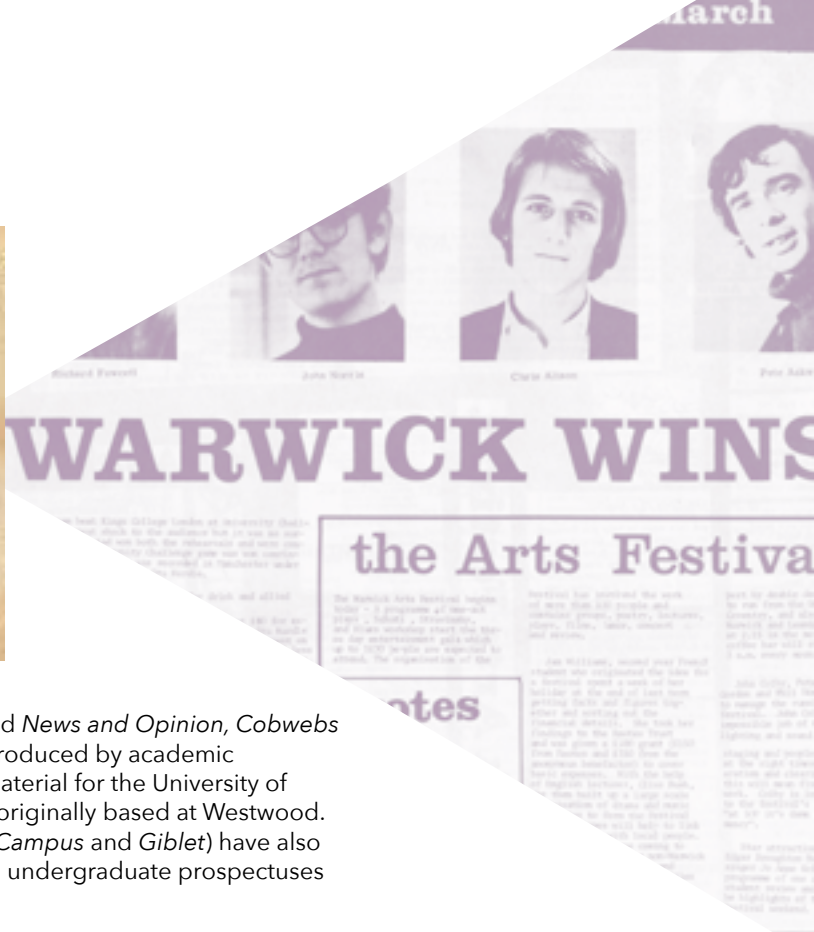
## The University Archive and Warwick's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

2015 marks fifty years since the establishment of Warwick University and celebrations have been taking place since January.

Whilst this anniversary may have caused many to look ahead and think about Warwick's future developments, there have been a variety of events during the last eight months which have prompted use of the university's historic records. Chief amongst these was the Mead Gallery's exhibition *Imagining a University* which ran from 29<sup>th</sup> April to 20<sup>th</sup> June. It aimed to demonstrate how the University art collection was influenced by the same forces that shaped the University itself. Photographs, correspondence and publications were loaned to the Mead and displayed alongside the works of art on show. Early images from the University archive which showed paintings, prints and sculptures in situ across campus were also used to illustrate a book which accompanied the exhibition.

Other major events to mark Warwick's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary which occurred over the spring and summer included the Institute of Advanced Study's showcase at The Shard on 15<sup>th</sup> May and Warwick's presence at the Cheltenham Science Festival in June. The IAS devised a day of lectures, discussions and presentations around the work of its staff, and the University Archive supplied copies of photographs of student life to form part of a display promoting the IAS "Voices of the University" oral history project, which the MRC has been involved in since its inception.

In between these events we have also provided support to alumni organisers, individual departments and to Michael Shattock, whose book about Warwick's contribution to the local community - *The Impact of a University on Its Environment, The University of Warwick and its Community After Fifty Years* - was launched this year (a signed copy has already been deposited in the archive for future reference).



In terms of the digitisation of material, the staff *Newsletter* and *News and Opinion*, *Cobwebs* student newspaper and a large assortment of publications produced by academic departments have been scanned over summer, along with material for the University of Warwick Science Park and the teacher training programmes originally based at Westwood. *The Warwick Boar* student newspaper and its predecessors (*Campus* and *Giblet*) have also been made available online where they will join the digitized undergraduate prospectuses and student handbooks.

The 'Voices of the University' project was initiated in 2013. The aim of interviews was to find out more about the history of the university (from a variety of perspectives), but also to explore the place of the university within participants' lives. Furthermore, the interviews also reveal a great deal about the development of Higher Education and research in the UK, the history of student life and the social and cultural history of Britain (and beyond) after 1945.

Since the oral history project started, interviews have been carried out by a team of undergraduate, masters and doctoral students, as well as postdoctoral researchers based at the IAS. Between them the team conducted over 260 oral history interviews. These have all been deposited with the MRC for long term preservation and most have been made available through Warwick Digital Collections.

**Some of the topics covered include:**

- ▶ Pre-history of the university site - farmland, working on the farm, evacuations to the area during the Second World War
- ▶ Development of the university site - architecture, landscaping, artwork
- ▶ Technological change in teaching, research and administration
- ▶ Student life, learning, fashion, cooking and travel from 1965 to the present
- ▶ Student protest and political campaigning - particularly in the early 1970s
- ▶ Insider perspectives on visits from Queen Elizabeth II, Margaret Thatcher and President Bill Clinton
- ▶ Changes in secondary education in the post-war period
- ▶ Interactions between the university and the local communities of Coventry, Kenilworth and Leamington Spa





## Exhibitions

### Our exhibition area hosted some external displays of material to support post graduate work at Warwick.

One of the most interesting was 'Endangered Pasts' which used photographs from Mizoram, a remote part of north east India. The images were carefully reproduced onto papers made of bamboo, rice, banana, tea and other local crops.

Other exhibitions included Health and Disease and the influence of Magna Carta.

Warwick Digital Collections continues to grow and in addition to the resources already mentioned - selected sources on British healthcare 1900-1948, Voices of the University, the Warwick Boar and University handbooks and prospectuses - we have added some National Cycle Archive diaries and touring materials.

## Digital Archives:

We continue to receive archive deposits in digital formats and we've added many of the digitised images and files to our digital repository Archivematica during the year. The processing and description of digital archives continues to be a challenging issue and the departure of Ben Veasey early in 2015 has delayed progress though we hope to improve our throughput in 2016.

## Catalogues and Discovery

As part of our programme to increase public engagement and student use of the Centre, we have been keen to improve the accessibility and discoverability of our collections. To this end we were able to introduce Epexio - our new searchable catalogue in summer 2015. Epexio is the new 'public face' of our archive catalogues which was developed for us during the year by Metadatis. The new system went live early in August 2015. Epexio is a great improvement on DServe, the system it has replaced, which was no longer being supported by its suppliers. In general terms it extends the 'usability' of the information which we create about our holdings, both in the catalogues themselves and elsewhere on-line. It provides images of the large and increasing number of digitised documents which we use in on-line exhibitions and teaching resources along with a clearer representation of the hierarchical structure of archive catalogues.



Searching is easier and now includes words or phrases both in the catalogues and in the full transcripts of digitised documents in the Warwick Digital Library. Researchers can also save records they have found and e-mail us about them from within the system. DServe will continue to be available until all the links to it, most notably on the National Archives' Discovery system, have been changed to Epexio ones. Epexio has also revealed places where we need to 'tidy up' or restructure our data, and we will continue to work with Metadatis on the general enhancement of the system. It has already attracted favourable interest from other archive repositories.



### Some significant additions to the catalogues included:

- ▶ Two folders of personal letters and postcards to Iris Lemare, musician, from Richard Crossman, 1928-c1945 (MSS.382).
- ▶ The records of the Biscuit, Cake, Chocolate and Confectionery Alliance (BCCA) and its predecessors dating from 1901 were added to the catalogue. Within the records are the minutes of the Cocoa and Chocolate (War Time) Association and Sugar Confectionery (War Time) Association, set up in 1941 to implement supply and price controls. This was wound up at the end of 1953 following the end of rationing.
- ▶ The records of the UK Association of Professional Engineers (UKAPE), 1967-2005 (643) which includes material on Rolls Royce Management and Rolls Royce employees, the Piper Alpha North Sea oil rig disaster and a folder of Nigerian Society of Engineers newsletters.
- ▶ Further additions to the Transport & General Workers collections including the Coventry District records which contain files on many local businesses and industries, the impact of automation and redundancy. Additional records of the National Union of Vehicle Builders were also catalogued.
- ▶ The archives of the charity Action for Sick Children, 1942-2012 (978) were added - a large collection of reports, articles, reports from related charities such as Barnardo's and ChildLine, photographs, posters and surveys on child health, welfare and recreation. This collection fits well with our earlier deposits on childcare and nursery provision.
- ▶ A collection of South African trade union research papers were added which include South African Trades and Labour Council reports for the 1940s; copies of publications and pamphlets including 'Speeches of Field-Marshal The Right Honourable J C Smuts', 'Economic Crisis in South Africa', 'The Workers' Burden', 'P W Botha - A political backgrounder', 'Ikwezi - A Journal of South African and Southern African Political Analysis', March 1975; 'Action on Namibia - Bulletin of the Namibia Support Committee'.
- ▶ Records of the Industrial Relations Research Unit, University of Warwick, 1969-1988 (MSS.286). This includes a copy of 'The first ten years, 1970-1980' providing a useful summary of the department and its work.
- ▶ The biographies and photographs from the International Transport Workers Federation Library were also added to the catalogue. These files contain useful information on many key individuals such as Ernest Bevin, Frank Cousins and Paul Tofahrn.
- ▶ Additions to the National Cycle Archive included newsletters of the Vegetarian Cycling & Athletic Club (1959-1992), the Youth Hosteller - The Official Magazine of the Youth Hostels Association (1961-1972) and the Canonbie Cycling Club Chronicle, a handwritten and illustrated club journal 1899-1901.



ITWF Executive Committee members 1925 including Bevin





## Audio-visual digitisation

A further sixty cassette recordings of interviews from our holdings were digitised for us by Mike Hirst (trading as DAS-360). Most of these were the second series of interviews relating to trade unionism in the British docks conducted by Professor Fred Lindop in the 1980s. The interviewees on the other digitised recordings were: people associated with the National Union of Seamen, including John Prescott before his rise to the Cabinet; union leaders involved in the strike at the Dunlop plant at Speke in 1979; and Alf Press of the Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen (ASLEF).

BBC Studios and Post Production digitised the unedited recordings of interviews for *The Great Grunwick Strike, 1976-1978 - a history*, a DVD produced and directed by Mr Chris Thomas in 2007 on behalf Brent Trades Union Council. These were recorded on fifty-two mini DV cassettes most of which contain about forty minutes of recording. They feature thirty-two interviewees, including Jack Dromey, secretary of Brent Trades Union Council at the time of the strike, and Mrs Jayaben Desai, the redoubtable strike leader. They form a unique first-hand account of one of the most celebrated and controversial episodes in recent labour history.

We have also digitised 8 millimetre film of the Cyclists' Touring Club York Rally, 1964 and Warwick campus buildings under construction or recently completed, including Rootes and Benefactors' residences, 1960s (deposited by Mr Bob Grimley).



Jayaben Desai  
(still from 803/20A)

## Use of the Collections:

A total of 15 books and 24 articles have cited and used the MRC collections this academic year:

The following is a selection:

- ▶ Roberta Bivins, University of Warwick: *Contagious Communities: Medicine, Migration, and the NHS in Post War Britain* (OUP Oxford)
- ▶ Masuda Hajimu, National University of Singapore: *Cold War Crucible: The Korean Conflict and the Postwar World* (Harvard University Press)
- ▶ Matthias Reiss, University of Exeter: *Blind Workers Against Charity: The National League of the Blind of Great Britain and Ireland, 1893-1970* (Palgrave Macmillan)
- ▶ Peter Thorsheim, University of North Carolina, Charlotte: *Waste into Weapons: Recycling in Britain during the Second World War* (Cambridge University Press)
- ▶ Noel Whiteside, University of Warwick: *Organising labour markets: the British experience* - chapter in *The History of Labour Intermediation: Institutions and Finding Employment in the Nineteenth and Early Twentieth Centuries*, eds. Sigrid Wadauer, Thomas Buchner, Alexander Mejsstrik (Berghahn Books)
- ▶ Adrian Williamson: *Conservative economic policymaking and the birth of Thatcherism, 1964-1979* (Palgrave Macmillan)
- ▶ Andrew Cohen, University of the Free State, South Africa: *Britain and the breakdown of the colonial environment: The struggle over the Tanzam oil pipeline in Zambia* (Business History Review, vol.88, issue 4)
- ▶ Mike French, University of Glasgow: *"Slowly Becoming Sales Promotion Men?" Negotiating the Career of the Sales Representative in Britain, 1920s-1970s* (Enterprise & Society)
- ▶ Frank Land, London School of Economics and Political Science: *Early history of the information systems discipline in the UK: An account based on living through the period* (Communications of the Association for Information Systems, vol.35, article 6)
- ▶ Amy Palmer, University of Roehampton: *Nursery schools or nursery classes? Choosing and failing to choose between policy alternatives in nursery education in England, 1918-1972* (History of Education)
- ▶ John Privilege, Ulster University: *The Northern Ireland government and the welfare state, 1942-8: the case of health provision* (Irish Historical Studies, vol.39, issue 155, May 2015)
- ▶ Bjørn Tore Rosendahl, Stiftelsen Arkivet, Kristiansand / University of Agder: *Patriotism, money and control: Mobilization of Norwegian merchant seamen during the Second World War* (Scandinavian Journal of History)
- ▶ James R. Vaughan, Aberystwyth University: *'Mayhew's outcasts': anti-Zionism and the Arab lobby in Harold Wilson's Labour Party* (Israel Affairs, volume 21, issue 1)



## The Wedderburn Papers - an update

The papers of Lord Bill Wedderburn were deposited in 2013 and in 2014 we launched an appeal for funding to employ an archivist to catalogue the papers. I'm delighted to say that in addition to the funds donated to the appeal, we were also successful in obtaining a £15,000 grant from the National Cataloguing Grant Programme, administered by The National Archives. I would like to extend my thanks to all those who have supported the appeal and the bid. We look forward to producing the catalogue in 2016 and making these papers available for research.

## Staff

This year our Outreach and Education Officer Nuala Clarke left the MRC after nearly two years of hard work developing our schools and student engagement programmes. Meleisa Ono-George has joined us in this role and has already developed an interesting series of talks and events. As a teaching fellow in the History Department with a specific interest in Caribbean history, she brings a great deal of experience of working with students and academic staff.

Gareth Carter and Rachel Callear joined the Centre and have continued the digitisation programme, working on the Health Service and the Warwick Boar resources for Warwick Digital Collections.

Ben Veasey our digital archivist departed in Jan 2015 to take up a new post at Nottingham University.

## 2014/2015 Statistics Summary

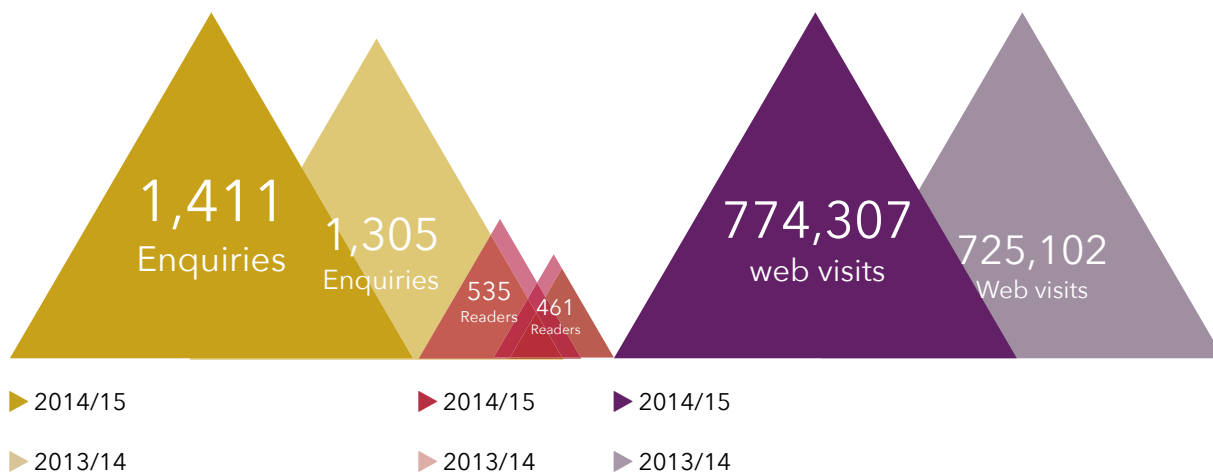
The number of readers has increased by 7% although the number of visits made was down on last year by 6%. Enquiries have also increased. The total number of students who were given introductions to the Centre was 579, with over 200 returning to the search-room as individual archive readers.

This year researchers have travelled to the MRC from all over Europe, USA, Canada, Australia, China, Japan and Brazil.

Readers: 535 [461]; Reader Visits: 1,212 [1,290]

Enquiries: 1,411 [1,305]; Web visits: 774,307 [725,102]

Last year's figures in brackets.





## Advisory Board Members:

Baroness Diana Warwick of Undercliffe (Chairman)

Baroness Rita Donaghy of Peckham

Professor R. Fryer

Professor K. Gildart

Mr R. Green (University Librarian)

Professor S. Horrocks

Professor M. Luddy

Professor H. Marland

Professor J. Martin

Professor. M. Thomson



TUC/CCSU  
ONE YEAR GONE...  
**GCHO**  
S'TILL  
FIGHTING  
ON

ONE YEAR GONE...  
S'TILL  
FIGHTING  
ON



Modern Records Centre  
University of Warwick Library  
Coventry CV4 7AL  
Tel: 024 7652 4219

Email. [archives@warwick.ac.uk](mailto:archives@warwick.ac.uk)  
[warwick.ac.uk/services/library/mrc/](http://warwick.ac.uk/services/library/mrc/)