

MODERN RECORDS CENTRE INFORMATION BULLETIN

No. 64

June 1998

ISSN 0309-0418



1. *Introduction.*

The Centre will celebrate its 25th birthday in October and we are planning to mark the occasion in several ways. The first will be a seminar on October 9th in the Centre. It will be chaired by Professor George Bain, chairman of the Centre's Advisory Board, and one of the 'prime begetters' of the Leverhulme Trust grant which established the Centre in 1973. Richard Storey, the Founding Archivist, will speak about the Centre's history, and Professor Chris Wrigley of Nottingham University will consider the Centre from the researchers' viewpoint. We hope our users will join us in this celebration. Further details will be available nearer the time.

The Centre learnt in May that it had been successful in a bid to the Non-Formula Funding Committee of the Higher Education Funding Council for England. The grant will pay for an additional archivist to catalogue more of our holdings, thereby making them available for research.

Alan Crookham, the existing NFF-funded archivist, will begin revising the Centre's *Summary Guide*, to make it more comprehensive and to make it conform with the new International Standard for Archival Description (ISAD(G)). At the moment the *Guide* simply lists organisations in alphabetical order by type of organisation (trade unions, employers' associations etc.), with a brief description of the contents of the archive and the reference number. There are a few cross-references from name variations. Alan will also put Encoded Archival Description (EAD) tags into the *Guide*. This will enable researchers to search it by names, dates, and keywords. We hope that these revisions will be particularly helpful to researchers because many of the organisations whose archives are in the Centre have changed their names and their scope several times. For example, researchers will be able to find out about our holdings of railway trade unions without first knowing that they were called the Amalgamated Society of Railway Servants 1875-1913, the National Union of Railwaymen 1913-1990, and Rail, Maritime, and Transport since 1990. Some of this information is published (e.g. in A. Marsh and V. Ryan, *Historical Directory of Trade Unions*, 4 vols., 1980-94); but much of it will have to be extracted from the archives. We hope that this work

will go some way towards establishing a name authority file for UK corporate names in the field of industrial relations. Common usage of names for the same organisation should enable researchers to make more complete and efficient searches.

The Centre has also been fortunate in obtaining a grant from the Gladys Kriebel Delmas Foundation via the Research Libraries Group (RLG). The grant will pay for the cost of converting three of our lists to electronic format and then inserting minimum EAD tags. The lists to be converted are: the list of the TUC archives, 1960-70 (MSS.292B); the list of the files added to the TUC archive 1920-60 (MSS.292C); and the list of the archive of the International Transport Workers' Federation (MSS.159). We have also begun to compile new lists in the EAD format, which will make them available via the Internet. One of the great advantages of the EAD format is that we can continue to compile our lists according to our existing practices, so that those researchers not wanting or not able to obtain access to our lists electronically can still look at printed lists here, at the National Register of Archives, and on Chadwyck Healey's *National Inventory of Documentary Sources*.

Other archives continue to be deposited, in what seems to be an inexhaustible flood. They are described briefly in the following list.

2. *Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament*: Thanks to the kind efforts of Dr Mary Brennan, more additions have been made to the CND archive held by the Centre. (MSS.181)

3. *Certification Office for Trade Unions and Employers' Associations*: applications re secret ballots, 1989-90. These applications were originally made under the Employment Act 1980, later under the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992, s. 115. They were made by trade unions seeking the refund of the costs of secret postal ballots, 1980-96. The scheme was abolished 1 April 1996. The Certification Office originally destroyed all papers after six years (when they ceased to be needed for audit purposes). But papers from 1989/90 onwards have been kept, weeded by the Certification Office. The first boxes were deposited in May 1998. Annual additions will be made until all the files have either been deposited or destroyed (c. 2003 AD). The files provide a unique collection of data on ballots. The ballots covered the calling or ending of a strike or other industrial action; carrying out an election of executive or other officers, amending the rules, and obtaining decisions on amalgamation or merger, on a political fund, on an employer's proposal for remuneration etc. Details given include the purpose of the ballot, how it was conducted, scrutineers' reports on membership voting, outcome and costs. (MSS.388)

4. *Confederation of British Industry*: The CBI has made an additional deposit of minute books of the Smaller Firms Council 1967-92. (MSS.200/C). In addition the East Midlands Region has deposited monthly reports, 1973-97 and Regional Council minutes, 1980-96. A ten-year closure period applies to these records. (MSS.200/C/REG 13)

5. *ESRC Qualidata*: Qualidata (funded by the ESRC) has deposited transcriptions of Prof. C. Critcher's interviews made in 1986-8 relating to his study of the Yorkshire, Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire coalfield communities after the 1984 coal miners' strike. (MSS.371/Coal)

6. *Fire Brigades Union*: Mrs. Linda Shephard has deposited the papers of her late husband, David Shephard. He was a member of the Executive Council of the Fire Brigades Union, 1975-94. His papers include minutes series, subject files, and press-cuttings on the 1977 strike. (MSS.346C)

7. *International Transport Workers' Federation* has deposited additional papers and publications. (MSS.159)

8. *Manufacturing Science Finance*: Dr John Dore has added to the papers that he deposited in 1986. They include ASTMS/MSF files referring to the Standing Orders Committee, including Policy and Rules Revision Conferences, papers of the London Division Education Sub-committee, 1980s, papers as Secretary of the South-West (London) Division, and papers of the Training National Advisory Committee, 1994-6. (MSS.79/ASW/DO)

9. *National and Local Government Officers*: A large deposit has been received, including minute series not previously held, and additions to others up to the 1980s. There are also runs of conference proceedings and various publications. (MSS.20)

10. *National Graphical Association*: A number of Typographical Association/National Graphical Association national circulars and agreements, 1940-74, have been transferred to the Centre from Lancashire Record Office where they formed part of the Blackburn Typographical Society deposit. (MSS.39/NGA)

11. *Operational Research Society Archive*: A small addition has been received from the Rolls Royce Operational Research Section. (MSS.335/RR)

12. *SOGAT* has made several additions to its archive. They include:

Amalgamated Association of Pressmen: The Association was established in 1834 as the London Union of Pressmen. In 1924 it amalgamated with the

National Union of Printing, Bookbinding, Machine Ruling and Paper Workers. The deposit includes minutes, 1872, 1875-1926, and a contributions ledger, 1860-73. (MSS.39/SO/LUP)

Platen Machine Minders' Society: The PMMS was established in 1890. In 1924 it joined the NUPBMR but continued to exist as a separate branch. In 1992 the branch amalgamated with the London Region of the GPMU. The deposit includes committee minutes, 1890-1984 [gap 1913-15]; Council minutes, 1916-48; Printers' Pension Reform Association, minutes 1898-9. (MSS.39/SO/PMMS)

13. Trades Union Congress: Our last newsletter reported the delivery of the latest batch of files from the TUC, covering the period 1970-87 (MSS.292D). I'm happy to be able to report that the boxes have been sorted and the files are now available for research. A brief list is available. In addition listing of the TUC archive 1960-70 (MSS.292B) and supplemental material to the 1920-60 archive (MSS.292C) has been completed (over 500 pages). Copies will be placed in the Centre's searchroom and sent to the National Register of Archives and *NIDS* shortly. A sources booklet covering the new material is being prepared and will be launched at the Centre's 25th anniversary celebrations. The publication of the sources booklet will successfully conclude another phase of the original HEFCE NFF project.

14. Staff. The International Panel of the Society of Archivists has awarded a grant to Richard Temple to attend a course on management issues in archival preservation. The course, which will take place in July at the Central European University in Budapest, is run under the auspices of the Open Society Archives.

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 (01203) 524219; Fax (0123) 524211; email: archives@warwick.ac.uk.
URL: <http://www.warwick.ac.uk/services/library/mrc/mrc.html>