

# MODERN RECORDS CENTRE INFORMATION BULLETIN

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## **Strongroom re-shelving**

The removal to an outstore of the contents of our upper archive strongroom was recently completed and work has now begun on installing the new shelving. The removed collections, which include most of the archives of the Transport and General Workers' Union and its predecessors, the National Cycle Archive and the University of Warwick Archive, will be unavailable until some time in May or June. But once the work has been completed it will give us much-needed additional space to store existing and future accessions.

## **Cataloguing and access**

The number of publicly available record descriptions on our catalogues database now stands at over 191,800.

Notable recent additions to the database have included finding aids to the archives of:

- Richard Hyman, professor of industrial relations (HYM).
- The British Air Line Pilots' Association (BAP).
- Bookmark Publications (BOO): including minutes of the Socialist Workers Party Publications Committee, 1984-1991; edited drafts of publications, including works by Tony Cliff, Alex Callinicos, Paul Foot and Chris Harman, 1981-1991; and published books and pamphlets.
- The National League of the Blind and Disabled, a trade union of visually impaired and disabled people, 1915-1994 (NLB): including subject files on labour disputes and the employment of the blind and disabled.
- Eric de Mare (Social Credit collection) (SCC).
- The NatWest Staff Association (NWS).
- The Drawing Office Materials Manufacturers and Dealers Association (DOM).
- Thomas Alan Swinden, CBI deputy director general (TSP).

- Alan Fisher, former General Secretary of NUPE (FSR): Files regarding Fisher's directorships on the boards of British Airways and Harland and Wolff Ltd; his membership of the Medical Advisory Committee of the Health and Safety Commission, 1976-1980, and the Royal Commission on the National Health Service, 1972-1980; and regarding lectures given by Fisher between 1972 and 1982.
- The Socialist Party and its predecessors, including the Revolutionary Socialist League and Militant Tendency, (1923)-2005 (MIL). The collection includes papers of MPs Terry Fields and Pat Wall; documents relating to Militant's campaigns in Liverpool and against the Poll Tax; archives relating to Labour Party youth organisations, including the Labour Party Young Socialists; and publications, including 'Socialist Fight' and 'Militant'.
- Brenda Dean, Baroness Dean of Thornton-le-Fylde, printing trade union official (BDE), including material relating to the 'Wapping dispute' with News International.
- The Auto Cycle Union, the governing body for motorcycle sport throughout Britain, 1903-1999 (ACU): includes minutes, accounts, and records concerning races and trials.

### **Separately funded cataloguing projects**

The catalogue of the archive of the British Association of Social Workers (BASW) has now been completed and is [online](#).

Founded in 1970 by the amalgamation of seven existing organisations, BASW is the principal professional association for all social workers in the United Kingdom. The archives, which comprise nearly 330 boxes, range from the late 1960s to the 1990s and give a comprehensive picture of the activities of social workers and the organisation of social work during that period, as well as considerable information on late 20th century British social, medical, psychiatric and legal history. The archive includes minutes, reports, publications and subject files, and complements the archives of the predecessor associations, which have already been catalogued. Most of it is fully open to researchers, although some particularly sensitive material relating to individuals is currently closed under Data Protection legislation.

The cataloguing of the BASW archive has been funded by a grant from the Wellcome Trust.

## **University of Warwick Archive**

Since the beginning of this academic year there have been numerous requests for information held in the University Archive.

The archive has supported ongoing research conducted by Warwick's Sociology department into teaching and learning space and provided audio-visual, photographic and printed material for both staff and students involved. In addition, records assistants have been able to support their work by helping to identify sources external to the archive which may be of use to them.

Another project currently underway involves the Communication Office which is putting together a history of the Warwick Manufacturing Group and this may eventually involve the digitisation of some films and videos from the collection.

There has also been interest in the history of the Film and Psychology departments from current academics.

Future work includes helping a PhD candidate from Paris who is currently in the UK as a visiting scholar at Oxford University and who is hoping to undertake research into 'inter-professional relationships' in universities from the 1970s onwards using the papers of Warwick's various university governing bodies.

On a daily basis the university archive continues to assist with smaller administrative enquiries from around campus and manage the ongoing acquisition of university papers. Work has also just started to import the archive's catalogues into our database.

### **Work by volunteers**

**Richard Storey**, the former senior archivist of the Centre, has continued to contribute to the development of our holdings relating to the history of road transport.

**Carolyn Ewing** began working for us in July 2009 in order to gain experience of archive work with a view to pursuing a career in the field. As well as helping with the physical management of collections, she has catalogued the archives of: the Amalgamated Weaver's Association; the Furniture, Timber and Allied Trades Union; the National Amalgamated Furnishing Trades' Association; the National Union of Furniture Trade Operatives; the Royal Commissions on Criminal Procedure and Legal Services; the Coventry Workshop, an independent research, education and advice centre set up as a charity in 1975 to work with local trade union and community organisations.

**Julie Moores** has continued her work on the Northern Broadsides Theatre Company archive and has recently added descriptions of around 120 boxes of records of the National Federation of Building Trade Operatives (BTO) to our catalogues database.

We extend our thanks to all our volunteers for their invaluable assistance.

### **Website developments**

The following have been added to our website since last June: resources for the history and sociology undergraduate modules 'Britain in the Twentieth Century', 'Politics and Society in Eastern Africa', 'The Victorian City', 'Birth of Feminisms', 'The Sociology of Education', and "Race, Difference and the Inclusive Society"; exhibitions on 'Cold War', 'King Coal' and 'The Power of the Cinema'.

### **Use of the Centre**

Our archive resources have been used by Warwick students for courses on life writing, British culture and the Great War and visual sociology. Other research topics of internal and external users have included: the early Socialist response to Fascism; the supply of beer to troops during World War II; the Indian Workers' Association; the British National Party; household expenditure; industrial welfare; Paul Robeson; the Trades Union Congress and Europe; the miners' strike of 1984-1985; Post Office trade unionism; female philanthropy in inter-war Britain; the Spanish Civil War; 1970s equality legislation; Soviet dissent; trade unions in Kenya and East Africa; 'atomic' gardening; inter-war headmistresses; the Tolpuddle Martyrs; the history of the office of ombudsman; white collar trade union militancy; labour movement responses to the Falklands war; British Communists and the Bedaux management system; the history of logistics; the teaching of home economics; oil in south Asia.

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For further information about the Centre, its holdings and publications, contact the Modern Records Centre, University Library, University of Warwick, Coventry, CV4 7AL; Telephone +44 (0)24 7652 4219; Fax. +44 (0)24 7652 4211; email: [archives@warwick.ac.uk](mailto:archives@warwick.ac.uk)  
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