
ROAD HAULAGE HISTORY SOURCES

Introduction

The Modern Records Centre was established in 1973 to seek to preserve for research use primary sources for British social, political and economic history, with particular concentration on the history of industrial relations and industrial politics. Through this collecting policy the Centre received records relevant to the history of road haulage from the RHA, the TGWU, the CBI, and others. Other relevant material has come in as a result of various contacts, in particular those established through the Roads & Road Transport History Conference. Although work is still very much in progress on such deposits as that of the TGWU, sufficient analysis of the Centre's extensive holdings has been done to allow the publication of this *Information Leaflet*.

This opportunity is taken to express thanks to all who have contributed to the build-up of the collections described.

AMALGAMATED UNION OF CO-OPERATIVE & COMMERCIAL EMPLOYEES & ALLIED WORKERS

Memorandum on the wages of road transport workers, by J. Hallsworth (1919), 15pp. (MSS.70X/1).

APPLICATIONS & DECISIONS (MSS.352)

Printed series of Applications to and Decisions of the Licensing Authority in each Traffic Area in respect of the carriage of goods by road under the Road & Rail Traffic Act 1933 and subsequent legislation. A & Ds commenced in 1934 and were discontinued during the 2nd World War (c. Aug 1939 - Jul 1946).

The series held by the Centre came from the Department of Transport Library *via* the Kithead Trust, and covers 1934-9, 1946-89, with the following major exceptions : E. Midland TA (most of 1973); Metropolitan TA (1934-8); North Eastern TA (mid-1977 to late 1978); South Eastern (1937); Western (most of 1983-4); Yorkshire (1983-9).

The collection provides the opportunity of a unique overview of an industry in a constant state of flux.

ATKINSON LORRIES (HOLDINGS) Ltd.

In 1970 this specialist manufacturer was the subject of a number of take-over bids, resulting in its acquisition by Seddon Diesel Vehicles Ltd. A shareholders' committee, which was formed to oppose take-over, received the support of a number of hauliers, including Messrs. R.J. & I. Monkton of Longtown, Cumb.

Two sets of papers are held, those of A.G. Horsnail, City economic adviser, who formed the committee (MSS.290), and of P.M. Yates, Man. Dir. of Atkinson, which include Atkinson annual reports and house journals (MSS.256).

(House journals and promotional publications of lorry manufacturers can provide useful information for historians of road haulage. In MSS.226X the Centre's holdings include the *AEC Gazette*, 1947-9 (MSS.226X/AE/4/3-5), and some promotional publications of other commercial vehicle manufacturers, including Ford and Bedford.)

COMMERCIAL VEHICLE AND ROAD TRANSPORT CLUB

CVRTC News, the newsletter of the Commercial Vehicle and Road Transport Club, 1965-2004.

CONFEDERATION OF BRITISH INDUSTRY and PREDECESSOR ARCHIVE (MSS.200)

The CBI was formed in 1965 from the Federation of British Industries, the British Employers' Confederation and the National Association of British Manufacturers (the three organisations had been founded during or just after the First World War). An analysis of the concerns of these predecessor bodies for transport, including road transport, and the resultant surviving records is given by Deborah Jenkins in 'Sources for transport history in the CBI predecessor archives', *Jnl. of Transport History*, 3rd ser., vol.4, no.1 (Mar 1983), pp.77-81. In particular, the FBI's

structure of main transport committee, panels and working parties is clearly explained.

Transport references in the CBI's deposited records include : Europe Transport Panel, 1970-80 (MSS.200/C/3/COM/5/1-3) and Transport Policy Committee (MSS.200/C/3/COM/22/1-21). Topics covered include govt. transport policy, comml. vehicle weights, transport regulations (22/2-4).

The FBI archive also includes records of the Traders' Co-ordinating Committee on Transport, *q.v.*

COVENT GARDEN HAULAGE Ltd. (MSS.331/C)

Established September 1967 as a consortium of London market hauliers, to enable its members to handle imported fruit more efficiently and to feed the traffic into member firms.

References *Commercial Motor*, 29 Oct 1967, pp.26-7; *Fruit Trades Jnl.*, 30 Sep 1967, p.9.

'Running Files' Nos. 2 & 3, 1970-9 : minutes, reports, accounts, circulated papers. Topics include traffic at Newhaven and Sheerness, winding-up, following loss of New Zealand apple and pear traffic. Monthly trading figures, mainly 1967-72; membership file.

R. CROPPER

For papers of Ralph Cropper, road haulier and transport consultant *see* Covent Garden Haulage Ltd.; Meat Carriers' Association (Southern) Ltd.

DAIMLER HIRE Ltd.

The board minutes of the BSA Co. Ltd. for 1930 include references to the development of a horse-box transport section by Daimler Hire (MSS.19C/14).

C.S. DUNBAR (MSS.347)

Dunbar (1900-93) is best known for his work as founder/chairman of the National Conference of Parcels Carriers (1937) and its successor, the National Conference of Express Carriers, which made use of the connections provided by his firm, Red Arrow Deliveries. Dunbar also held some government posts and was a transport writer and consultant. *Reference* C.S. Dunbar, *The rise of road transport 1919-1939* (1981).

Dunbar's papers fall into two groups, those deriving from his chairmanship of the National Conferences, and his 'research files'. These comprise press-cuttings, with some pamphlets, items of correspondence, etc.

FLEET MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE, 1981

Papers and attendance list (MSS.21/3361-2).

HAULIERS' MUTUAL FEDERATION Ltd.

16 point outline policy document, 1946, reprinted in J.A. Dunnage, *Transport plans and Britain's future*, 1946 (MSS.55/3/NA/22).

HEAVY GOODS VEHICLE SPEED LIMIT COMMITTEE

4pp. leaflet, 1953 (MSS.21/3413).

INTERNATIONAL TRANSPORT WORKERS' FEDERATION (MSS.159)

Founded 1896. Its centenary history *Solidarity* (1996) includes a chapter (13) on the ITF and the changing nature of transport. By the inter-war period the ITF was concerned with the particular problems posed by road transport, eg, R. Bratschi, *Railway and motor transport* (ITF, 1930), and its Road Transport Workers' Section reports survive, 1925-61 (MSS.159/1/10/1-41). (It should be noted that passenger as well as goods road transport is involved throughout.) In 1931 an agreement covering legal and fraternal assistance to motor drivers in member unions travelling in other countries was drawn up (MSS.159/3/C/337).

MEAT CARRIERS' ASSOCIATION (SOUTHERN) Ltd. (MSS.331/M)

Successor to the Wholesale Meat & Provisions Transport Assoc. Ltd. (1945-65) and the Smithfield Meat Carriers' Assoc. Ltd. (1965-74), with both of which organisations it co-existed. After a period of inactivity, the MCA(S) again became active in 1954. It was wound up in 1979.

Company returns file, 1949-79.

Minutes, 1973-8.

'Running files' of circulated docs., 1974-9.

Meat Carriers' JNC minutes, 1974-8.

Misc. docs.; corres. re winding-up.

OWNER-DRIVERS' ORGANISATION

This is a complex and changing scene. The Centre holds reports of the 1977 and 1978 conferences of the British Association of Owner Drivers (MSS.21/1862).

PRODUCT and WORKS TRANSPORT

Manufacturers' records may occasionally give some indication of how their transport needs were met. A number of examples in the Centre's holdings are given below.

Rover Co. Ltd. : list of (mainly Ford) works transport fleet, 1933 (MSS.226/RO/2/3/3).

Standard-Triumph : acquisitions of road haulage facilities provided for Alforder Newton Ltd., Hemel Hempstead by Mr Jolin, 1960 (MSS.226.ST/3/AA/4). Six files, mainly 1960s, re aspects of car collection and delivery, including negotiations with Wm. Harper & Sons Ltd., Liverpool (MSS.226/ST/3/A/TR/1-6).

Triumph Eng. Co. Ltd. : arrangements for road haulage of Triumph motor cycles, 1955-70 (MSS.123X/3/18-20) : *see* R.A. Storey, 'Moving the product', *Warwickshire History*, vol.VII, no.1, pp.19-21.

G.W. QUICK SMITH (MSS.366)

George Quick Smith (1905-86) was a barrister and transport administrator, his career culminating as Chief Executive of the National Freight Corporation.

His papers comprise four ring-bound volumes of draft text of 'Road haulage saga', a history of nationalised road haulage, which he wrote late in life.

ROAD HAULAGE ASSOCIATION

Organisations of long and short distance hauliers amalgamated in the early 1930s to form the RHA. This was joined by the Motor Hirers' & Coach Services Association in 1935 to form Associated Road Operators. In 1945 rationalisation of transport operators' organisations produced *int. al.* a re-formed Road Haulage Association.

For its post-war history *see* L. Harper, *On the move - the history of the Road Haulage Association 1945-94* (1996).

The RHA deposits in the Centre comprise :

Industrial Relations Officer's files, mainly 1960s-'70s. Topics include containerisation, 1970s pay claims, W. Midlands disputes (MSS.234/I). Secretary's dept. files, 1950-'60s. Topics include delays at docks, 1955-6, licensing, railway strike action, rates references to NBPI, 1965-6, road-rail : RHA/BRB/BRS tripartite machinery, 1963-7 (MSS.234/S).

Policy booklets, nos. 1-3, 1945-6 (MSS.347/RR/1/3/21-2, 26); statement, 1964 (MSS.234X/4/1). Efficiency Pamphlets, nos. 1-3, 6, 1963 (MSS.347/D/10/11/2822, 2835-6).

The University Library holds a run of the RHA journal *Roadway* from August 1974, which may be consulted in the Centre (41UC 1510 C).

ROAD HAULAGE (CENTRAL) WAGES BOARD/COUNCIL

Employers' Panel minutes, 1944-9, 1948-72 and other papers, in RHA deposit (MSS.234/S/3/34-6, MSS.234/I/36-53).

TUC file re (MSS.292/654.12/2).

ROAD HAULAGE EXECUTIVE

The principal records are in the Public Record Office .

Misc. items in the Centre include :

Acquired undertakings list, 1949 (MSS.55/5/MIS/23).

Items re negotiating machinery (MSS.55/5/PCSO/2-4; MSS.292/653.68/3).

Cuttings files re (MSS.347/D/10/15-17). Documentation file, 1949-52 (MSS.347/D/7/1).

Salaman Collection, *q.v.*, BRS items (MSS.374).

SALAMAN ROAD HAULAGE RESEARCH COLLECTION (MSS.374)

In the course of a lifetime's work in road transport, C.R. Salaman AMCIT has collected a variety of documentation relating to road haulage and its history, which he has donated to the Centre. It includes in particular material relating to British Road Services, with most issues of its staff *Magazine*, 1961-6, and a *National Gazetteer*, 1951.

TRADERS' CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORT

This was established in 1921, initially to co-ordinate traders' responses to the railway companies' proposals for the classification of merchandise transported and rail transport seems to have remained its main concern. The FBI provided secretarial assistance and TCC records therefore survive with those of the FBI.

TCC minutes, 1921-64 (MSS.200/F/1/1/93-107).

TCC subject files, 1923-31, 1947-52 (MSS.200/TCC/3/1-7).

TRADES UNION CONGRESS (MSS.292)

The Centre holds the TUC Registry files from the beginning of the Registry in 1920 to 1970. A detailed catalogue has been compiled for 1920-60; files for 1960-70 will be listed during 1997, but may be accessed in the meantime using the Registry classification which applies irrespective of date.

In addition to the files referred to under United Road Transport Union below, the following TUC files may be noted :

Denationalisation of road haulage : TUC files, 1952-6 (MSS.292/653.76/2-6).

TRANSPORT & GENERAL WORKERS' UNION (MSS.126)

The Union was formed in 1922 by the amalgamation of fourteen separate unions and many others have been added subsequently. Its members include those in such transport areas as goods and passenger road transport and docks. In the mid-1990s a very substantial addition was made to the original TGWU deposit in the Centre, associated with the union's move from Transport House in Smith Square. Processing of this material is at an early stage, so that the references given are provisional and should not be regarded as a comprehensive coverage of road goods transport in the TGWU deposit.

Prior permission is needed for access and a twenty year restriction applies.

In addition to the various series of TGWU minutes, annual reports, publications, etc., in the deposit, the following are some of the specific road haulage items identified within the recent additions to the deposit (*not a comprehensive listing; references are temporary*) :

E. Bevin 1930s correspondence includes some road haulage-related items, eg, correspondence with H.A. Palmer, Co-ordinated Road Traffic Services re 'C' licences and rates discussions, 1939 (MSS.126/EB)

Road goods transport circulars, c. 1942-58 (sack 99)

Road Haulage NJIC, 1947-52 (sack 30)

Oil Trade Road Transport Conference, 1947-57 (sack 24); Petroleum Conciliation Committee minutes, 1955-7, 1964-8 (sack 98)

Road Haulage Wages Council, Workers' Side : circulars, etc., 1955-61 (sack 99)

General road haulage annual conferences, 1965-72 (sack 38)
Silver Roadways, Wincanton Transport, 1960s (sack 35)
ICI and T. Walls road transport (sack 128)
SPD, 1975-7 (sack 101)
BRS/NFC, incl. selected correspondence, 1972-6, especially on re-organisation, acquisitions and closures (sacks 38, 101, 139)
Road haulage dispute, 1979 (sack 34)
Files on commercial road transport workers (sacks 38, 124)
Bristol & dist. road transport workers' agreements volume (TG/61195/Temp.17).
United Road Transport Workers' *see* United Road Transport Union entry.

Some material re road haulage disputes and union attitudes to firms' transport outsourcing proposals, 1970s-'80s; also Wapping dispute and related TNT road haulage issue; tachograph; Channel Tunnel (1998-9 accessions).

TRANSPORT & GENERAL WORKERS' UNION (MSS.245)

5/195 Black Country Transport Branch : minutes from inauguration to 1979, accounts, 1960-71.

References T. Corfield, *The rule of Law* (Birmingham, 1982) gives background on union organisation in road haulage in the Birmingham area (Alan Law, TGWU official, retired 1979, d. 1985); P.A. Smith, 'The process of unionisation in the road haulage industry' (Univ. of Warwick PhD, 1988), 'The road haulage industry, 1945-79 : from statutory regulation to contested terrain', in C. Wrigley (ed.), *A history of British industrial relations, 1939-1979* (Cheltenham, 1995).

TRANSPORT DEVELOPMENT GROUP (MSS.272)

The Group was built up by Philip Henman (*Dict. Business Biog.*, vol.3, 1985) on the basis of General Lighterage Holdings Ltd., with subsidiaries operating barges, wharves and haulage services. Road haulage denationalisation in 1953 made possible a major expansion in that area and the group was renamed on becoming a public company in 1957.

In 1985 the Centre acquired, *via* the Advisory Service of the Business Archives Council, business records (minutes and/or shareholding records) of numerous TDG constituents. Some of the minutes are of a formal nature and there are no operating records, such as day books, in the deposit. The firms for which records survive in the deposit include : Arnold's Transport (1941) Ltd., Leicester; various Beck & Pollitzer

concerns; J.W. Catton (I.B.S.) Ltd.; A.&J. Clark Ltd., Glasgow; Hartlepoons Motor Hlge. Co. Ltd.; Isherwood & Co. Ltd., Warrington; London & Welsh Transport Service Ltd.; Main Transport Co. Ltd.; Mountfield Transport & Eng. Co. Ltd.; Pratt's Road Transport Ltd., Aberdeen; Shenstone Transport Co. Ltd., Erdington; Union Transit Co. Ltd.; Williams Bros., Queensferry; Wright & Co. (King's Cross) Ltd. The accession also includes annual reports of TDG, 1964, 1966-82, 1984-5, 1987, 1989-90.

UNITED ROAD TRANSPORT UNION

Estab. as Utd. Carters' Assoc. in 1890. On merger with Nat. Motor Drivers' Assoc. in 1926 became Utd. Road Transport Wkrs'. Assoc. Present title adopted 1964.

Relevant TUC Files include : general, 1929-59 (MSS.292/91/225); various disputes involving URTWA (MSS.292/85/75, 102, 174).

TGWU files re relations between the two unions, 1930s-40s, 1960s, 1973-8 (MSS.126/TG/3/sacks 14,18, 102).

WORDS AND MACHINES COLLECTION (MSS.457)

Research Collection donated by Richard Storey (the Centre's Archivist 1973-1997 and a contributing editor of the *Companion to British Road Haulage history*, 2003). The collection includes a cutting file on the haulage protest movements which began in 1999, a cuttings book on and leaflets of Buckingham Vehicles Ltd, tanker manufacturers formerly of Kenilworth, and brochures relating to materials handling and various marques and types of vehicle. It is particularly strong on van literature.

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Related title published by the Modern Records Centre : *Automotive history sources in Coventry archives* (1996, price £4).

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