

# The Local Studies Librarian

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## Editorial

The recent group Weekend School was a great success. 'The new technology' is of course a popular theme for discussion at the moment, and those attending were naturally interested in seeing how the new techniques can help us. The speakers dealt with various aspects of the subject, but of the five papers read, none were by librarians. How are *we* using the new technology? Archivists and museum curators are developing computer programmes and techniques for providing better access to their stock, but very little seems to have been written or reported by librarians. Computers are only one aspect of technology, but their advent has made it possible to analyse and store information so that collections can be exploited more fully. The development of suitable programmes is a problem, and there is the question whether in fact it would be economic to use computers for detailed in-house indexing — or to produce a really comprehensive local studies index. As so little information is available, the editor would be very glad to hear of any recent developments.

The computer is not, of course, the only modern technical aid available. Microfilm is extensively used, both to conserve stock and to acquire material otherwise unavailable, as well as to provide catalogues — which because of their format can be easily and cheaply reproduced to provide in modern format the advantages of the old printed catalogue. The tape recorder at least is widely used, and the establishment of sound archives is a great step forward. The video recorder should not be forgotten by local studies librarians either.

Using the new technology ourselves is one aspect. But the ever-increasing use of computers for data handling by other organisations can pose problems for librarians and archivists. Because most databanks are concerned with current administration, they are updated regularly, and cannot therefore be used for retrospective searching. A further alarming point as far as we are concerned is that information is not permanently stored — after current use the tape is probably wiped. Where shall we find in future, for instance, the information given in early rates books? This particular instance is being dealt with by archivists, but how many similar cases are there?

Having acquired and stored our information, in whatever form, the next step is dissemination. The open supply of non-secret information to any enquirer is one of the fundamental principles of the public library service as a whole. An example of this in our own field is reported later in this issue from Cambridgeshire. In this case the information was presumably required for strategic purposes, but it *was* all material which had been widely distributed, and Col. Primakov was showing good sense in going to the place where the fullest collection of material relating to the locality was held. The case reflects well on the capacity of local studies librarians as collectors and storers of information.

## Local Studies Information on Prestel: A Northern Ireland Experiment

In recent years great interest has been shown in local studies. Individuals and groups in rural and urban areas are involved in research projects attempting to uncover the past. All require a variety of resource material — documentary, visual, aural — on which to base their research, but gaining access to this material or even becoming aware of its availability is often a problem. Public libraries generally provide a local studies service but not all those interested in local studies are fully aware of its range and nature. This gap between the need for information and the lack of knowledge by the user on how to gain access to it continues to be a major marketing problem for libraries.

In the last few years public libraries have become more conscious of the need to educate their users. Unlike academic institutions where librarians have a 'captive' audience for their user education programmes a major problem for public librarians is how they make contact with users. One way of helping to overcome physical distance is to investigate the use of the new information technology and here British Telecom's Prestel service appears to be ideal. Potentially it is easy for the individual to install and use Prestel in his own home or gain access to Prestel information in an institution such as a school, library, university or museum. Facilities exist to enable libraries to input information and make it available to the public at large. Is it possible for public libraries to make users aware of their services, such as local studies, by giving details on Prestel?

### *The experiment*

In April 1981 the Department of Library and Information Studies at the Queen's University of Belfast and the library services of the five Education and Library Boards in Northern Ireland formed a small Prestel input co-operative on an experimental basis. The new information provider (IP) known as 'Northern Ireland Public Libraries' used the services offered by the LASER information umbrella in London. The major aim of the experiment was to enable librarians to gain experience in writing/designing information for the new medium. During the experiment the team responsible for the input gained access to Prestel using the receiver in the Education Department at Queen's University. None of the participating libraries in the experiment installed Prestel receivers: this is explained by the irrelevance of a lot of Prestel information to people in the Province and the fact that Prestel is only available at local call rate in the greater Belfast area.

### *The nature of the input*

The input team decided to experiment with two kinds of information. Firstly a monthly diary of events, services and facilities available in public libraries and secondly a special feature dealing with a particular topic. The former enabled the team to assess the practical difficulties of gathering and inputting information which changed regularly, while the latter gave the team experience in writing more extensive information. In the event, feature material proved easier to handle, as gathering and inputting information for a diary without a local editing/input terminal proved difficult.

The first special feature dealt with local studies services in Northern Ireland and in many ways it proved to be the most interesting. As it was the first, an input procedure had to evolve, and the many lessons learnt regarding overall appearance, layout and the amount of information used formed the foundation on which to improve subsequent features.

### *Data-base design*

The decision to choose local studies was arbitrary — the local studies data-base, like subsequent ones, reflected a particular professional interest of one member of the input team. Once it had been decided to develop a theme, one member of the team designed the tree-structure and the content of the data-base (see Fig. 1). This was discussed by the whole team and after the overall design and content was approved, the designer and the project co-ordinator met to re-write the information to make it suitable for Prestel. Finally input forms were completed by the project coordinator and submitted to LASER.

### *Data-base evaluation*

A major constraint of the local studies data-base was the limited number of frames or screen-fulls of information available. As only 36 were rented from LASER it was not feasible to deal with the specific differences between each library service in Northern Ireland. It was only possible to give a broad overview of local studies services.

A second major constraint was the limited space on each frame. Every effort was made to make the most economic use of space. Initially there was a tendency to pack as much information as possible on to each frame. As part of the effort to economise on space the original typewritten draft in conventional English was contracted on the input sheets by removing unnecessary words and phrases and using abbreviations and acronyms where appropriate. Figure 2 shows part of the original typewritten draft and Fig. 3 shows the completed Prestel frame. It can be seen that a crude attempt has been made to reduce the number of words without substantially altering the message.

Figure 1— Local studies service — Northern Ireland Public Libraries  
(based on an idea by Malcolm Buchanan, South Eastern Education and  
Library Board)

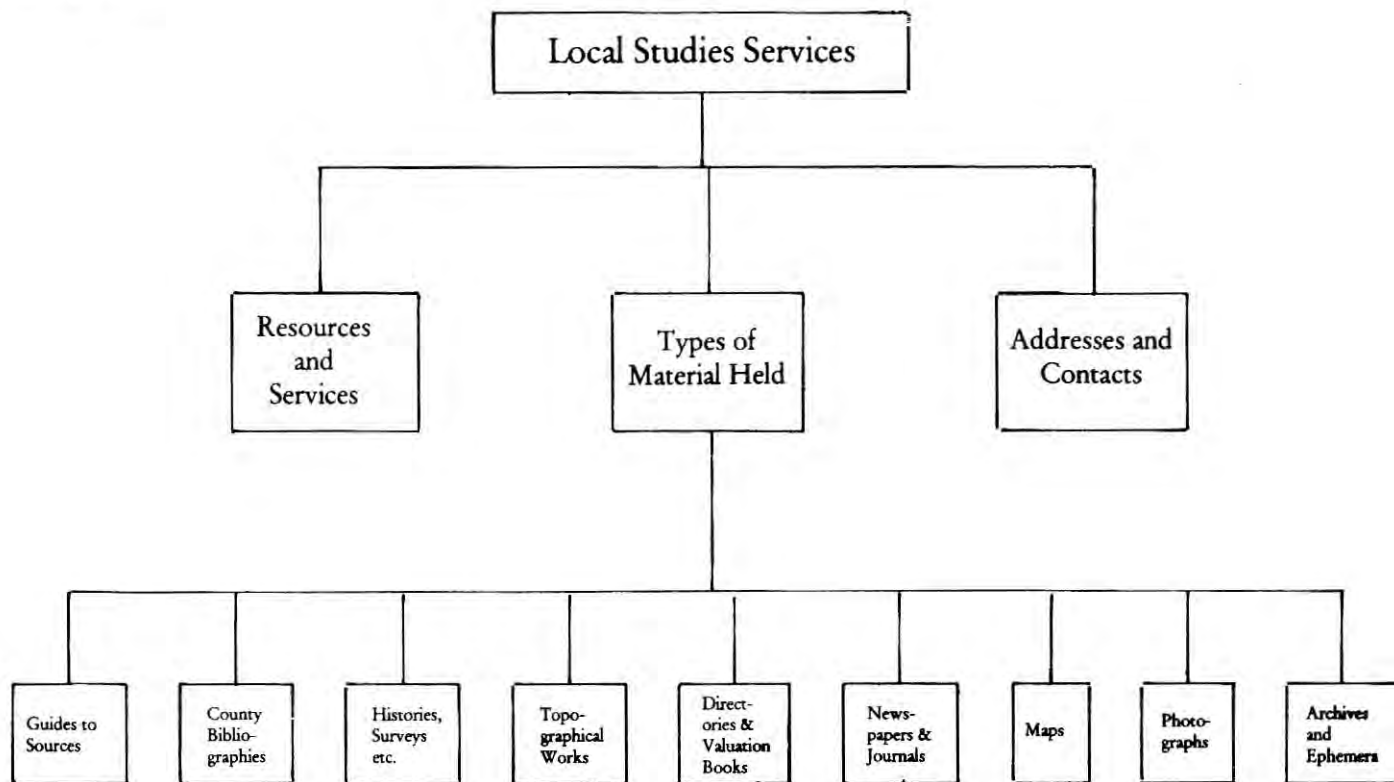


Fig. 2

AREA PLANS – produced mainly by the Government of Northern Ireland these provide planning recommendations for the future development of towns, villages and rural areas. A great deal of valuable background information is given on population, housing, employment, industry, communications, public services, shopping facilities, tourism, recreation, historic buildings and more.

Fig. 3

Northern Ireland Public Libraries  
LOCAL STUDIES SERVICES  
3. HISTORIES, SURVEYS, AREA PLANS, CENSUSES

HISTORIES county, city town, diocese, parish, congregation, family, industry & trade, transport, architecture.

SURVEYS archaeology, industrial archaeology, architecture.

AREA PLANS provide planning recommendations for development of towns, villages & rural areas. Give information on population, employment, housing, communications, industry, tourism, public services, shopping, recreation, historic buildings.

CENSUS REPORTS available 1841-1971. Statistics on population, housing, education etc.

As can be seen, the net result of this was poor layout and difficulties for the user in reading and comprehending the information. As the input team gained more experience in subsequent special features their skill in writing improved.

One of the attractions of Prestel to the layman is the use of colour. As the local studies data-base was the first for the team the expertise of LASER staff in the choice of colour was relied on, and a large amount of green and yellow was used. The frame illustrated in Fig. 2 had all upper case lettering in yellow, all lower case lettering in green. The title of the data-base and the name of the information provider was in white. When the input team viewed the input for the first time this colour combination was felt to be rather startling and unattractive. Detailed research by Sutherland<sup>(1)</sup> has however, shown that is the one of the best colour combinations available. The emphasis on textual information in the local studies data-base resulted in a rather boring overall visual appearance: in subsequent data-bases attempts were made to use graphics to make the information more interesting for the user. Clearly when using Prestel great attention has to be given to the aesthetics of information.

### *Experiment evaluation*

Although every effort was made to improve the layout, reduce the amount of information per frame, write more succinctly, choose appropriate colours and use graphics in subsequent data-bases it is clear that Prestel as a medium for the transfer of information has a number of disadvantages. If the Northern Ireland experiment had more money to rent more frames and rent or purchase an input/editing terminal greater attention could have been given to layout and the depth of coverage of the content. The local studies data-base epitomized the central problem of Prestel as far as both users and information providers are concerned, namely the limited amount of information held per frame.

Prestel is a means of overcoming physical distance but the man in the street still remains unconvinced. There is an unlimited number of topics worthy of inclusion on Prestel, including general subjects and information aimed at specific users. However, the limited amount of money at the disposal of most libraries precludes storing large amounts of information permanently. One way of overcoming this is to record the information on audio cassette to store it for retrospective use.

### *Conclusion*

It is possible for libraries to input information about local studies on Prestel and for local historians to retrieve it. Unfortunately there is a gap

between reality and what is feasible. For the reasons already given many librarians and library users find it difficult to visualise the day when it will be as commonplace to access Prestel as it is to use a telephone today. When the input team in the Northern Ireland experiment evaluated the local studies feature one member concluded that the cooperative venture was worthwhile and it might be a good idea to publish the Prestel input in the form of a conventional booklet and distribute it to local history societies! A similar sentiment was expressed by the same member regarding subsequent features and the reaction of his colleagues suggests they agree with him.

Clive Cochrane, BA, Dip.Lib., Dip.Ed.Tech., ALA, Lecturer, Department of Library and Information Studies, Queen's University of Belfast.

#### *Reference*

1. Sutherland, Stuart. Prestel and the user: a survey of psychological and ergonomic research. Brighton: Centre for Research on Perception and Cognition, University of Sussex, 1980.



## The Charles Tite Collection, Yeovil

1983 marks the 50th anniversary of both the death of one of Somerset's most distinguished antiquarians and the creation of Yeovil's local history collection. It is no mere coincidence — the two are directly related.

A Tauntonian by birth, Charles Tite, J.P., (1842-1933) bequeathed in his will £1,000 to the Mayor and Corporation of Yeovil and a substantial number of valuable books from his personal library. It was these books that formed the nucleus of what has become Yeovil's local collection: The Charles Tite Somerset and Dorset Collection.

Tite's background is interesting — he settled in Yeovil when comparatively young, where he became the editor of the "Western Flying Post". This paper, subsequently amalgamated with the "Western Gazette", was sold off in 1886 and Tite then retired from professional life at the remarkably youthful age of 44! His 'retirement', if that be the word for it, was passed in Taunton "...not in leisured ease, but in active and useful work for the causes which he loved."<sup>1</sup> These causes were many and varied including among others serving as "...a magistrate, a member of the Committee of the Taunton Free Library, and of the Taunton Borough Education Committee. ... a generous supporter of St. Mary's Church. ... a teacher in its Sunday School. ... Chairman of the Trustees of the Taunton Town Charities."<sup>2</sup> He also found time to devote to the activities of the Somerset Archaeological and Natural History Society, becoming one of its honorary secretaries in 1900 and vice-president from 1913.

It therefore came as no surprise that when Charles Tite passed away on 20th May, 1933, he left the greater part of his wealth to the causes and institutions that he had supported so tirelessly during his long life.

His bequest to Yeovil library, which had only come into existence five years earlier, was quite specific: "...to apply the income for the purchase of good and useful works of reference relating to the history, archaeology, or natural history of the County of Somerset or any part thereof, or of books written by natives of Somerset or by persons long resident in the said county for or in connexion with the Public Library of the Town of Yeovil."<sup>3</sup> The £1,000 is now held in 4% consolidated stock and obviously can no longer support a local collection of any worth entirely by itself. Unfortunately, a budget of £40 per annum in 1983 is not what it was fifty years ago! Legal complications have prevented the money from being re-invested and so Somerset County Library makes up the shortfall.

The collection today comprises some 3,000 books and several hundred manuscripts. We have local newspapers on microfilm back to 1740 and Yeovil district census returns, 1841-81. There are no illustrations as such, though we have a growing collection of 35mm transparencies used in connection with talks to local groups and societies. With local government reorganisation and the creation of a County local history library at Taunton Castle (1973) the acquisition policy at Yeovil has been re-defined. For Somerset we now purchase only those publications which concern Yeovil and its immediate vicinity. However, because of our unusual geographical position, almost straddling the Dorset/Somerset border, we also take selected works on Sherborne and district.

If Charles Tite were to walk into the library today I feel sure he would be pleased with the way his collection has grown!

Robin Ansell,  
Reference Librarian,  
Yeovil Library.

1 and 2 SOMERSET ARCHAEOLOGICAL & NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY. "Proceedings", Vol. 79 (1933), pp.120-22. (Obituary notice)

3 "The Times", 28/8/33, p.13, col.d. (Report of Tite's will).

## Local Studies and the New Technology: Report on the L.S.G. Weekend School

The Group held its first study weekend at St. Annes from 18th-20th March. The theme of 'the new technology' attracted 24 delegates for the whole weekend, while various others came as day visitors.

Predictably 'new technology' was largely concerned with the use of the computer as an aid in local studies work, and four speakers dealt with different examples of computerisation. Dr. Shaw, of the University of Kent, covered the analysis of dialects. As dialect seems to be a matter of increasing concern to local historians among others, this was a useful example of the way in which computers can be of use in the Humanities. Dr. Shaw started by discussing the Leeds University Survey of English Dialects and showed how individual features of dialect could be usefully compared, and then demonstrated the difficulties of comparatively analysing several features. In order to establish dialect patterns it is necessary to analyse large bodies of data, and a computer can quickly pick out similar characteristics and manipulate data in various ways: it can also help to reduce investigative bias. The question of dialect and accent was also covered and the speaker came to the conclusion that the future of dialects does not seem very bright at all, though the future of regional accents is secure.

Professor Hair of Liverpool University dealt with the Cheshire project of transcription and computerisation of parish registers. Parish registers are a major source of information on ordinary people, and are heavily used by family historians, but few are indexed, and while they cover large numbers of people, the amount of information about each individual is small. It was thought that computer analysis could provide a solution, and for various reasons Cheshire was a suitable place for experiment. Volunteer subscribers (about 150 of them) work at home from photocopies produced from microfilms of the registers themselves, and work is available for both expert and less expert workers. The end of the Project should be a cumulative index to the registers of the country, so that it will be possible for instance, to trace family migration, which will give a new dimension to the study of family history. So far about 250,000 entries have been transcribed, and of these about 20,000 are now on the computer. This is the kind of project which would be impossible without computers, and further possibilities are of going on-line, and of ultimately adding entries from the records of other denominations. All this, however, will take a long time: the original twenty year target will certainly have to be exceeded.

The third contribution on computerised information was a presentation by Mr G.R. Downer of the Ordnance Survey on modern developments in mapping. The traditional methods of revising and producing maps meant that new editions could only be produced at infrequent intervals, so the O.S. have developed computer techniques which make it possible to provide updated information more quickly. Map detail can now be recorded in digital form suitable for manipulation by computer: this technique is versatile and special user-defined maps at different scales and with non-standard sheet lines can be produced. The two updating services S.U.S.I. (Supply of Unpublished Survey Information) and S.I.M. (Survey Information on Microfilm) were briefly described, as was the process of digital mapping. What surprised most of the audience was to hear that it is now very difficult to obtain chart paper copies of maps without being on the pre-publication list, and because of the long and expensive process required to produce new editions, these are now produced far less frequently. The new updating systems are suitable for most users of maps, but one worrying point arose during the questions session, that with the digital mapping system, only current information is stored, and that once the whole system is digitised it will not be possible to use the O.S. for historical purposes as at present. Thus the holding by libraries and other institutions of the hard copy maps will become even more important. These points, of course, apply to Ordnance Survey large scale plans at 1:1250 and 1:10000, from which the smaller scale maps are derived, but which are generally collected by local studies libraries.

The final contribution on computers was given by Mr. Michael Roper of the Public Record Office, on the archivist and the computer. He briefly outlined the problems involved, including the sheer volume of material — it would take 600 man-years in data analysis and preparation merely to index the Chancery proceedings by computer, and these constitute only 4% of the P.R.O.s total holdings. However, he then gave examples of the use of computers in record offices, including the PROSPEC system in the P.R.O. In the long run he expected to see microcomputers being used more frequently in record offices, particularly if some speedier methods of input, such as cheap Optical Character Recognition could be developed. Most of the librarians present had not realised how much work and experiment had been done in record offices, and Mr Roper's talk was therefore very useful.

Technology, however, is not concerned solely with computers, and we were treated to a talk and demonstration by Mr. Ken Howarth, of the North West Sound Archive, on Oral history and Sound Archives. Oral history, being concerned with family memories and human experience is often the sort of history which is not written down. The role of the North West Sound Archive is to research into gaps of recorded knowledge, to collect, preserve

and conserve such material and compile indexes to make information accessible. After some very difficult early days, the Archive has now found a permanent home in Clitheroe castle, where facilities include a speech studio and an environmentally controlled recording store. The area covered by the Archive stretches from Cumbria to the Peak of Derbyshire, and the Isle of Man. The catalogue of recordings is input to a microcomputer and transferred to a mainframe computer at Manchester University, which in turn produces a microfiche. At present the catalogue covers about 4500 recordings. A further function of the Archive is to give advice to groups undertaking recording programmes. It is financed on a subscription basis mainly by local authorities on a non-profit making basis. A range of typical examples of the Archive's recordings was demonstrated.

As a change from the new technology, the delegates took a look back at earlier days. Michael Mullett of Lancaster University described the Burnley Grammar School library, which is now deposited in the University library. Like other similar collections, it was originally built up by a clergyman, Rev. Henry Halstead, who presented it to the school in 1728, and it was later augmented by the collection of the Rev. Edmund Towneby. It provides an interesting example of what a prosperous and well-educated incumbent of the time considered worthy of a place on his study shelves — not only religious books, but works on history, classics, politics, medicine and law. It is not the kind of material likely to be used in the education of schoolboys, so it is not surprising that it was stored in various unsuitable places until it was transferred first to Burnley public library and then to its present resting place. Mr. Mullett brought several examples from the collection with him, and it was pleasant to be able to handle copies of these early works.

On Saturday afternoon a visit was arranged to Stonyhurst College library, this time basically an eighteenth century gentleman's library with later augmentations. The main impression here was the way in which the librarian could say "Of course this is not very old: it's only 1536"! This was a most interesting visit, again with the chance to see rare old works, including early county histories.

The overall impression of the weekend was that it had been successful — it also kept us busy! Not only were the papers relevant, but the delegates welcomed the chance to meet each other and exchange information in the less formal atmosphere of the dining room and the bar.

Chris Walker, Local Studies Librarian, Nottinghamshire County Library, and Ian Jamieson.

## Local Studies in the Mitchell Library: the Glasgow Collection

"... the Mitchell Library, being the library of the City, ought to contain copies of all Books, Pamphlets, Periodical Publications, Maps, Plans, Pictorial Illustration, and, generally, all Papers which in any way illustrate the City's growth and life..." What follows here is an attempt to indicate in brief how these aims, put before the Committee by the library's first librarian in April 1877, have been achieved and extended over the intervening century.

For more than eighty of these years the city's local history collection, like the rest of the library, was strictly closed access; its only distinction was that it had a separate dictionary catalogue. In 1959 accommodation became available and the Glasgow Room as an open public department came into being. A further move took place in 1981 when our new extension opened and the department found itself in a spacious room three times larger and seating more than double (from one dozen to two) with immediate access to stacks, convenient access to newspaper storage, five commodious carrels, more than adequate lighting and a workroom (a privilege absent from the old room).

We have more than 20,000 books which include all the standard histories from McUre's *A view of the city of Glasgow* in 1738 to the very latest. As the study of social history continues to increase so does the importance of our large collection of 19th century learned societies transactions, charitable and medical organisation reports, reports of commissions on housing, education, poverty, sanitation, temperance, and which now surpass in interest and relevance the older merely anecdotal histories.

Our newspaper collection consists of over 1,000 bound volumes running, with a three year gap, from 1741 to the present day, and the rapidly increasing use of it is at the same time our pride and despair; the first because of the access they afford to otherwise unobtainable information, the second because of their increasing rate of irreversible decay. We are fortunate in having our paper of record, the *Glasgow Herald*, on microfilm; it is the future of the lesser local newspapers that is seriously at risk. *Govan Press*, *Partick Star*, *Pollokshaws News* — these are unique files on inferior newsprint which unless microfilmed now will cease to exist in a score or two of years. Not so well known as the *Times* index perhaps, the annual index to the *Glasgow Herald* (1906 to 1968) is a most important local studies tool in providing ready access to so much of the city's recent history. So useful, in fact, that following its unfortunate demise we have continued a card index to all the Glasgow matter in its pages, an index which now contains over 18,000 entries.



The map collection is a strong feature of our department. All the major pre-O.S. maps are here, and our O.S. maps themselves are well represented from the first edition of 1860 on. As with the newspapers we are confronted with the all too familiar dilemma of conservation or use. The combined effect of the increase in local studies and of the geographical approach has subjected our map collection to an increasing strain. Two products of technology have come to our aid here, in the shape of, first, aperture cards from which reasonable copies can be quickly and cheaply made for readers, and second, the library's process camera which enables accurately scaled copies (laminated and backed by the library's bindery) to take the place of the precious originals.

We have a large illustrations collection of well over 5,000 views. This includes over one hundred original water colours as well as several copies of the famous Thomas Annan 1860-70 collection of photographs of Glasgow's old closes and streets. The photographic collection of 3,000 glass negatives of William Graham who photographed the streets and the people in them before the 1914-18 war helps to fill out a photographic collection which is otherwise somewhat sparse.

Before the City Archives (now part of Strathclyde Regional Archives) came into being the Glasgow Room had acquired some interesting collections of manuscripts, in all almost 10,000 items. These mainly relate to the business and family papers of Glasgow merchants, so that from the end of the 17th century to the middle of the 19th we have something to offer in the way of original source material, and as most of it has been quite fully calendared access is fairly easy.

Glasgow was always a city of theatres (at one time there were twelve) and our collection of over 5,000 playbills and programmes offers an informative insight into one of the mass media of Victorian and Edwardian times.

Like many other local studies departments our collection of ephemera is not of long standing, but posters, handbills, brochures, tickets and other similar items are now being added in increasing amounts. We have a large postcard collection, filed by subjects and localities. This has proved particularly useful because of the odd and surely uncommercial habit of making postcards of nondescript suburban areas for which no other illustration exists. Much of our earlier ephemera were pasted into our extensive series of scrapbooks which themselves form an indispensable information source. Although the series is continually added to by the staff many of these books are relics of a more leisurely age and they often provide access to local newspaper articles otherwise unknown or untraceable.

In response to growing demand (one which not all local studies librarians might want to foster) we have begun to build up our material relating to Glasgow's vital statistics. With the pre-1855 Old Parochial Registers, the three mid-century census returns (both on microfilm) and the Scottish section of the Mormon International Genealogical Index fiche (along with printed sources such as indexes to burgess rolls and registers of testaments) the department is now able to offer family historians an excellent prospect of tracking down early Glasgow forebears, an offer which is being increasingly taken up. The danger here is, of course, that too much staff time might be spent on acting as family history tutors, especially in connection with postal enquiries, and discretion has continually to be exercised.

We have a staff of nine, arranged into two separate but overlapping shift patterns in order to cover the library's opening hours of 9.30 a.m. to 9.0 p.m. on Mondays to Fridays and 9.30 a.m. to 5.0 p.m. on Saturdays and to allow for a system of rotating weekly holidays. The public counter is always manned with a minimum of two, rising to four or five at busy times. Although library statistics are regarded, often rightly, with suspicion, I venture to put forward a selection which may give some general idea of our through-put. Each month the Glasgow Room, on the average, deals with 1,560 visitors, 180 phone calls and 40 postal enquiries; we also process 420 photocopy orders and issue 480 bound volumes of newspapers.

What, other than deal with the work involved in these transactions, do the staff do? One characteristic and unavoidable feature of local studies work, I find, is the more or less complete absence of suitable guides. Other subject departments have a multiplicity of published subject guides, whereas we have none, and so, more or less in self-defence, we have over the years built up a list of about 30 "home made" guides and much staff time is devoted to extending this range. As examples of some of the most useful of these I might mention "Glasgow newspapers, 1715-1979, a chronological guide"; "Index of early Glasgow views, 1693-1850"; "Acts of Parliament relating to Glasgow, 1488-1973"; "Glasgow theatres and music halls" and "Glasgow O.S. maps, 25" to 1 mile County Series"

It having proved impossible to do more than touch on a few aspects of the Mitchell's local studies department in this note, perhaps I might try to sum up my thoughts by saying that, after more years than I care to remember, I can still think each Monday morning, "Something new, or interesting, or challenging will come the way of the Glasgow Room this week".

Joe Fisher,  
Local Studies Librarian, The Mitchell Library.



## **"Cardigan and Tivyside Advertiser" (1866-1980): A Local Newspaper Project**

In 1980 the Area Librarian at Aberystwyth was approached by the manager of the "Tivyside" with a request to house their collection of newspapers, which had previously been stored in an outbuilding of the Cardigan offices. Renovation of these buildings had forced the editor to conclude that he no longer had the space to store the newspapers and as such he turned to the Library to sound their interest. It was immediately apparent that the space required to store these 115 volumes was more than the library could provide so thoughts turned to the possibility of micro-filming the papers and then passing on the originals to the County Records Office in Aberystwyth.

Eventually a scheme was agreed with the Manpower Services Commission and in December 1980 the project, to run for twelve months, began. The papers themselves, although generally in good condition, had suffered somewhat from the ravages of time and for this reason one person was employed at Haverfordwest to assist the County Conservator in repairing those pages that were badly damaged. Two other people were employed at Aberystwyth to carry out the lengthy, and often tedious, process of filming some 50,000 pages. A supervisor was employed to co-ordinate the timing of repairs and filming to arrange for missing issues to be borrowed, as and when the need arose, from the Collection of "Tivysides" (1909 onwards) held at the National Library of Wales. In addition, the supervisor would compile an index of local material contained in the papers, as far as time allowed. In the event this resulted in an index to the years 1866-1930, with the remaining volumes searched for significant items.

### *The paper:*

The "*Cardigan and Tivyside Advertiser*" was founded in 1866 at the printing works of Owen Williams Thomas in St. Mary Street, Cardigan. At first the paper consisted of four large pages, three of which were printed in London and consisted of national news and articles of general interest. Those London pages were then conveyed to Cardigan where the front page of local news and advertisements was added. The editorial of that first edition of 1 June 1866 proudly declared —

*"We intend making 'all mankind our business' — our native land particularly so; and our native town we shall consider under our peculiar care. Its interests, whether generally as a part of the body politic or locally, shall have our special advocacy; and whatever is calculated to advance its trade, to raise its political position, or to add to the social comforts of its inhabitants, shall have our hearty assistance".*

This sound policy has continued to the present day and has made the "Tivyside" an integral part of the community of South Ceredigion and North Pembroke.

The original format was continued until 1874 when the editors chose to increase the proportion of local news from one page to two. This was obviously a popular move and led to circulation trebling by 1877. Progress continued with local news gradually ousting London involvement and the paper finally became a completely local concern on 16 Nov. 1906. With a loyal readership and increasing circulation the paper grew from its initial four pages and the occasional single-sheet supplement to eight pages in June 1890 and the ten, twelve, sixteen . . . page editions of the past forty years.

With the changes in the amount of local newsprint available, the contents altered too. In May 1885 the editorial stated —

*"Efforts will shortly be made to secure a more thorough system of district correspondence from the large districts with which we are connected".*

The paper was initially concerned with events in 'our native town' but gradually reporters travelled further afield and news correspondents were based in the outposts of Newcastle Emlyn and Lampeter. Today the paper covers all events of local interest in a wide radius from Cardigan but in the early stages there was considerable bias in the contents, relating to the locations of those pioneer correspondents.

### *The Index:*

The method of indexing the "*Cardigan and Tivyside Advertiser*" was influenced by J. Elliot's article "*The problems of indexing a local newspaper*" in *The Local Historian* (1980) Vo. 14, pp143-8. This clear discussion of a similar project to index the '*Stirling Journal and Advertiser*' contains much sound advice and future indexers would do well to pay attention to its caveats.

References are primarily arranged according to the relevant community and subject headings are therein listed alphabetically with individual entries listed chronologically. For each entry the year is followed by the day and month and then page and column, e.g. 1873-11:7/1,D; Material which relates to two communities, for example rugby matches, is listed only under the major entry (in this case the 'home' town) and it is to be regretted that cross-referencing is minimal. However, a full contents list of subjects relating to Ceredigion is provided and reference here to "RUGBY" will indicate those communities which have relevant entries. Biographical material has been cross-referenced more fully, for instance many churches include 'See Refs.' to a personal entry in either the BIOGRAPHY (B), MARRIAGES (M), or

DEATHS (D) section. This facility has only been compiled from the information contained on the original cards and not the newspaper article and hence it would probably repay researchers to check the biographical indices even when no cross-reference has been indicated.

In company with the '*Stirling Journal*' index we decided to ignore advertisements, correspondence, and editorials in favour of progressing further with covering significant local events. In addition, biographical material relating to the general public has not been indexed and the Births, Deaths and Marriages column was scoured only for those of prominent position in the local community. Thus, for the years 1866-1930, the index includes all items that relate to Dyfed which are likely to be of interest to the social, political, or economic historian — ranging from Women's Institute meetings to the establishment of the National Library of Wales. This period covers the social changes that accompanied the coming of the railway in 1886; the defiance that fired the Tithe War in the 1890's; the fervour and subsequent scandal that attended the Cardigan Cancer Curers in 1907; and the Liberal Party split of the 1920's. For the years 1930-1980 the papers have been indexed for historical articles and the obituaries of prominent local figures.

Adrian P. Fowles  
Project Supervisor.

## Information wanted

### Local Japanese Connections Please!

The first guide of its type including historical, cultural, and economic sites, archives, objets d'art, associations, personal links. To be brought out under the auspices of the British Tourist Authority. I am particularly interested in connections not previously published or co-ordinated. Please send brief details or leads to Bowen Aylmer-Pearse, 20 Brookland Rise, London, NW11 6DP; or telephone 01-455 5767 after 4 pm.

## Local Studies Group Annual Report 1982

The Annual General Meeting of the Local Studies Group was held at St. Anne's on 20th March, 1983. The following Annual Report was presented to the meeting.

### *Resignation of secretary*

Brian Hall offered his resignation as Hon. Secretary in the summer of 1983. The Committee regretfully accepted this. Brian had been secretary since the Group's foundation and his contribution to the present strength of the Group has been great.

### *Local Studies Librarian*

The Group launched its new journal during the year, under the editorship of Ian M. Jamieson. This was extremely well received and three issues appeared during the year. However, owing to financial difficulties, the frequency of the journal has had to be reduced to twice-yearly from 1983 onwards.

### *Meetings*

The Group and its branches organised a number of successful meetings during the year, some in conjunction with other Groups. Venues included places as widely distributed as Barnsley, Birmingham, Colchester, Newcastle upon Tyne, Nottingham and Stamford.

### *Committee*

The Committee met on three occasions during the year. On various matters, such as dissatisfaction with the Joint Library Association, Museums Association and Society of Archivists 'Statement of policy relating to archives', the committee submitted comments to the Library Association. It was decided to affiliate to the new British Association for Local History. The McCulla Prize was not awarded in 1982, owing to the absence of a suitable nomination. The Northwest Branch organised the Group's 1983 Weekend School. The secretary and Ian Maxted arranged the programme for a Post LA Conference Seminar 1983. A small steering group met to make arrangements for a possible London and Home Counties Branch. An inaugural meeting is planned for April 1983.

### *Committee Matters*

The LSG Committee met at L.A. H/Q on 20th April. Among the items discussed were the following:

- 1) Malcolm Sellers, Librarian, Northern R.H.A., Newcastle, had offered his resignation prior to the meeting. This was reluctantly accepted. Malcolm was formerly Local Studies Librarian with Bedfordshire and had been a committee member since the Group's inception.

2) Yorkshire Television's series "A Sense of the Past" was currently being screened and received a mixed response from members of the committee. Furthermore, though the advance publicity was much appreciated it was felt that the programmes could have been better scheduled than 11.00/11.30 p.m.!

3) Pre-licentiate scrutineers. The L.A. had invited nominations for such appointments and after due consideration the Committee agreed to put forward the name of Ian Maxted of Devon.

4) LSG Weekend School '83 at Lytham St. Annes. This event which took 'The New Technology' as its theme was a resounding success and more than covered its costs. The Committee congratulated the North West Branch whose members had organised the event.

5) Library Association Sub-committee on Conservation. Patrick Baird of Birmingham Local Studies Library was nominated by the Committee as an observer for the Group.

#### *L.S.G. Committee, 1984-85*

The present committee will complete its term of office at the end of 1983, and nominations for officers and committee members will be called for later in the year. A notice will appear in the *L.A. Record* so please keep your eyes open. Elections will also take place for the group's Scottish, North Western and London and Home Counties branch committees.

#### *The Dorothy McCulla Memorial Prize*

This award, of £25 and a certificate, is awarded annually to the L.S.G. member who, in the opinion of the committee, has contributed most to local studies librarianship. Nominations are therefore invited for this year's award from members, chief librarians, and everyone else with a suitable nominee. Nominations should be received by the Hon. Secretary by 31st August 1983, and may be concerned with *any* aspect of local studies librarianship, examples being an index, a new technique or good promotions work.

Robin Ansell  
Assistant Hon. Secretary

## Have you seen . . . ?

Some recent items of interest to local studies librarians.

*Harvey, R. Genealogy for librarians.* Clive Bingley, 1983. £9.95. 085157 335 3.

There are now many "how to do it" genealogical works aimed at the amateur historian, but this is the first book specifically written to help the librarians who help people in their searches. The author has had long experience in dealing with genealogical enquiries and has written a guide to the sources which can provide information required by genealogists, including published secondary sources as well as both well-known and less familiar official sources. Mr. Harvey concentrates mainly on English sources, but mention is made of equivalents for Wales, Scotland and Ireland where appropriate, and there is a very brief mention of other European sources. The first chapter is an interesting discussion on the role of the librarian in relation to the genealogist.

*Sussex, Gay. Longsight past and present.* City of Manchester Cultural Services Dept., 1983. £1.20 + package. 0 901673 19 6. Orders to Finance and Records Dept., Central Library, St. Peter's Square, Manchester M2 5PD.

This 36 page pamphlet was written by one of the Longsight Library staff in response to requests for a history of this area of Manchester. A scrapbook rather than a scholarly history, it provides a great deal of useful — and interesting — information on various aspects of life in the area from early days to the present. Well-illustrated and with references for further reading, this is an excellent example of the kind of publication which local librarians can produce for their communities.

*Jamieson, Ian. Local studies.* In *British Librarianship and Information Work 1976-1980*, Library Assoc., 1982. Vol 1, pp.124-130.

A brief outline of developments in local studies work over the period.

*Page, S. and Toase, C.A. Copying Ordnance Survey maps and plans in libraries.* Refer 2(3) Spring 1983, pp.7-8.

A useful summary of the present situation relating to Crown Copyright in maps. Mrs. Page is the O.S. Copyright Manager.



*Pyle, J. Wednesday!* Libr. Assoc. Rec. 85(4) April 1983, pp. 137, 140

Diary of the publishing history of Sheffield City Libraries' production of a history of Sheffield Wednesday F.C.

**Lancashire People and Places.** The Lancashire Library, 1982.

This cassette, covering various aspects of Lancashire history, was originally undertaken as part of the Library's contribution to the work of the International Year of the Disabled in 1981. It was appreciated that physically disabled and blind people find access to material on local history very difficult because collections of books on local history are often housed in centralised collections which may not be easily accessible to disabled people, while for the blind demand would be too limited to justify the production of most local history material in Braille form.

The cassette has, however, also proved popular with the general public. The material included is varied. There are fifteen items in all ranging from dialect poetry, folklore, music and dance, to reminiscences of mill work, a contribution on L.S. Lowry, and the sound of a steam train. The interviewees are all prominent in their field in Lancashire local history and the material was chosen to impart reliable historical information. The sound quality is excellent and there is a booklist to encourage further reading by sighted users. The cassette is a very good example of the kind of publication not likely to be undertaken by commercial firms but which is very useful to the public.

Copies may be obtained from the Lancashire Public Library, 143 Corporation Street, PRESTON PR1 2TB at £2.25 including post and packing.

### **1851 Dorset Population Directory**

Mr. K. Jenkins of Frome Cottage, 28 Dorchester Road, Frampton, Dorchester, Dorset DT2 9ND is intending to produce an alphabetical Directory of the population of Dorset in 1851. This will be done from the census microfilms, and he estimates that it will run to 500-600 pages. If it proves economic he would like to publish the Directory and he is investigating the possibility of obtaining a minimum of 300 subscribers, in which case he estimates that the Directory would cost approximately £10.00 per copy. Compilation will probably take between six months and a year, and if the venture is successful he would hope to start work on another county — probably Somerset.

If anyone is interested in this undertaking as a potential subscriber, or would like further information, perhaps they would write to Mr. Jenkins direct, so that he can assess whether sufficient support is forthcoming to allow him to make a decision to publish.

## Notes and News

Two exhibitions of interest to local studies librarians are being mounted in London this summer. The British Library is presenting *The Mirror of the World*: an exhibition of antiquarian maps. The exhibits are taken from accessions to the Map Room over the last fifteen years and include various items of interest to local historians. It is being held in the Map Gallery, Reference Division, Great Russell Street and is open until 31st December.

The other exhibition is organised by the Victoria and Albert Museum in conjunction with the Association of County Archivists. Entitled *The Common Chronicle* it is intended to show the richness and variety of materials in the custody of County Record Offices in England and Wales and many offices have contributed. The exhibition will be open from 15th June—11th September in Room 74 of the Museum. In connection with this there will also be exhibitions taking place in various other parts of the country.

. . . . .

The Group is now strongly represented on the Committee of the British Association for Local History. In the recent elections Diana Winterbotham (Lancashire Library) and Mike Petty (Cambridgeshire Libraries) were both elected. Congratulations!

. . . . .

The North West Branch of the Business Archives Council has prepared an exhibition entitled *Scraps of Paper*. The exhibition is designed as an introduction to business archives emphasising the need to preserve and deposit business records.

The display, mounted on 20 boards, is available for loan to interested libraries or similar institutions. Transport is available within the Greater Manchester County area but other libraries will be required to make arrangements for transport. Further information is available from the Secretary of the North West Branch of the Business Archives Council — Roger Hart, Administrative Officer, St. Helens Central Library, St. Helens, Merseyside WA10 2DY.

. . . . .



Following the recent expulsion of Colonel Primakov, one of two Russians accused by the government of intelligence gathering, Mike Petty of Cambridge local collection broke the news that the Colonel had used the Cambridgeshire collection during 1980. He had consulted the newscuttings collection to gather information on the armed forces and civil defence in East Anglia. He did not, however, acquire all the information he might have done, as he did not identify the Spies for Peace report on the Regional Seat of Government in Cambridge — as a member of the public he would have been shown it if he had asked the staff for assistance in his search for information. The Colonel gave his address as 16 Kensington Palace Gardens, which is the office of the Soviet military attaché, and was remembered by the staff as extremely polite and exceptionally smart and courteous.

The 'spy story' achieved coverage in the local press and radio, was then picked up by Radios 1 and 4, and got a mention on national TV. All good publicity for the library!

. . . . .

Homerton College, Cambridge, has created a research associateship for one year to examine the problems of the Cambridgeshire collection in meeting demands currently expressed by schools for local studies materials in history, geography and economics. The researchers will also consider the probable growth in demand in these areas as new syllabi are established at 16+ level, and the ways in which these demands might be met by the Cambridge local studies library, which is already very busy.

The researchers, three experienced teachers, each of whom will work for one term, will examine school needs — ranging from primary level to O, A and CSE work — and advise on how other authorities have moved to satisfy the demand — perhaps by appointing teachers to the local collection staff. All the researchers will be made aware of the resources of the Cambridgeshire collection and its organisation, and will be able to pass this information on to other teachers.

. . . . .

The London and Home Counties Branch of the Local Studies Group has now been formed. At its inaugural meeting John Howes of Waltham Forest was elected chairman, and Julian Watson of Greenwich became Secretary. The meeting attracted an attendance of over 50 to hear Richard Harvey of the Guildhall Library and Gillian Phillips of the Greater London Record Office speak on "Burden or opportunity: genealogy and the local history collection."

For further information about the branch and its activities contact Julian Watson, Greenwich Local History Library, 90 Mycenae Road, London SE3 7SE.

As readers will see from the leaflet enclosed with this issue, the Group has organised a Post-Conference Seminar to follow the main Library Association Conference at Torquay, with the aim of complementing the main conference theme of Access to Published Information. Access to local studies materials poses various problems to librarians and the speakers at the seminar will concentrate on some of the more difficult ones. Subjects covered include the publishing and merchandising of local publications and the exploitation of manuscripts, printed ephemera and local publications by effective cataloguing and indexing. Speakers include our Chairman, Chris Makepeace, Secretary Paul Sturges and committee member Ian Maxted, as well as other well-known specialists. The seminar should be of great interest to a wide range of librarians.

The seminar is open to all members of the Association and the invitation to the Group to organise it follows our successful contributions to recent L.A. Conferences.

. . . . .

## Information wanted

Alan Gillies writes:

Parish Magazines, as we know them to-day, appear to have originated about a century ago and are important sources of local information which, due to their ephemeral nature, tend to be neglected. Parish Magazines must be regarded as secondary sources, indicating the need for more detailed work on parochial records, for instance. Nevertheless, they can be important aids to research in family, local and population history.

Parish Magazines can be found in the possession of local Churches, held by other local organisations, deposited in record offices and muniment rooms, or remaining in private hands. In some instances, there is an ever-present risk of them being destroyed.

As a pilot project I am aiming to compile a location guide to collections of Parish Magazines within the Mole Valley District of Surrey. If the project proves successful, I should like to see the work extended to cover other parts of Surrey. If readers have experience of similar work on Parish Magazines elsewhere, I should be grateful if they would contact me at Sunnymead, Epsom Road, Ashted, Surrey KT21 1LD.

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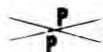
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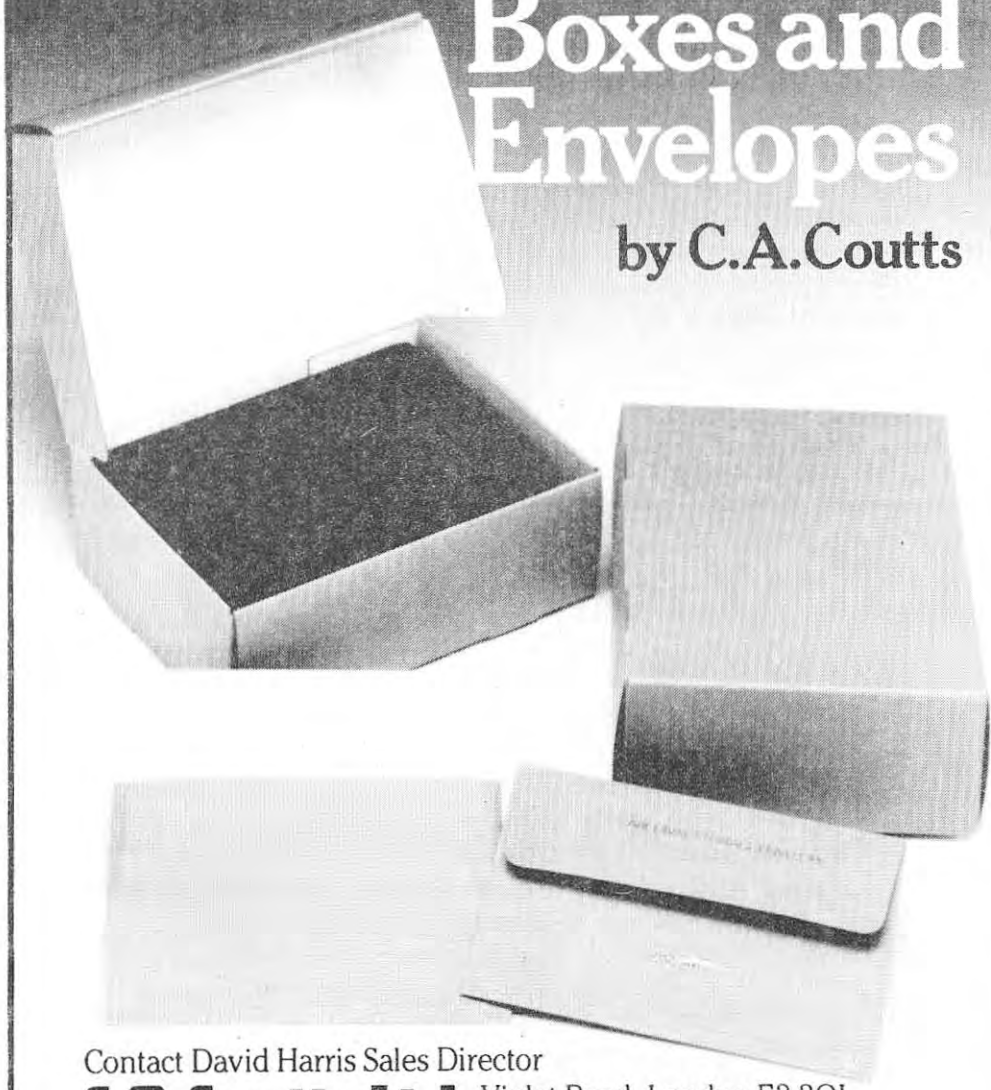
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