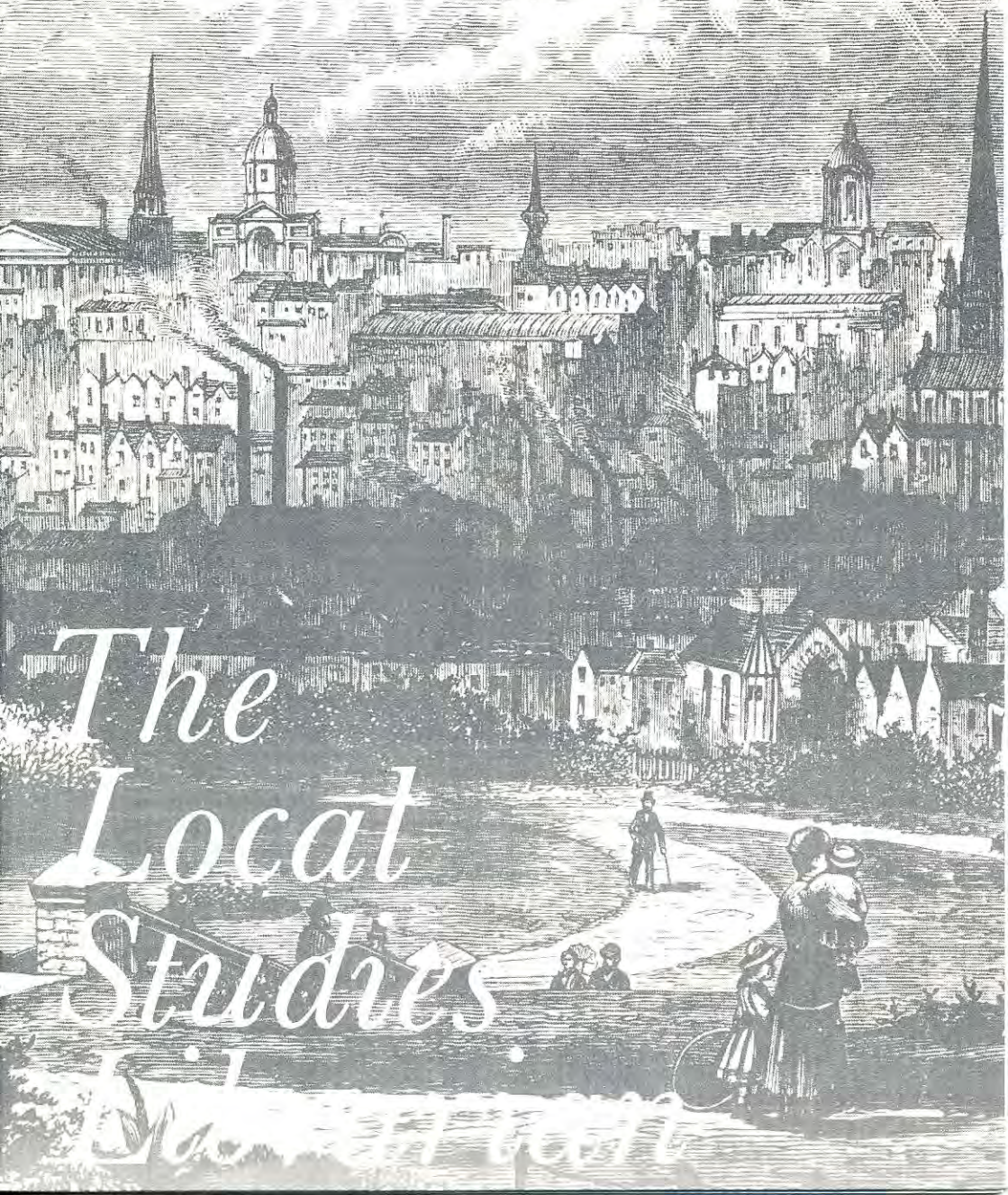
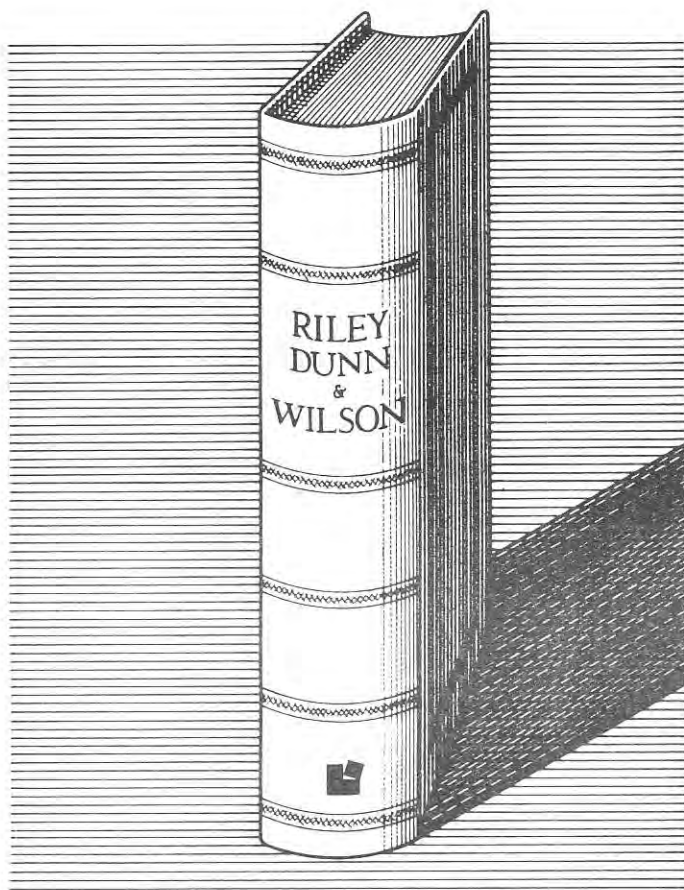


Vol. 10, No.1, Spring 1991



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The Local Studies Librarian
Vol 10 Number 1 (20) 1991 ISSN 0263-0273

The Local Studies Librarian, the official journal of the Local Studies Group of the Library Association, is published twice per year - Spring and Autumn. It is issued free to members of the Group. Annual subscription to non-members is £3 U.K. and £4 plus £1 service charge overseas. Post free in both cases. Overseas service charge does not apply if payment is made in Sterling.

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Cheques to be made payable to the Library Association, Local Studies Group.

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Cover illustration: A View of Birmingham c. 1886.
Courtesy of Local Studies Department, Birmingham Reference Library.

From the Chairman

Come under the UmbrelLA! One of the best ways to keep in touch with what is going on in the profession is to attend meetings and conferences. The papers are useful - but so also is the chance to meet others working in the same field. Discussing ideas and problems related to your service can put them in perspective and often suggest solutions. LSG, as you know, provides such opportunities in various parts of the country, either on its own or in partnership with other groups. The biggest meeting of all is about to take place - The Library Association's UmbrelLA weekend school at Leeds from July 5th-7th. From the leaflet sent out with the last issue you would see that this is a joint venture with input from most of the Groups of the LA, and LSG is taking a full part. We have arranged an attractive programme incorporating speakers from all parts of the British Isles and from abroad. Assumpta Baillac from Spain will talk about local studies librarianship there - particularly relevant because she has just finished preparing a set of guidelines for local studies libraries in Catalunya. Other speakers deal with co-operation between libraries in Northern Ireland and on outreach in Scotland. Other topics include the national curriculum and local history, ephemera, and local studies and the multicultural community. On a lighter note, in a joint meeting with the Audiovisual Group, Malcolm Neesam of North Yorkshire Libraries will talk on The Yorkshire Spa, demonstrating how commonplace local history material can be converted into an entertaining slide show. Do not miss the story of the cold water douche! In addition to all this the Dorothy McCulla Prize for 1991 will be awarded to Joe Fisher of Glasgow by Tom Featherstone, the LA President, at a Reception on Friday.

Delegates will of course be able to attend any of the parallel sessions at the School, and there are one or two others on local history themes, but we feel that we have put forward an extremely attractive programme for our members as well for other delegates.

If you have already registered all this will be available to you. If you can't come to the whole weekend, why not take advantage of the facility to come for one of the days? Because of publication schedules it may be that by the time you receive this a late booking supplement may be payable - but is even this not worthwhile? This is the largest weekend school for many years. Take the opportunity to meet colleagues and hear the papers.

I look forward to meeting you there.

With the eclat of a proverb: or, Blow your own trumpet

When Elizabeth Bennett, in Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice*, wished to taunt Mr. Darcy she accused him of only speaking when he could amaze a whole room and say something that would 'be handed down to posterity with all the eclat of a proverb'. I have often heard librarians in particular, respond to articles in professional magazines about the activities of their colleagues with a dismissive shrug of the shoulders and the muttered comments 'we've all been doing that for years'. Even in my own authority it has been known for information about very valuable and time consuming projects to be omitted from reports either because they have become an accepted and therefore almost forgotten part of the scene or because the writer thought that everyone reading the report knew about them and would automatically remember to take them into account. In practice of course neither of these assumptions can be made. The people who need to be informed and impressed change regularly and even the old timers may have forgotten you, among the welter of information landing on their desks.

As the article you read was considered worthy of publication I presume an editor had never before seen that topic discussed, or so well presented. If we have been doing it for years why not? Could it be that we have been waiting to announce the earth shattering innovation which is going to be the crowning point of our careers, in the meanwhile missing numerous opportunities of sharing our triumphs and of shouting long and hard about ourselves in the local, national and professional press, even perhaps to our bosses?

May I presume to guess what you are thinking? You are too busy actually doing the job to waste your time explaining to people who seem to be solely preoccupied with the latest managerial philosophy that can be expressed by a handy set of initials. These are, however, precisely the people you must talk to and the philosophies that should be used to your advantage. This is not as cynical as it sounds. New ideas are usually old ones, and often good ones, wrapped up in hype. Find the core of truth and apply it to your own situation and you can usually turn it to the public's advantage and please all levels of the system at the same time.

We know that Local Studies, far from being a quiet backwater where introverts can pass their hours writing about the 'Vicissitudes of Little Puddletown' is one of the areas of the profession in the forefront of technology and, more importantly, most in touch with the activities and preoccupations of the surrounding community. Who is better placed than the department which collects local magazines, to write snappy relevant pieces for hard pressed editors? Time is not really a consideration here as we are talking about putting into a written paragraph what we may otherwise explain several times to individual members of the public. It is all on the tip of our tongues. Invest a few minutes wisely to reach not only your regular audience but many new customers. The cumulative effect of what is, after all, only doing your job well can enhance your image and your status with many people you had no intention of targeting.

Do not assume that your colleagues are aware of all your initiatives. Those on whom they directly impinge may know the results but may not appreciate the commitment in staff time that went before. Take any opportunity in your staff magazine or information sheet to laud your efforts while seeming solely to inform. The Local Studies Centres and the Archives Departments in Nottinghamshire produce a supplement to the regular in-house publication. Because it has its own title and style I believe it has more impact than the same number of short notices in the main text. (In fact would they ever be written without the motivation of filling a significant number of attributable A4 pages?) If you are lucky enough to have staff, spread the load of writing amongst them, as much as for their benefit as yours, and make notes constantly of suitable items for inclusion instead of relying on the last minute desperate memory test. Try to rope in the actual users of the library - more notice will be taken of their views of your efforts than anything you could say about yourself.

All your support on the staffing and financial fronts comes from senior management so the last thing you want to do is keep them in the dark about your achievements. These are your evidence for your professional expertise and therefore your justification for demanding their confidence in, and support of, your future initiatives. Make use of the meetings you attend not only to pass on information but to get it minuted. Make sure that no opportunities are missed for including the Local Studies staff or materials in more general activities; there is a local aspect to everyone else's idea, be it multicultural, childrens, reminiscence work or any other preoccupation of the moment.

Having made sure that all in the immediate neighbourhood know all you are doing tell the rest of us. You never know, you may be unique! Even if not you have no doubt met and overcome many problems which if shared could prevent others from wasting their time re-inventing the wheel or worse ending up with a square one. It is vital that we all invest in our profession and usually this has to be in time. It would be very easy, for example, to refuse work experience to school children and students of librarianship on the grounds of lack of staff time. I always try to say yes.

I have felt it not only a duty but a pleasure to belong to Groups of the Association, in my early days to learn and now, hopefully, to share some useful experience. If we do not make time to take some at least of these positive measures to publicize ourselves and to pass on our expertise we should not have joined the profession.

Up banners and shout!

Sheila M. Cooke,
Head of Local Studies,
Nottinghamshire.

Local Studies Accommodation in the Public Library Buildings of 1984-1989

The publication of *Library buildings 1984-1989*, a further retrospective collection of descriptions of recent library buildings, provides another opportunity to look at the space allocations for local studies collections in public libraries¹. The table below lists 19 public library buildings of the period, described in the above publication, where the space allocated to local studies has been separately indicated, although the actual heading used is 'local studies/archives'. This indicates one of the many difficulties in attempting to see any useful patterns in the figures that are presented. A similar analysis was made of twenty one public library buildings of the 1975-1983 period and this was published in an earlier issue of *Local studies librarian*.² However, that was without the benefit of a spreadsheet and with that benefit on this occasion I have taken a somewhat different approach.

The buildings listed below range in size from 387.5m² (Ellon) to 8,872m² (Cardiff) with an average size of 2,586m². The amount of space allocated to local studies/archives ranges from 20m² (Newcastle, Northern Ireland) to 380m² (Barnstaple - which is both library and record office). Interestingly these figures do not refer to the smallest or largest libraries noted in the previous sentence. The average space allocated for local studies/archives in these buildings is nearly 133m².

Some interesting figures emerge when the amount of space given over to local studies/archives is calculated as a percentage of the total building. The lowest percentage is 1.59% (East Kilbride), for one of the larger buildings listed, and the highest is 15.2% (Barnstaple) which, as noted earlier, has a record office. The average percentage for local studies/archives is 6.28%, which is not met by any of the libraries listed - the nearest is Newtown (Powys) with 5.66%. This average percentage of 6.28% is reduced to 5.14% if one calculates the average size of local collection space in relation to the average building size. Three libraries come close to this percentage.

Where stock capacity figures are available, the smallest collection is housed in the smallest library but the largest collection (28,000, Carlisle), is not housed in the biggest space. The average size collection for the thirteen libraries for which figures are available is just over 10,000 volumes.

Do these figures provide any help in deciding the amount of space for local studies? I have indicated my reservations in the earlier survey and these latest figures once again demonstrate the apparent erratic relationships between overall library size, local studies space, and volumes housed - and I have not included the variable of the population served by a given building in the equation. Local circumstance (e.g. the centralisation or the decentralisation of collections) will, of course, help explain these difficulties. Nevertheless, from the figures presented below a percentage has emerged for local studies space provision that might bear more detailed investigation.

¹ Harrison, K.C. ed. *Library buildings 1984-1989*. London: Library Services Limited, 1990.

² Dewe, M.D. Local studies accommodation in recent public library buildings. *Local studies librarian* 7 (1) Spring 1988, 4-5.

Library	Bldg size (sq.m)	Local studies/ archives (sq.m)	% of Bldg	Stock Capacity
Reading Central Lib (Berks) 1985	3,339.00	123.00	3.68	15,000
Coventry Cent Lib 1986	4,100.00	182.00	4.44	n/a
Carlisle Lib (Cumbria) 1986	3,000.00	120.00	4.00	28,000
Chesterfield Lib (Derbyshire) 1985	4,100.00	200.00	4.88	15,000
Barnstaple Lib & Rec Off (Devon) 1988	2,500.00	380.00	15.20	20,000
Ealing Cent Lib 1984	2,636.73	190.86	7.24	25,780
East Kilbride Cent Lib 1989	2,200.00	35.00	1.59	1,000
Sevenoaks Cent Lib (Kent) 1986	1,266.00	41.00	3.2	n/a
Grantham Lib (Lincs) 1984	970.00	89.00	9.18	5,010
N.E. Scotland Lib Service HQ 1987	1,486.00	186.00	12.52	n/a
Ellon Lib (N.E. Scotland Lib Serv) 1989	387.50	27.50	7.10	400
Newcastle Lib (S.E. Ed & Lib Bd, N. Ireland) 1984	452.00	20.00	4.42	n/a

Library	Bldg size (sq.m)	Local studies/ archives (sq.m)	% of Bldg	Stock Capacity
Newark Lib (Notts) 1988	879.00	76.00	8.65	5,300
Crompton Lib (Oldham) 1989	692.00	79.00	11.42	1,323
Newton Area Lib (Powys) 1989	742.00	42.00	5.66	1,500
Ilford Central Lib (Redbridge) 1986	5,918.00	138.00	2.33	3,500
Cardiff Central Lib & HQ (S. Glamorgan) 1988	8,872.00	360.00	4.06	10,000
Jersey Library 1989	3,014.00	103.00	3.42	n/a
Total				131,813
Average	2,586.35	Av.132.91	Av. 6.28	Av.10,139.46

Michael Dewe
Lecturer, Dept. of Information & Library Studies,
UCW, Aberystwyth

Entente Cordiale in Hampshire

Four years ago, Councillors and officers of Hampshire County Council realizing the implications of the Single European Market of 1992/93, decided to prepare Hampshire for its impact. The Hampshire Development Association had already been established to stimulate business enterprises in the county, but a need was identified for a new initiative to raise public awareness about the Single Market. A co-operation agreement was arranged with Lower Normandy, chosen because of its similarities of population, size and economic activities, and the Hampshire - Normandy Accord was signed in Winchester on 26 October 1989.

The Accord differed from twinning in that it stressed economic benefits rather than social links; four principal spheres of influence were identified: transport, technology, education and tourism. Ferry services have been improved between Portsmouth and Cherbourg (and latterly Caen), joint research departments of Hampshire County Council have embarked on projects are under way in the universities of Southampton and Caen, and various projects such as analysing training needs in foreign language skills. Hampshire County Library Service has played a leading role in fostering a good working relationship with our colleagues in Normandy, and especially in Caen.

John Beard, County Librarian of Hampshire, met Alain Girard of Caen Public Libraries at an IFLA conference in Paris. Caen is twinned with Portsmouth, and Alain asked if he could visit Hampshire libraries and Portsmouth in particular. A three-day visit was planned and Alain arrived on 27 June last year, staying at the home of the Portsmouth Divisional Librarian. The first day was spent in Portsmouth Library, the second at the County Library Headquarters (Winchester) and the third at Southampton Central Library and Portsmouth Polytechnic Library.

A return visit to Caen was proposed for the autumn: the principal topics of interest to the French were the exchanges of personnel for working and training (Caen University has a Library School), a co-operative scheme based on the successful HATRICES, joint publication of local history and tourist information, and exchange of deposit collections and travelling exhibitions on local history. The party which made the return visit on 15-17 October comprised John Beard, Nick Fox (Assistant County Librarian, Information Services), John Thorn (Divisional Librarian of Portsmouth) and Philippa Stevens (County Local Studies Librarian).

The first discussion identified the need to learn more about each others' systems of local government and the administration of public library services. Two seminars were planned, one for April in Portsmouth when French trainers will teach us about French systems, and one for May in Caen when English librarians will tell the French about our practices. In the second session, Nick Fox gave a comprehensive account of HATRICES and invited discussion on a French equivalent system. As the French are less advanced in inter-library co-operation any such scheme would have to be built from scratch, so the French

equivalent would be a unique structure rather than a clone of HATRICS. The local studies sessions began with an address by M. Fontes, Director of the Regional Centre for Educational Publications, (Ministry of Education) who presented some impressive study-packs on William the Conqueror, the Normandy Landings of 1944 and individual towns. The highly centralised French education system enables such publications to be issued in advance of study, while in Britain we are hampered by not knowing what projects teachers will set for pupils, or which topics children will choose for their GCSE studies.

A representative of the Museum of Peace was also present, and described a series of leaflets already published on the Normandy Landings of 1944 and some forthcoming brochures on individual battles. Such publications are useful for tourists as well as school children, and are suitable for translation and distribution in other countries. The group discussed various ideas including translations of existing texts, commissioning jointly funded publications in parallel text and in translation, multi-media packs of texts, slides and cassettes, and videos. The latter lend themselves to tourism as well as education, as certain regions (e.g. the New Forest) and individual towns (Caen, Bayeux, Winchester) could be promoted as well as heritage-trails and visitor centres such as the Defence of the Realm complex at Portsmouth (the Victory, the Mary Rose and the Warrior ships in the Dockyard). Problems of financing and sponsorship were discussed, and the session closed with an invitation from M. Fontes to inspect his showrooms in Caen at a later date.

The final session explored the possibility of staff exchanges between Portsmouth and Caen as twin towns, and also with Southampton; the French expressed a need to know more about library services to ethnic communities and Alain Girard had admired our Southampton services for the Asian minority groups. An exchange of collections was also discussed, wherein Caen Public Libraries would send some incunabula and medieval manuscripts (including an exquisite Book of Hours) to Portsmouth Library for public display, and Portsmouth would send some of its treasures from the Local and Naval Collection for exhibition at Caen. Finally, it was agreed to establish a permanent Normandy Collection in Hampshire and a Hampshire Collection of books in Normandy, and as a practical gesture our hosts presented us with several new books about Caen and Normandy to lay the foundations of the Normandy Collection in Hampshire.

Throughout the visit the generosity of our hosts was matched only by their linguistic ability, which was truly humbling. A tour of Caen Central Library included the Normandy Collection, housed in a large airy room of the modern building and adorned with oil paintings and other pictures. The collection comprises almost 10,000 books and 8,000 pamphlets, and includes manuscripts and early printed books from the Caen press of 1480. Maps, illustrations, press-cuttings, videos and cassettes are also represented, and local newspapers are kept on microfilm. In short, the collection was similar to our local studies collections in Britain; a brief trip to a branch library in the suburbs of Caen confirmed the many similarities in our disciplines and cultures.

In November letters were received from Alain Girard and M. Fontes enclosing copies of their catalogues and requesting help with checking on Normandy titles published in Britain. In February, M. Philippe Dupont, the newly appointed Chief Librarian of Caen, made a three-day visit to Hampshire libraries accompanied by Alain Girard. On 11 and 12 April a party from Caen conducted a two-day seminar at Portsmouth to teach us about the French local government system and the public library structure, and on 23 and 24 May a group of Hampshire trainers will go to Caen to tell the French about the English systems. Caen now has a direct ferry service to Portsmouth and we hope that our geographical closeness will lead to increased understanding and co-operation to improve both services.

Philippa Stevens
County Local Studies Librarian, Hampshire

News on Newspapers

The *Northern Echo* published in Darlington, became the first British newspaper to offer its contents to the public on CD-ROM when Project PANDA (Public Access to Newspaper Database and Archive) was launched on December 14th, 1990. Since 1988 the full text of each day's issue of this important regional newspaper has been entered on to a database. This is fully indexed and contains references to photographs and graphics: it is available on-line to *Northern Echo* journalists and on subscription to external searchers. Now the archive has been transferred to CD-ROM, and the PANDA project will provide free public access to this resource. Workstations have been installed in various public and academic libraries, and it is hoped that schools may take advantage of a specially low subscription offer. As a regional newspaper with several geographical editions the CD-ROM should, because of its user-friendly access system, be of considerable use to those needing local information and should ultimately provide an increasingly useful easily-searchable source for local historians. The first disc covers from November 1988 to July 1990 and updates will be quarterly.

The NEWSPLAN project, with its aim of listing, in anticipation of archival microfilming, of local newspapers, is steadily continuing. The Minister for the Arts, the Right Hon. Timothy Renton, launched the West Midlands Newsplan report at Evesham on March 19th, while that for the North West was published last September. The latter report, as well as being issued in the British Library's Newsplan series, is available as part of the Lancashire Bibliography. The value of Newsplan is shown by the fact that the North West report lists almost 1200 titles although it was thought at its inception that there would probably be about 500 titles within its scope. The third Newsplan report issued recently was that for Yorkshire and Humberside: LSG Treasurer Elizabeth Melrose is Chairman of Newsplan for this area. All Newsplan reports are published by the British Library and are obtainable from the Publications Sales Unit at Boston Spa at £30.00 each.

A national Newsplan conference was held at the end of April at Stoke Rochford when a wide variety of topics including newspaper production, provision,

preservation and research use were discussed by experts. A report will appear in the next issue of LSL.

The British Library has also been active in the field of free newspapers. The Newspaper Library has commissioned a consultant, Selwyn Eagle, to carry out a survey of free newspapers and how libraries treat them. Questionnaires are being sent to public libraries and to newspaper publishers and distributors. The project report is expected to propose a national strategy for the acquisition and preservation of free newspapers.

Over the past ten years the British Library Newspaper Library has been gathering information on local newspaper indexes and has now created a database listing them. At present there are 982 records on the database, which covers the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland. Some indexes are current but others cover particular periods of time, and some have recently had to be abandoned when funding for their project ceased - many had taken advantage of government training schemes to get the work done. It is anticipated that a printed volume will be produced with revised editions appearing every three years if there is sufficient demand.

Mystery Tours in West Lothian

Industrial West Lothian, with its relics of the mining industry and its New Town of Livingston, may not seem, to those who know the area, to provide likely destinations for a coach trip - hardly redolent of history and romance! However, every community has a past and contributes its share to our local heritage.

In early 1990, West Lothian District Libraries organised a series of events on the loose theme of tourism. The Local Studies Librarian, in consultation with the Marketing Group, decided upon a mystery bus tour - mystery because at that stage we had no idea where we should go! Cautiously, we decided to book a 14-seat minibus for one evening at the beginning of May. The event was only advertised in the District Council newsletter *In Touch*, distributed to every household in the District. So great was the response that we were obliged to arrange a second evening, and book a 48-seater coach.

The previous local studies librarian, Mrs. Jean Brady, who had retired at Christmas, agreed to be our courier. The local studies librarians, past and present, got together and planned a route taking in some of the less well-known places of interest. We started from Bathgate and passed through Livingston, visiting several mansion houses which have been conserved amid the new town architecture; then on through Polbeth, West Calder, Addiewell, Stoneymuir and Whitburn with their association with the shale mining industry; and back to Bathgate. Tea and sandwiches were provided at library headquarters, as well as the opportunity to look at the local studies room and a small exhibition about the places visited on the tour. A member of our staff - Norma Bonnar - who is a fine accordionist, played tunes with local associations - "Jessie o' the Dell" and the "Lass o' Livingston".

We were blessed with two warm and beautiful evenings in May and the countryside looked at its best - even Addiewell looked quite cheerful! The tours were voted a great success, so another was run as part of Local History Week in an afternoon.

Several points emerged during the tours which we shall bear in mind when planning future ones. It is advisable to do a dry run round the route beforehand to check the timing (our tour lasted from 7-8.30 p.m., with tea thereafter); and to check that access is possible for a coach. Our driver was obliged to reverse out of Livingston Village because I had under-estimated the turning circle of a bus! The courier will need a P.A. system in order to be heard when the bus is in motion.

We found that the tour attracted mainly older people, who, once they were on the bus, were happy to remain seated. We disembarked once, for a walk across Whitburn Kirkyard to visit the grave of Burns' illegitimate daughter Elizabeth.

Make sure that your courier is knowledgeable and entertaining: there is no point in telling your customers more than they want to know. An added helper on the bus is useful, to ensure that everyone can hear, and is comfortable, and to open or close windows etc. We charged 50p for the tour and tea, but we raised this in September to a more economic £1.00. Prior booking is essential, so that transport and catering can be properly planned. And finally, pray for good weather!

M. Sybil Calderwood

Local Collection Librarian, West Lothian District Council

Note: This article originally appeared in LOCSCOT, Winter 1990.

The new Centre for Local Studies, Darlington Branch Library

Until 1974 Darlington was a County Borough with its own library service. Local government re-organisation that year brought its library under the authority of Durham County Council, and it became the largest branch of Durham County Library. As such it retained its major services, including its local history collection. This had been established with the opening of the Edward Pease Public Library in 1885, and was part of the reference library collection.

Over the years it was added to considerably and by 1970 had reached 26,301 items. It was therefore decided that it was necessary to create a separate local history study room using part of the general reading room space. The main local collection was housed in this room with back-up stock kept in the basement: microfilm viewers and local maps were housed in the reference library.

The area covered by the collection is Darlington and South Durham in depth, with general items on the northern area of North Yorkshire and the North East. There are also some items covering North Durham, Northumberland and other fringe areas such as Cumberland, Westmorland, Humberside and West York-

shire. The collection includes all types of material, in all formats, ranging from books, posters, photographs and newspapers to oral tape recordings, videos, microfilm and maps, thus requiring a wide range of storage facilities. The addition to the collection in recent years of many genealogical items, particularly the 1841-1881 census returns for South West Durham and the International Genealogical Index for England, Scotland and Wales has also increased the need for microfilm storage and viewers. Darlington is particularly proud of the illustrations collection which includes over 10,000 items and the local newspaper cuttings index which dates from the 1870's to the present day. Access to all of the items is through a detailed subject card catalogue and indexes maintained by the staff.

The collection is used by people from all walks of life, including authors, local historians, teachers, school children, students, businessmen, genealogists and archaeologists. As well as local residents, many of the customers and enquiries are from other areas of the country and abroad. For the year 1989-90, 5,624 people used the collection, 156 letters were received and over 400 telephone calls were dealt with. The number of additions to stock for the same period was 1642 items.

Comparing the statistics for the year 1978-1979 with figures for 1988-1989, it can be seen that there has been a huge increase in usage. In 1978-1979 the number of people visiting the local history room was 2,197. In 1988-89, 5,047 people used the service. The number of items in stock increased from 49,552 in 1979 to 67,891 in 1989. The number of school parties wishing to visit the department was also growing and there was virtually no space to cater for these groups. With an unprecedented number of genealogists using the local history room the usage of the microfilm viewers was also expanding rapidly and their location in the reference library created a number of problems both for the staff and the public. It was eventually realised that the local studies section could not cater for and give a good service to the general public unless more space was created for the increasing number of users, the ever growing stock and the equipment needed to display and house the collection.

The most obvious solution was to extend the existing department by removing the partition separating it from the Reading Room. It was felt that with the decreasing number of people using the newspapers, these could be made available in the reference library, thus still providing the service. It also meant that the room would be returned to its original grandeur.

It was necessary to close the department for seven weeks to remove the partition, redecorate and refurbish the room. A limited service to the public was operated during this period by moving microfilms into the reference library so that microfilm/fiche records were still accessible. Most of the stock and furniture had to be moved out of the room during this time which was no easy task, but fortunately we found enough shelf space to accommodate the books in the basement. Catalogue drawers, filing cabinets and chairs were distributed around the rest of the library building during the transition period.

The room was completely refurbished and redecorated which greatly enhanced the splendid period decor of the high ceiling. Carpeting reduced the noise level in the department as well as helping to keep it warm. With the removal of the partition there were three more windows in the room which made it lighter and more pleasant to work in, and the increased floor area gave the room a more spacious appearance. All the existing furniture was moved back into the room and a special table was constructed to hold the microfilm readers. Map chests which had previously been housed in the Reference Library were transferred to the new room.

It also became possible to display local history publications for sale. New audio and video equipment was provided to enable the public to watch the videos and hear the oral recording, which had not previously been possible. The increased floor space means that audio equipment can be set up when required and by the use of headphones, other people using the department are not disturbed.

On Wednesday 18th July 1990, the Centre for Local Studies was officially opened by the authoress Nancy Livingston, who had previously researched background information for her novels in the local history study room. The event was attended by the Mayor and Mayoress of Darlington, councillors, local authors, historians, librarians, teachers and some of the regular users of the service. Light refreshments were served and after the official speeches, people were free to look around the new Centre for Local Studies. The response to the new section has been very favourable; our regular users were amazed at the transformation, and have frequently expressed how much they prefer working in the new surroundings. School parties and other groups can now be accommodated with ease in the new spacious surroundings.

The main project now is to transfer the card catalogues on to computer, which should take place in the near future. This will be a massive undertaking, but when achieved, should release more space in the Centre and make cataloguing, classification and public access a great deal easier.

A CD Rom player will eventually be located in the Centre for Local Studies, which will provide access to the Northern Echo files from 1988 onwards, with key word searching.

The Centre for Local Studies was publicised during Library Promotion Fortnight 1990, with a local historian and genealogist giving talks on the service and how they make use of it. This proved very popular and an increase in use has been felt as a result. We will be able to use the Centre for Local Studies for this type of event in future years.

Since the official opening in July, 1,303 people have visited the Centre for Local Studies.

Alyson J. Herbert
Librarian, Centre for Local Studies, Darlington Branch Library

Library Association Local Studies Group - Annual Report 1990

The most important aspect of the Group's recent activities was the publication in 1990, by the Library Association, of the *Guidelines for Local Studies Provision in Public Libraries*, compiled by the Group. These have been, on the whole, favourably received by librarians throughout the country as well as internationally, with particular enthusiasm from Australia.

The five Branches throughout the United Kingdom have been particularly active and each one has successfully organised seminars, courses and conferences. The Scottish Branch organised and hosted the LSG Weekend School at Perth in April. While the number of residential delegates was limited, a considerable number of day visitors attended, and the event, with its theme *Local studies and the new technology* was found both useful and enjoyable by those who were there.

The Local Studies Librarian continues to be published twice a year and always includes interesting articles for local history enthusiasts, local historians and librarians, as does its Scottish counterpart *Locscot*. These are, of course, the only British journals covering this area of the profession in detail. Several members of the Group contributed chapters to the second volume of Michael Dewe's invaluable *Local Studies Collections: a Manual*.

On the publicity side the Group adopted a logo and at the end of the year preparations were in hand for the production of a publicity leaflet.

The Group was invited to take part in the Library Technology Fair at Hatfield Polytechnic in July when we provided talks and demonstrations on computers and databases in local studies.

The Annual General Meeting was held in July at York where some sixteen members of the Group were warmly welcomed by Bernard Barr, Librarian of the Minster Library who then conducted them round the library following a most fascinating talk.

The year saw the inauguration of our new Chairman, Ian Jamieson of Newcastle Polytechnic and a fond farewell to the retiring Chairman, Chris Makepeace, whose enthusiasm and hard work have been so evident since the Group was founded.

The Library Association / T.C. Farries individual award for Public Relations achievement went to the Local Studies Librarian at Cambridge, Mike Petty, who is the Eastern Counties Representative on the Local Studies Group Committee. The Dorothy McCulla Memorial Prize was not awarded during 1990, but it is hoped that worthwhile nominations will be forthcoming for future years.

The Group agreed to take part in the Library Association's Umbrella weekend school in Leeds in 1991 and by the end of the year an attractive programme had been prepared by Elizabeth Melrose.

The Local Studies Group has had an active and successful year, and looks forward with confidence to 1991.

Patrick Baird

LIBRARY ASSOCIATION LOCAL STUDIES GROUP

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNT FOR 1990

INCOME		EXPENDITURE	
1989	1990	1989	1990
£	£	£	£
2984.00	3151.00	21.20	VAT on Expenditure 33.23
71.95	57.00	318.99	Postage and telephone 30.01
306.51	372.85	176.07	Stationery 133.03
539.16	401.32	300.14	Expenses: Officers 26.76
-	397.00	380.28	Committee meetings 535.38
280.00	600.00	2400.89	Local Studies Librarian 2558.87
46.00	45.00	59.21	Branches -
6.30	-	-	Conferences 476.00
96.87	-	248.21	Short courses 402.02
		101.00	Other payment (inc. VAT refund) 151.13
4330.79		4005.99	
			Excess of income over expend. 677.74
	5024.17		4346.43
			5024.17
BALANCE AT 31/12/1989		BALANCE AT 31/12/1990	
CURRENT ACCOUNT	1093.28	CURRENT ACCOUNT	2185.31
DEPOSIT ACCOUNT	2403.34	DEPOSIT ACCOUNT	2776.19
Less 3 unrepresented cheques			4961.50
	3496.62		
	(86.10)		
Excess of income over expend.		Less 6 unrepresented cheques	(873.24)
	3410.52		
	677.74		
			4088.26
	4088.26		

NOTE: At December 31st approximately £1200 was due for payment in respect of 1990 activities including postages and the printing of the Local Studies Librarian. Approximately £400 was due to the Group at the same date.

"Have you seen....?" Some recent items of interest to Local Studies Librarians

Dewe, Michael (ed.) Local Studies Collections : a manual. Volume 2. Gower, 1991. 375 pp. £47.50. ISBN 0 566 03631 2.

This volume is designed to be complementary to the same editor's *A manual of local studies librarianship*, published in 1987 and presumably designed to be complete in itself. It is therefore to the editor's and his contributors' credit that this second bite at the cherry contains so many chapters of major significance and interest.

Practising local studies librarians will find chapters 7 to 15, which deal with various aspects of collection management and "outreach" work of most interest. Among these is Richard Harvey on "Genealogy and family history". These researchers are still sometimes regarded by local studies librarians as being well within the 'nuisance' category. On the contrary, they are usually people attempting historical research for the first time in their lives, and are as deserving of support as the legions of ill-prepared students who currently visit local studies libraries and for whom the librarian is apparently expected to do the teacher's work as well as his/her own. Richard Abbott, on "Maps and plans" makes the mysteries of the Ordnance Survey clear, the first occasion on which I have known this achieved. John Westmancoat on "Newspapers and periodicals" is of equal value.

In addition to Thea Randall's long chapter on "Preservation and conservation", all authors recommend the best current practices and techniques for preservation and access. It is distressingly ironic, therefore, that this volume should appear at a time when the country's major local studies collections, particularly those in large urban centres, are suffering as never before from the triple threats of increasing use, declining financial resources and staffing cuts. It is to be hoped, though without great optimism, that local studies librarianship will be able to continue to provide the wide range of services which are detailed in this volume and its predecessor.

The book is well produced, clearly printed, and has an excellent index and bibliographies (at £47.50, so it should!). Errors are few, although the radical historian E.P. Thompson (p.238) becomes Edward P. Thomas a couple of pages later. Like its predecessor (now redesignated volume 1) this is an essential work for all libraries with a local studies collection.

Frank Manders
Local Studies Librarian (retd.)
Newcastle upon Tyne City Libraries & Arts

A Glasgow Collection: essays in honour of Joe Fisher, edited by Kevin McCarra and Hamish Whyte. Glasgow City Libraries, 1990. 156pp, £4.99. ISBN 0 906169 30 5.

This book of reminiscences and essays is a tribute to Joe Fisher, recently retired after twenty-five years as Librarian of the local studies department of Glasgow City Libraries. As two of the contributors have succinctly stated, "His retiral from the Glasgow Room will be keenly felt..." However, the editors have brought together some of those researchers whom Joe Fisher has helped over the years at the Mitchell Library. Each author has chosen to write on his own special aspect of Glasgow, No Mean City and city of culture. The result is a marvellous pattern of differing themes, literary and sporting, historical and present-day, all making up parts of Glasgow's story. Some of the work, such as an article on William Quarrier and child emigrant schemes, could in the future be expanded to the great benefit of local historians.

Other interesting essays include a topical biography of Scotland's first woman minister, Vera Kenmure; a report on a newspaper search uncovering accounts of drownings in the River Clyde and nearby canals; and a chapter on drink, giving brief details of such clubs as the Grog Club, the Dirty Shirt Club and the Rumblegrumpy.

The volume is prefaced by a knowledgeable appreciation of the Librarian who in some cases advised the authors on their work, unaware that this book was being compiled. *A Glasgow Collection* deserves a wide audience further afield than the city and pockets of exiled Glaswegians, both for its diverting content and for the contribution of Joe Fisher to the study of local history.

Elizabeth Melrose

Cornish, G.P. Copyright: interpreting the law for libraries and archives. LAPL, 1990, 128pp. £12.95 (£10.36 to LA members). ISBN 0 85365 709 2.

The new Copyright Act of 1988 makes various changes to that of 1956, and with increasing activity by local studies librarians in the fields of publication, oral history and photographs, it is essential to keep up to date with relevant legislation. This book, by the British Library's Copyright Officer, attempts to cover this complex subject in a straight forward way. By means of question and answer the law relating to all kinds of material including photographs, sound recordings, videos and broadcasts, as well as literary works, is dealt with. Although the position is sometimes complex, it is generally clearly explained. The local studies librarian will find this work a useful summary of the present position.

Makepeace, C.E. Local history. In Lea, P.W. and Day, A. Printed reference material. 3rd ed, LAPL, 1990, pp 230-265.

A useful introduction to sources of information on local history. A wide range of aspects from introductions to local history research to manuals for local studies librarians is covered, though the chapter mainly deals with guides to the various kinds of source materials used by local historians.

This is a considerably rewritten and updated version of the same author's contribution to the previous edition of Printed reference material, with material included up to 1989.

Flood, A. The Irish in Camden. Leisure Services Dept, London Borough of Camden, 1990. 27pp. £1.95 (£2.35 by post from Local Studies Library, Swiss Cottage Library, 88 Avenue Road, London NW3 3HA). ISBN 0 901389 61 7.

This is an attempt to provide a brief sketch of the history and contemporary presence of Irish people in Camden. This is the largest non-English community in the borough and one about which almost nothing has been written. Covering a period from the origins of Irish immigration to the present day, it is intended largely for teachers, but is aimed also at the general reader. Apart from such previous writings as there are, the sources used include census figures and local authority statistical compilations.

This pamphlet is a good example of the kind of original work which can be prepared by librarians from the sources at their disposal, to meet a particular need. Given the present interest in minority groups, this seems a useful compilation which could be followed up elsewhere. The author is the Camden's Irish Community Librarian. Production is cheap but adequate, apparently done in-house.

McVicar, E. *One singer, one song*. 1990. 176pp. £4.99. ISBN 0 906169 31 3: Marshall, J. *Cathcart and its environs*. 1990. 60pp. £3.95. ISBN 0 906169 26 7: Parsonage, G. *Rescue his business, the Clyde his life*. 1990. 252pp. £5.99. ISBN 0 906169 29 1. All published by Glasgow City Libraries.

Three very varied publications from Glasgow's growing list. *One singer, one song* is a personal account of folk music and folk singers in Glasgow. A mixture of information, reminiscence, biography and words and music, it gives a fascinating picture of the Folk Revival in Glasgow. *Cathcart* is a conventional pictorial reminiscence of the area, but with the added feature that it is arranged so that the locations can be followed as a 'town trail' by car, the journey taking about an hour and a half including stops. *Rescue his business, the Clyde his life* is the story of the Glasgow Humane Society, with its long record of recovering bodies and saving lives on the Clyde. It is mainly about its longest serving and best known Officer, Ben Parsonage, and is written by his son, the present Officer. It is a record of Ben's work for the community, but also provides a vivid picture of aspects of Glasgow life during the past half century. All three works are well produced.

The Dorothy McCulla Memorial Prize

The Dorothy McCulla Prize for 1991 has been awarded to Joe Fisher of Glasgow. Until his recent retirement Joe was Librarian of the Glasgow Room of the Mitchell Library for twenty five years. As well as building up the excellent service there he was a founder member of Loescot, LSG's Scottish Branch, of which he was first secretary, then, from 1985, chairman. The Award has been made in recognition of Joe's many services to local studies librarianship in Scotland. The presentation will take place at the LA's UmbrellA Weekend School at Leeds in July.

We should like to take this opportunity to remind readers that nominations for the McCulla Prize may be made at any time. The closing date for each year is now January 31st, and nominations are considered at the first Committee meeting of the year, usually in March.

Notes and News

This is a reminder that late last year the LA produced second editions of its pamphlets on copyright in libraries. There are separate publications covering industrial and commercial libraries, NHS libraries, polytechnic and university libraries, school and college libraries, and public libraries. While these are prices publications, each member is entitled to one copy of one of the titles free of charge. These guidelines offer a summary of copyright law as it affects each type of library. They provide a brief and more formal approach than that of Graham Cornish, whose book is reviewed elsewhere in this issue. The LA has also produced an A3 size laminated poster explaining the main copyright provisions for users of photocopying machines. The price for a single copy is £2.50 (£3.50 non members): there are reductions for quantity purchases.

Committee Matters

The LSG Committee met at the Library Association on 6th March 1991. Among the items discussed were the following:

1. Joe Fisher's retirement from the post of local studies librarian, Glasgow Libraries, prompted massive publicity in the local press, and it was unanimously agreed that he should receive the Dorothy McCulla Award, to be presented at Leeds in July
2. Diana Winterbotham has given several presentations on the LA *Guidelines*, and will speak on them again at the joint South Western Branch/ISG meeting at Exeter on June 6th entitled *Marshalling regional resources*.
3. The LSG publicity leaflet is about to be printed, and should be ready for distribution at the LA event *Under one umbrella* at Leeds in July.
4. Internal restructuring in Glasgow, Essex, Kent and Cambridgeshire may threaten the status of local studies librarianship there. Even a slight shift of emphasis could erode current standards of service, and the Group is to keep a close eye on developments here and elsewhere.
5. The West Midlands *Newsplan* was to be launched by Timothy Renton, M.P. on 19th March; the national *Newsplan* meeting at Stoke Rochford (Lincolnshire) on 29th-30th April was also expected to be of interest to local studies librarians.
6. In March the Hon. Secretary attended a meeting to discuss a conference on conservation to be held in 1992. More details later: watch this space!

Philippa Stevens
Assistant Hon. Secretary

Notes and News

The Leverhulme Trust has awarded a grant of £38,250 to the Department of Information and Library Studies, University College of Wales, Aberystwyth, in association with the National Library of Wales, for a two year research project aimed at establishing a collection policy for printed Welsh ephemera. The research will be concerned with collection policy at both Welsh and English.

The project, which will commence in October 1991, will be under the supervision of Michael Dewe, lecturer in the Department of Information and Library Studies, and Dr. Lionel Madden, Keeper of Printed Books at the National Library of Wales. Michael Dewe is also a member of the LSG Committee and Chair of the LSG's Welsh Branch.

LSG Committee, 1990-91

Chairman: Ian Jamieson, Dept of Librarianship and Information Studies,
Newcastle Polytechnic

Vice-Chairman: Diana Winterbottom, The Lancashire Library

Hon. Secretary: Patrick Baird, Birmingham Public Libraries

Hon. Treasurer: Elizabeth Anne Melrose, North Yorkshire County Library

Assistant Hon. Secretary: Philippa Stevens, Hampshire County Library

Library Association Councillor: Paul Sturges, Dept of Library and Information
Studies, Loughborough University.

Members:

Sheila Cooke, Nottinghamshire County Library

Jane Dansie, Essex County Library

Brian Hall, Dept of Librarianship, Birmingham Polytechnic

Ian Maxed, Devon County Library

Martin Olive, Sheffield Libraries

Branch Representatives:

Eastern Counties: Michael Petty, Cambridgeshire Libraries

London and Home Counties: Joanna Clark, Museum of London.

North Western: Alice Lock, Tameside Public Library

Scottish: Don Martin, Strathkelvin District Libraries

Welsh: Michael Dewe, Dept of information and library Studies, University
College of Wales, Aberystwyth.

Contact with northern Ireland is maintained through the Library Local Studies
Panel (Secretary, Kate McAllister, Western Education and Library Board).

As can be seen from the foregoing list, the Group has committed members in
most parts of the country. If you have any ideas or suggestions for the
Committee, please do not hesitate to get in touch with your nearest committee
member or the Hon., Secretary.

The Committee will end its term of office in December. Nominations for the 1992-
93 Committee will be called for later this year.



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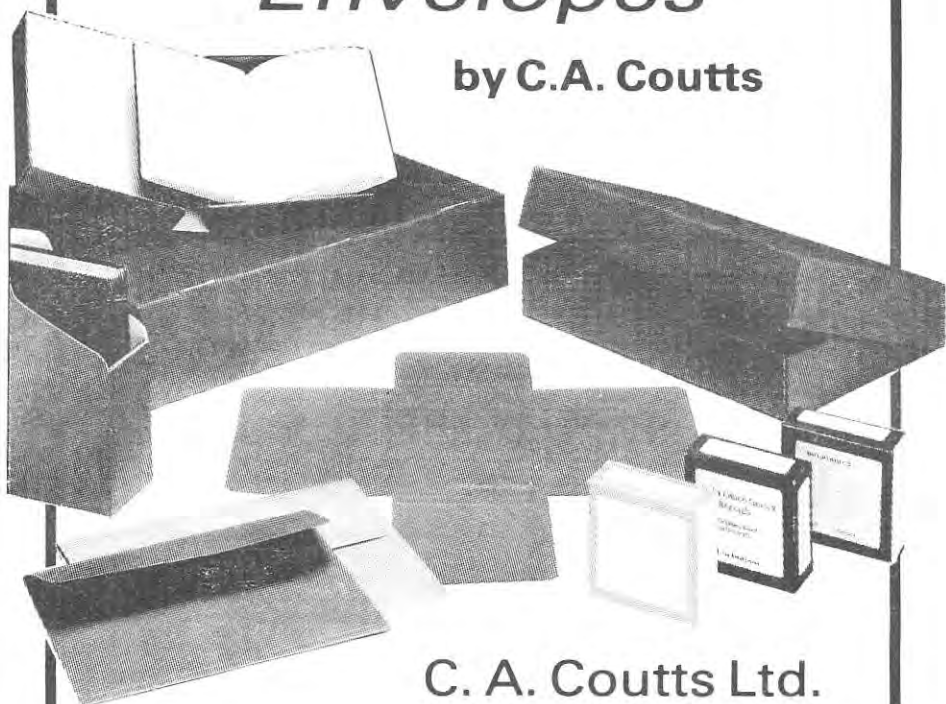
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