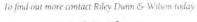


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The Local Studies Librarian Vol. II Number 2 (23) 1992 ISSN 0263 0273

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 £3.00 UK and £4.00 plus £1.00 service charge overseas. Post free in both cases. Overseas service charge does not apply if payment is made in Sterling.

Editorial Matters: Advertising: Distribution:

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Subscriptions and remittances:

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

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Cover Illustration: Briggate, Leeds, looking North from the railway bridge, 1885. Courtesy of Local and Family History Library, Leeds City Libraries.

Editorial

After our 'conference' issue, we revert to more general topics, with a mixture of contributions. Our thanks go to those who have provided articles, whether on request or unsolicited. Please continue to send articles, news and comment: it's your journal.

Two important matters have surfaced recently. The first is the question, referred to elsewhere in this issue, of the probability of local government administrative changes. The government is still receiving opinions, and since it is clearly a matter of interest to local studies librarians, as it is to archivists, the Group is anxious to have your comments on the effect of possible changes on your collections and services. Paul Sturges has undertaken to prepare a paper and present it to LA council, but he cannot do so if he does not get any response from you. Obviously there are points to be made both by those who wish to retain the present position and by those who would prefer to move to unitary authorities of whatever kind. Your comments are valuable - please make them to Paul as soon as possible.

The other matter of importance is to draw your attention to the 'Umbrella 2' weekend school at Manchester in July, as advertised on another page. The Group had a noticeable presence at the Leeds weekend, and preparations are in hand for another excellent programme. We are again to have the McCulla Award presented by the LA President, and there is again to be an overseas speaker, this time from Eastern Europe, and there are to be papers on the general themes of publicity and promotion of collections. Please make your plans now - our Group had a good presence at the last event: let's make it even more noticeable in 1993.

And finally.... The time for subscription renewal is coming up. The Group is successfully representing the interest of local studies libraries within the profession. It is worth your support. Don't forget to maintain your LSG membership, and encourage others, including Associates, to join us.

Stop Press

The Information and Library Services - Lead Body, which is developing Scottish National Vocational Qualifications, has just announced that it is holding a series of standards development workshops in late February. These will include sessions on archives and local history. There are also opportunities to participate in the consultation process which begins in March 1993 and will consist of a questionnaire and consultation meetings. For further information telephone or write to the Lead Body office at 7 Ridgmount Street. The more people who are involved, the better.

Yesterday's Yate: Experimenting with Oral History

Pauline Sails

Yate District Oral History Project (YDOHP) is a small library based scheme designed both to produce local studies materials and to actively encourage their use in the community. Ideally the two roles should be mutually supportive, the close relationship developed with the users providing the direction for further research and suggesting the format of the product.

The original community project was set up with MSC funding in the autumn of 1986. Although many oral history groups foundered with the demise of the Community Programme scheme in the following September, the Yate group was fortunate in that the project's workers were able to complete their period of employment. This helped to bridge the gap between the end of MSC funding and the award of a grant by Avon County Council in May 1989. Under the MSC, the project had a team leader and five assistants, working a 22.5 and an 18 hour week respectively. All the project's work is now carried out entirely by volunteers, working individually or in small groups.

An important aim has been to work closely with the other community groups who help us to find contacts and more generally introduce us to those for whom the resources are being created. The Northavon Senior Area Professional organises six "Patch" meetings per year for local community leaders and voluntary groups, which are attended by project representatives. YDOHP is also a member of the Yate Library Information Team, which meets quarterly to discuss co-operation in areas of common interest amongst the Yate library-based information users. (As well as being the base for the Oral History Project, Yate Library is the home of a local volunteer bureau (BS17 Link), a youth counselling and information service (YIS) and a community resource and information base (CRIB).) During the evenings and days when the library is "closed", the building is opened for community activities. It is difficult to avoid acquiring a quite unmanageable list of contacts!

To strangers passing through on their way from the M5 to the M4 motorway. Yate must appear to be a vast agglomeration of modern housing estates on the Northeast fringe of Bristol, interspersed with the occasional warehousing facility for container lorries and yet more development sites. Nevertheless, Yate is a good focus for an oral history project. Listed farmhouses may have succumbed to the bulldozer but there are still people who can describe them and, more importantly, describe the daily life of the occupants in the dialect with which they would have been familiar. The rural tradition is not the only aspect of earlier Yate preserved by our recordings. There have been all sorts of smaller immigrations to the area brought by the railways, just within living memory, and by the 'new' industries of the interwar years. The original Brunel station may have disappeared, the factories may have been mostly tidied away to make room for new superstores, but the layers of old Yate can still be explored with the help of the recollections of those who have lived and worked there. The fostering of these roots seems

particularly important to those who live in the anonymous areas of instant new housing with nothing to provide a sense of local identity beyond, perhaps, a street name or an isolated remnant of older vegetation. Equally, oral history restores a sense of value to the older social networks engulfed by the recent development.

The idea of recording local people's reminiscences had been canvassed before the scheme was initiated and there developed an ever expanding queue of willing interviewees, self-generating at a rate with which the project has never managed to keep up. Acquiring contacts has never been a problem. Each contact was followed up with a preliminary interview to establish the topics on which the participant was interested in making recordings. The final recorded interviews were restricted to single topics to make them easier to use. For example, one of our earlier respondents discussed several possible themes and finally three recordings were made: on a local chapel founded by his grandparents of which he was later Sunday School superintendent, the bakery trade in which he worked, and the local factory's male voice choir for which he sang. The restricted content makes the tapes easier to catalogue and index and encourages more detail in a 45, 60 or 90 minute recording.

Recently, "life story" style recordings have been made where these have seemed more appropriate to the interests of the individual. The life retains its integrity and a future researcher exploring a particular aspect has the detail set within context. By avoiding focusing on a single aspect of life, the life story also avoids unwittingly giving undue social status to such selection. Topic selection can reinforce traditional social values. We find that men often choose to record their work whereas women find it difficult to give their occupations, paid or unpaid, such importance. We tried to get over this difficulty by ensuring that an equal number of tapes recorded women as men, but the life story approach can be a better solution in that it recognises the difference in attitude. The chief practical difficulty is that the number of recording sessions required for a life story is much greater than for topic tapes. The recorder would have to be very ruthless to cut a lifetime down to 40 minutes! In any case we are saddled with a tradition of careful detail. Despite its extravagant consumption of time, biography seems to have developed as a useful category to be added to the topic range.

Although preliminary interviews are also time consuming, we have found that they have uses beyond simply introducing the contact to the project and the interviewer, and establishing topics to be recorded. They give the respondent the opportunity to browse through their memories without the constraints of a recording session and the preliminary interview notes often contain information that does not get included in the final recording. Occasionally it might be that material needs to be treated more confidentially. In the interval between the preliminary and recording session, the respondent has the opportunity to think over some of the detail that would not immediately come to mind and the interviewer orders the material so that the listener will find the presentation much clearer. Of course, the preliminary interview also allows both the interviewer and the respondent greater opportunity to shape the content of the

recording but our tapes have to suit a popular as well as a research audience, so we endeavour to make a compromise between spontaneity and organisation. The preliminary interview notes will have been ordered and selected by the interviewer but for the researcher they may sometimes reveal useful discrepancies with the recording.

To ensure a reasonable quality cassette recording for use by individual members of the public in the library, and for playing over an amplification system to larger audiences, the project took the advice of the Imperial War Museum and invested in a Marantz 430 recorder. Most recordings are made in the interviewee's home with good quality tie-pin microphones but a PZM plate microphone is used for groups and occasionally a high quality omni-directional microphone has been hired for special events. There have been awkward faults with the Marantz recorder and the project has been fortunate to borrow a second machine from Avon's Community Leisure Resource Base. Recently, a good quality twin deck recorder for copying the tapes has also been available and, even more invaluably, a transcribing machine operated with a foot control.

Transcription has been regarded as a particularly important part of the project. The experience of a similar project in Ambleside would suggest that as much use is likely to be made of the transcripts as the tapes themselves. The work we do ourselves in schools and with elderly people in day or residential care has shown how much more quickly a composite tape can be made if transcripts are available. Not all tapes will have verbatim transcripts but most have a note form which includes all the information in the original and with quotations where they are necessary to express the feelings or attitudes of the respondent. We also find it useful to have fully transcribed those parts of a tape which are likely to make good extracts so that we have material available for articles or exhibitions required at short notice.

To coincide with the 50th anniversary of the bombing of a local factory, where 63 workers were killed, the project produced "Parnall in Memoriam" - a history of the factory in the words and pictures of those who worked there. The timing of the finished product was crucial, and it took great determination to produce transcripts as the recordings were made, and to stop recording sufficiently soon to allow for selection and sorting of the material.

We were also determined at the beginning of the project that the archive would not be restricted to sound recordings, but that we would pursue an active policy of collecting supporting information from all kinds of sources. During the preliminary interview, respondents are asked whether they have any photographs, documents or other items which would make valuable additions to the information on their recordings and which they would be willing for us to copy. Almost all respondents have something and we have now a photograph collection alone of about 3,000 items. Not all the photographs are from interviewees' originals. Some have been taken for the project showing the interviewees in the location their tape describes or are recent pictures of places of which we have older photographs, so that the changes are made plain. We are fortunate in having

copies of two picture collections from local factories no longer in being. We also gather together for local use copies of materials in distant archives. For example, the Shuttleworth Collection in Bedfordshire, the Royal Navy Submarine Museum at Gosport, and the Imperial War Museum have all been able to provide information and photographs relating to locally built aircraft.

As photographs and other supplementary materials are acquired they are entered on a simple Cardbox database via an Amstrad PC1512 with as much information about their origin and content as possible. Indexing has lagged a long way behind the entries and its absence has now become a serious inconvenience, especially since the slides and mounted photographs are filed in order of accession, not by subject. Photocopies of our supplementary materials are filed by subject, and this provides a rough-cut method of accessing material in the archive in the absence of a complete index. Over half our recordings are now on public loan through the Avon County Library system, with more following as transcripts become available. It is hoped that the photograph collection will become similarly available over the next few years.

Because we have never got to the end of our contact list, we sometimes feel that the direction of the collection is beyond our control, determined by the respondents. But when we have needed a recording on a particular subject, it has not been difficult to go and make one. While the project still had paid workers, a reminiscence group met fortnightly in the library. This group, consisting largely of those who had already contributed to the project, devoted one half of a two hour session to identifying and cataloguing new picture acquisitions and the other making recordings to order. For example, a junior school class was exploring how Sundays used to be, so the Yate Remembered group were asked to record their recollections at the next meeting. Members were provided with a sheet suggesting different aspects to consider, and had time to think about the topic. The prompt sheet was later used by the chairperson to give the recording shape. Serving the immediate needs of schools in this way has produced some very interesting and entertaining recordings for the archive. A particularly notable contribution was the recording we called "Sticking the Pig" which took a full 90 minutes to deliver instruction on how to get the most out of every part of the pig from its dispatch, through playing football with the bladder and how to knot the knottling, to the simpler task of slicing the bacon.

Although we have found such group recordings very worthwhile, they have to be very carefully set up. Fortunately, all the members of *Yate Remembered* are familiar with making recordings; they have learned not to talk across each other and to give visual rather than audible indications of when they want to join in. We do not usually edit our recordings in any way but sometimes on a group tape it is necessary to remove repeated and over loud questions from the loan copies and adjust any differences in volume. Although we like to see ourselves as an historical archive where evidence is not tampered with, we also have to recognise the need to modify this purist view.

Many pensioner groups have enjoyed tape slide shows made from the collection. One such group based on a sheltered housing complex have a close relationship with their neighbourhood junior school and have helped with a school project where a class wanted to record changes in eating habits. Both interviewers and interviewees were very well briefed over a six week period but the final results have been more interesting in what they have revealed of the difficulties of communication between the generations than on our changing eating habits.

Besides developing links with the junior schools we have run a scheme in secondary schools, integrating oral testimony into the history curriculum. One of the main difficulties has been the shortage of suitable equipment and somewhere to be quiet and uninterrupted on school premises. It would be a shame if our approach had to change, to offering ready-made material rather than encouraging children to make their own, as the recordings and research of older students has been of a sufficiently high quality to be added to the project's own collection. Much of the material which we can offer would suit cross-curricular studies, but although tried successfully in other parts of the country, for us this is an area yet to be explored.

Despite the financial uncertainties, the project has grown with amazing rapidity in many directions. We have built up many useful contacts with other oral history workers in museums, libraries, writers' circles, reminiscence and storytelling groups. The demand from schools and colleges for our materials and skills increases each year, and we hope to be able to continue, and build on, our work with them. We hope to be able to develop specialist interest groups within the project, and to add to our list of publications.

The present success of the project owes much to its base in a particularly friendly library with strong community links, and the financial support of the County of Avon. As the work develops, the contribution of library based skills and support will be crucial to the future of the Yate District Oral History Project.

Pauline M R Sails, BA DipLib ALA, is the Area Community Leisure Officer for Northavon, County of Avon

The New Ordnance Survey Superplan

Ordnance Survey mapping technology took another step forward this autumn with the introduction of Superplan. In the first part of this article the Ordnance Survey provides an account of the changes now taking place, while the section on their implications for libraries has been written by Diana Winterbotham, The Lancashire Library's local studies librarian.

Superplan

In October 1992 Ordnance Survey is launching Superplan, a new range of large graphic map products which will be available from a brand new network of Map Agents.

If ever the saying "some things never change" were true, it could well be applied to the Ordnance Survey's 1:1250 and 1:2500 Published Mapping series. Painstakingly prepared cartographic works of art, printed on quality paper, such maps could last fifty years. The problem was some of them HAVE lasted fifty years and to the majority of map users, cartographic excellence is of little use if the map no longer accurately portrays the actual roads, buildings and other features that exist at the time the map is being studied.

In an effort to make the latest mapping information more easily available to map users, and to banish forever the complaint that "the site I want is right on the edge of the map", the new Superplan product range will use Ordnance Survey's large scale digital map database to supply the surveyor's latest information to computerised storage and plotting systems being installed in a new network of Agents across the country.

A visit or telephone or Fax call to any of these outlets is all that is needed to obtain the latest large scale map information, either site centred or in the traditional National Grid sheet format upon which so many map libraries and indexes are built.

In developing this new product range, Ordnance Survey has used new technology to improve the flexibility and thus options available. Choice of map size can be from A4 to A0 and above and the scale of Superplan plots is variable to - with options from - 1:200 to 1:5000. User choice even extends to the map detail where, for example, building and road lines can be enhanced.

In addition, a microfilm based option will still be available. Superplan Instant Printout offers National Grid map sheets that are updated at regular intervals.

Significantly, the Superplan product range has not forgotten the strengths upon which Ordnance Survey's mapping reputation has been built. The quality of the survey, right down to the final presentation of the finished paper or film map, are hopefully features that will never change!

But What Does It Mean For Us?

"Superplan" - yes, certainly it is, and the map for today's users of today's maps. But from October 1st 1992 the production of new editions of 1:1250 and 1:2500 maps on chart paper will become even more of a rarity than at present; publication of sheets is rapidly declining and will eventually cease completely. Forget about those standing orders for sheets to continue the series of maps that has charted the growth of our towns for the last hundred years; there won't be any more.

Local Studies librarians will need to work out strategies for making good the deficiency. Already the large scale plans have become out-of-date in many cases, due to a gradual decline in publication of updated sheets in recent years. Larger reference libraries have in some cases resorted to purchasing SUSI copies for current use, but the quality of paper is poor, and there is the added complication that special arrangements need to be made with the supplier if regular updates are to be received. It may be helpful to readers to know of arrangements that are being made by Lancashire County Library to ensure that large-scale maps continue to be regularly acquired.

Standing orders for new "editions".

There will soon be no production of new chart paper editions, but up-to-date maps can still be obtained because it is possible to order updates of O.S. sheets whenever a chosen number of units of change have appeared on the map. Many readers will understand how these units of change work, but, for the uninitiated, it is a system of reckoning the amount a map has changed - a new road would be reckoned as x number of units, a new housing estate as y number of units, and so on. When your chosen sheet has acquired, say, 50 units of change the Ordnance Survey can automatically supply an updated sheet. The level of units can be any you choose, but it seems likely that 50 units would be desirable, and more than 100 units would result in a sharp drop in the frequency of updated sheets. This is something that only individual libraries can decide in the light of purchasing funds available.

Lancashire has found the Ordnance Survey extremely helpful in trying to assess a reasonable level of provision. Discussions have been held with the Region Marketing Executive, who has calculated for us the number of sheets that would immediately be generated at different numbers of units of change (quite a lot of sheets, because the existing chart paper copies are often now so out-of-date), and are currently estimating costs for a sample District within the county. In the light of the figures a decision will be taken and standing orders placed. One possibility is that one District at a time may have its maps updated, and then continue to receive regular updates. This could spread the initial purchasing load.

Paper quality

The Lancashire Record Office Conservation Department tested the paper for acidity. The standard SUSI paper had pH of less than 5, which is too acidic for comfort; the Conservationist recommended 5.5 to 6.5 as desirable. However, the new Superplan paper is better quality, and tested at between 5 and 5.5, which we think we would accept as unlikely to cause serious problems - we had thought it possible that we would need to de-acidify all new sheets, but do not now propose to do this with Superplan paper. It is likely that all new sheets will be sent for encapsulation before being put into use.

Cost

For Lancashire, Superplan will cover the area by April 1993, and Superplan sheets will cost £40 each. It is unlikely that there will be discounts on this amount. So if you can act quickly...

Disclaimer!

The above account has been written simply as a description of Lancashire's reaction to the new situation, in the hope that it may be of use to other library staff. Our own decisions have not yet been finally made, and I personally am treading very warily in view of the large sums of money involved. This article is in no way a recommendation as to what should be done, but I could summarize as follows:

- It is essential that some method of continuing the series of large scale Ordnance Survey maps in our libraries is found. This means grappling with the complications of "units of change" and placing standing orders.
- 2. The paper quality needs to be reasonably good better than SUSI. This may mean de-acidification if the standard falls below an acceptable level.
- 3. The help and support of the Region Marketing Executive has been invaluable to Lancashire. He may not be pleased, but I suggest you contact him rather than try to work it all out for yourselves!

Contemporary sources for local history

Paul R Drew

This is a brief report on a day school entitled *History now: recording the present* for the future, which was held at Rewley House, the home of Oxford University's Department for Continuing Education, in October 1991. As the title suggests the day was concerned with looking at various methods of collecting recent and contemporary evidence of, as the publicity material puts it, 'great events and everyday life'.

Dr Kate Tiller, University Lecturer in Local History, OUDCE, got the day off to a good start by posing the question - what is the motive behind collecting this evidence? Various examples were given as to why people take to local history: the 'in-comer' to an area looking to find out more; a wish to understand the present through the past; a form of escapism; nostalgia; commercialised heritage; a genuine interest in history. The point Dr Tiller made was that we need to overcome barriers to the idea of collecting evidence, and especially recent evidence, of our past.

This point was graphically illustrated by the next speaker. Mr M Turner, Head of Conservation, Bodleian Library (standing in for David Vaisey, Bodley's Librarian), talked about the use of printed ephemera in tracing the history of shops and shopping. Illustrated by slides of material from the John Johnson Collection and the specimen book of Robinsons of Bristol, the talk presented a rich image of how the ephemeral and everyday items we now take for granted can greatly aid us in researching local history subjects.

After a coffee break, Jane Bowden, of the Centre for Oxfordshire Studies, Oxfordshire County Council, gave an informative talk on the use (and occasional abuse!) of oral history. Using several examples, the point was made that a good oral history project involves an interactive process, and the need for empathy on the interviewer's part. Practical advice was given on how to prepare for an interview: the need to be familiar with the equipment used; the use of crib sheets (but being cautious in their use); the use of music or an object to lead the interviewee back into the time to be discussed.

Dr Malcolm Graham, also of the Centre for Oxfordshire Studies, then gave a talk on the use of photographs in recording the present, again illustrating his points with examples, taken from the Centre's own archives. Showing pictures of old public houses, railway stations, village post offices and even bus shelters, Dr Graham put across the importance of having a visual record of these perhaps endangered buildings and structures. The trend nowadays of developing farm buildings into expensive houses was another example of how the landscape can change, almost before we can comprehend that change is taking place. Unless this is recorded, future historians will be that much poorer in material to gain an insight into our present life. The M40 project was another graphic example of how the countryside can be drastically altered; a series of photographs taken

showing the area around Banbury before, during and after the construction demonstrated this. One excellent use of photography as a contributor to local history was the Chipping Norton project. On the 19 July 1989 800 photographs were taken, illustrating a day in the life of the community. Dr Graham finished his talk by reiterating the point about using photographs to stimulate interest in our locality now, since the present can all too soon become the past.

After lunch the last speaker, Dr Tony Aldgate, of the Open University, spoke on the use of film and video as historical evidence. A brief chronological history of the film industry was given, starting from the generally accepted beginnings in 1895 with the Lumiere brothers in France, through to the 1970's with the conflicting views of Elton and Rhodes on whether film constitutes an acceptable historical source, and the view of Professor Grenville that film can be a primary source, as in the unique footage of Chamberlain during the Munich crisis, or secondary source, as in feature films or documentaries that have lost their original context. Various films were shown illustrating the difference between a 'witting' film, such as the blatant propaganda films of the war years, and 'unwitting' film, depicting everyday life as it occurs (an excellent example was The Singing Street showing life in post war (1945) Edinburgh).

A short period of discussion followed on the various talks, with questions raised on the problems of collecting ephemera: the conservation and preservation of material; the use of new technology (especially in using film and video); the problems of mass production of materials. All those who attended, I am sure, felt it to be an excellent, and educational, day, with the speakers using examples of material to truly bring home the point raised by Dr Tiller in her introduction, that nothing is too trivial or mundane as evidence to be regarded as unworthy of our attention.

Paul Drew is a Research Assistant in the Department of Information and Library Studies, University College of Wales, Aberystwyth.

A video in seven weeks? The West Lothian Experience

M Sybil Calderwood

In early August 1990, I approached the District Council video expert, Chris Fooks, and enquired: "Can we make a video in seven weeks?"

Well, we did. On 27th September the film was shown in Armadale Library as part of Local History Week in West Lothian District Libraries, has since been shown to some twenty groups, and has proved to be a successful means of introducing the collections of the Local Studies Library.

How did we set about it? I had decided on the theme of Buildings of West Lothian in order to tie in with Local History Week, but was surprised to be told by Chris Fooks that he required a shooting script first, then he would film to suit the text; in my Ignorance, I had expected the text to be written to fit the images. The script was prepared in less than a week. I do not recommend such haste; in our case it was only possible because I had previously done some research on the subject for a different purpose.

It was very necessary to decide before we began on the audience at which we were aiming. We decided upon a popular style, though without any sacrifice of historical accuracy, and we held in mind as our targeted market, those without any prior interest in or knowledge of West Lothian's history. The format we settled on is that of a journey through time: we see West Lothian's social history through its buildings, starting with the housebuilding boom of Livingston New Town, and working back through the centuries. We chose to work backwards rather than forwards because the most interesting buildings are the earliest ones. The climax of the video is West Lothian's finest building and the richest in historical associations - Linlithgow Palace, the birthplace of Mary, Queen of Scots.

Having identified the buildings we wanted to feature, I then wrote to all the owners and requested permission to film. In all cases except one, we were granted permission, and received great co-operation and consideration, for which we are extremely grateful.

The very last takes (a mere two days before the video was due to be given its premiere) were of Strathbrock St Nicholas Church – a fine Norman building in Uphall. The script required a group of people to be seen entering the church for Sunday worship. At 9 am on a dull September Tuesday morning, I was required to produce a crowd of worshippers. I telephoned around and gathered three friends to the churchyard, and filming began. We walked down the path and into the church. Just do it again please. Down the path and into the church. Just once more please. A middle-aged lady walking her dog among the gravestones eyed us suspiciously. One of us approached her:

Could you spare a moment to appear in a video?
A video?
Yes, all you have to do is walk into the church with us.
But what about my dog?
We could tie it up in the church.
But I'm not dressed.
All you've got to do is walk into the church.
(Suspiciously) Is this Candid Camera?

Departure of one lady and dog. Franco Zeffirelli didn't have this trouble getting extras when he was filming 'Hamlet' at Blackness Castle - but then he had Mel Gibson.

Even a short film takes a huge number of images to fill it. As well as the sixty buildings featured, the text had to be illustrated with dozens of stills - pictures of Irish navvies, stagecoaches, a condemned prisoner, a haunted garden, Janet Gaynor and Frederic March in 'A Star is Born' (1937 version). The picture research was one aspect of the work to which I had given little thought, but which took up many hours of staff time.

Seven weeks later the video received its premiere to a generally appreciative audience. The only adverse comment was that the voice-over should have been done by a local, not by an Englishman. In fact it was done by a native of West Calder!

The video lasts sixteen minutes and covers all areas of West Lothian. It has been used to promote the local studies department and is available for free loan at all branch libraries. We have received several requests to buy a copy, but it is not for sale. The condition whereby we were granted permission to film certain buildings, was that the video should be for educational use only and not for commercial gain.

Lessons learned?

- The structure of the film, i.e. that of a journey backwards in time, seemed clear enough on paper, but is less so in the finished video. Structure should be kept very clear and simple.
- An image may be on view for as little as three or four seconds, so a huge number of images is required for even a short video.
- 3. There is no need to spell everything out in the script. If a picture paints a thousand words, why add another thousand in saying them as well?

Because of the favourable reception given to *Buildings of West Lothian*, and because of its usefulness, we have embarked on a second venture. As yet untitled, it will contrast leisure in West Lothian in Edwardian times with leisure today. Already it has expanded from a projected ten minutes to half an hour, and bids fair to do for West Lothian District Council what 'Heaven's Gate' did for United Artists - bankrupt it!

M Sybil Calderwood is Local Collection Librarian, West Lothian District Council.

This article originally appeared in LOCSCOT, Winter 1991.

Local Government Restructuring and Local Studies Collections

A note on possible changes in the structure of local government appeared in the Autumn 1991 issue of LSL. As any changes will clearly affect the organisation of local studies collections, the Group committee is anxious to hear the views of members. While the LA has already made a general response, our representative on LA Council will be happy to present a document on our particular comments to Council, and is collecting information from members. Would anyone who has comments or opinions on the effects on local studies collections of possible changes, which appear to favour unitary authorities at district or county level, please write to Paul Sturges as quickly as possible so that comments can be collated and a brief document produced: this can then be used at appropriate times. His address is: Department of Library and Information Studies, Loughborough University, Ashby Road, Loughborough, Leicestershire LE11 3TU. In addition, as the position in Scotland seems to be slightly different, LOCSCOT is already taking action, and members in this case might like to write to the secretary of LOCSCOT, Don Martin, Strathkelvin District Libraries, William Patrick Memorial Library, Kirkintilloch, G66 1DW.

Please help us to make sure that your views are represented.

The Welsh ephemera project: a progress report

Paul Drew and Michael Dewe

At the Umbrella weekend school at Leeds, Michael Dewe, of the Department of Information and Library Studies, Aberystwyth, presented a paper about a project to consider the development of a collection policy for printed Welsh ephemera. The paper, which was published in the *Local Studies Librarian*, 11 (1) Summer 1992, pp 6-11, dealt with the value of printed ephemera, the reasons for collecting such material, and collection problems, such as a usable definition, the volume of material available, and the selection and acquisition processes needed to handle it, as well as giving an outline of the project itself. The present article is to bring readers up to date on the progress of the project, of which Michael Dewe is the supervisor, and which is now at the half-way stage.

In order to advise the researchers, a steering committee has been formed. This comprises representatives from the Department of Library and Information Studies, the National Library of Wales, and the public library, record office and museum services in Wales. Together these representatives provide a range of experience and depth of knowledge to help with possible problem areas which might arise in the course of the project. The committee meets approximately quarterly under Michael Dewe's chairmanship.

The groundwork

The first year has seen the groundwork laid for the research. Visits to libraries, record offices and museums have been made in England, Scotland and Wales to gauge the extent of interest in printed ephemera, to find out if collection policies are used, and to compare acquisition and management methods for this material. The visit to the National Library of Scotland in May of this year was by far the most important, since its Department of Printed Books has had a collection policy for current printed ephemera since 1985. It also has a well thought out classification scheme with which to organise the collection.

Apart from the visits to these organisations, the other main part of the first year's research has involved preparation for a pilot study. This study, using four questionnaires (for libraries, record offices, museums, and other information organisations), has recently been completed, and gives some interesting and thought-provoking data. Although the pilot survey was fairly limited in nature (only twenty-three organisations in Aberystwyth and Mold were contacted), the exercise was useful, not least for the opportunity to test the questionnaire design, the layout of the questions, and the coding of the data received. For the main study later in the year (to cover the whole of Wales), one questionnaire will probably be used to simplify the process of analysing the results.

The response

The overall response to the pilot study was 73.9 per cent, with libraries achieving 81.8 per cent. Some of the main findings for libraries are as follows (bearing in mind the point about the small number of respondents):

- academic libraries are the least likely to have collection policies and to collect printed ephemera, with public libraries the most likely. However, only one public library has a written collection policy; this includes local studies material, but not specifically printed ephemera.
- -the main types of ephemera collected are local society material and newsletters (acquired by all three types of library), with election material the next most common. Some formats such as slips, forms and lists are not collected at all.
- the methods of acquisition include public and staff donation of material, and using local societies. Specialist outlets, second-hand bookshops and agents are not used at all, perhaps reflecting the financial constraints using such methods could involve.
- respondents were asked to specify what proportion of their holdings were in English, Welsh, bilingual (Welsh/English) or other language. All organisations have more English than Welsh material; the highest Welsh proportion for libraries being 51-75 per cent (only one library), whereas English material accounts for two libraries in the 76-100 per cent range.
- the main storage methods are acid-free boxes, vertical files and plastic wallets, of which only vertical files are used by all three types of library.
- respondents were asked if any of their material is catalogued, classified or indexed. No library catalogued their ephemera; most classified it (only one academic library not doing so); whilst only two academic libraries index their material. To classify material, most libraries employed broad subject headings, with public libraries favouring place/parish/location combined with this broad subject approach. To index material, one academic library uses the name of the originating organisation for its collection, whilst another indexes by subject (press releases are indexed separately in an 'in-house' database).
- the main uses of printed ephemera are for exhibitions, research purposes and displays, with research the only one listed by all three types of library.

Conclusion

The contacts made and visits undertaken over the past year have confirmed the belief of both the research assistant and supervisor that a collection policy is essential if printed ephemera is to be acquired and managed in an effective manner. The inherent problems faced by local studies librarians in particular, in building up and maintaining collections, need to be recognised so that appropriate action can be taken to overcome them.

The acquisition of ephemera should form an integral part of the material collected by local studies librarians. Collected in a way best suited to the local environment, printed ephemera can enhance the local studies collection and provide the user with a more informal picture of the community he or she is interested in. The research project has, as one of its main objectives, the aim of assisting librarians, curators, and archivists, concerned with the acquisition and management of current printed ephemera, to carry out this task as effectively as possible. By giving guidelines on the various aspects of acquiring and managing this difficult resource, it is hoped that a consistent, co-ordinated approach to collecting printed ephemera can be achieved, from the National Library of Wales down to local public libraries, museums and record offices.

By having a collection policy, the equitable collection of printed ephemera on a local level should be facilitated, whilst at the national level, the NLW can concentrate on acquiring material that reflects national, rather than purely local, issues. One resultant benefit for local studies departments should be the opportunity to acquire printed ephemera on a more selective basis, to ensure that a representative sample is collected, as and when it becomes available. Concentrating on identified types of material, and having guidelines to assist in making more informed decisions on the acquisition and management of printed ephemera, ensures that local studies collections become richer, more diverse sources for local people (whether researcher, historian or general public) to use and enjoy.

Paul Drew is a research assistant and Michael Dewe a lecturer in the Department of Information and Library Studies at the University College of Wales, Aberystwyth

The Dorothy McCulla Memorial Prize

This award, of £50 and a certificate, is awarded annually to the LSG 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 anyone else with a suitable nominee. Nominations should be received by the Hon. Secretary, Patrick Baird, Local Studies Department, Birmingham Central Library, Chamberlain Square, Birmingham B3 3HQ, by 31st January 1993 and may be concerned with any aspect of local studies librarianship, examples being publication, an index, a new technique or good promotions work. It is hoped that the presentation will be made by the Library Association President at the Manchester 'Umbrella' weekend.

Committee Matters

After seven years service, Elizabeth Melrose has retired as Hon. Treasurer. During her period of office her efficiency in keeping a close eye on financial affairs has left the group's finances in a healthy state. Her successor is Paul Drew, who is at present a research assistant working on the Welsh ephemera project at the Department of Information and Library Studies at Aberystwyth. From now on, please address all communications to him. Elizabeth's talents will not be lost to the Group, however, as she has been nominated as vice-chairman on the new committee. In a further change, Doug Hindmarch is to take over responsibility for LSL subscriptions and for Associate members.

LSG Committee 1993-94

The following nominations were received for the LSG Committee to serve until December 1994. As the number of nominations received did not exceed the number of vacancies, no election was necessary.

Chairman: lan Jamieson, Department of Information and Library Management, University of Northumbria at Newcastle.

Vice Chairman: Elizabeth Melrose, North Yorkshire County Library.

Hon. Secretary: Patrick Baird, Birmingham Public Libraries.

Hon. Treasurer: Paul Drew, Department of Information and Library Studies, University College of Wales, Aberystwyth.

Assistant Hon. Treasurer: Doug Hindmarch, Sheffield Public Library.

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

Members:

Sheila Cooke, Nottinghamshire County Library.
Jane Dansie, Essex County Library.
Diana Dixon, Department of Library and Information Studies.
Loughborough University.
Ian Maxted, Devon County Library.
Philippa Stevens, Hampshire County Library.

A list of Branch representatives will appear in the next issue of LSL.

As can be seen from the foregoing list, the Group has committee members in most parts of the country. If you have any ideas or suggestions for meetings etc - or indeed anything that you wish to bring to the attention of the Committee - please do not hesitate to contact your nearest committee member or the Hon. Secretary.

Notes and News

Due to appear early in the New Year is the latest publication from the Department of Information and Library Management at the University of Northumbria at Newcastle which may be of interest to readers. The author, Patricia Sharkey, spent over a year collecting the data for her North East Oral History Directory. It provides a detailed synopsis of the holdings of local tapes, cassettes and videos at all the major record offices, libraries, museums and resource centres, etc, in Northumberland, Durham and Tyne and Wear. In all over 2000 items are noted from 28 institutions. The expected price of this publication will be approximately £12.50 and enquiries should be addressed to J C Day, Department of Information and Library Management, Lipman Building, University of Northumbria, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 8ST.

Michael Dewe, chairman of the Welsh Branch of LSG, recently spent three weeks in Australia. visiting libraries and attending the Australian Library and Information Association biennial conference, at which he gave a paper on collection policies for ephemera. One of the main aims of his visit was to look at developments in Australian librarianship relating particularly to local studies, and an article about his visit will appear in the next issue of LSL.

Readers might like to note, for onward transmission to enquirers, that Local History Magazine offers a fixed price 'History into Print' service, with standard prices for specific numbers of pages, and including in the price advertising in the magazine and artwork for a promotional leaflet. An information pack is available from Susan and Robert Howard, Local History, 3, Devonshire Promenade, Lenton, Nottingham NG7 2DS.

The latest Annual Report from Gloucestershire County Libraries makes acknowledgement to the voluntary helpers who provide assistance with the indexing of local history material, and notes particularly the efforts of a team of nine volunteers who have produced a place name index to the microfilm of the 1891 Census returns. Mention is also made in the Report of meetings in local libraries at which local people talked about their reminiscences of the community: the information gathered is to be used in exhibitions in libraries and at the Gloucester Folk Museum.

Have you seen? Some recent items of interest to local studies librarians

Harvey, R. Genealogy for librarians. 2 ed LAPL 1992. 194pp. £27.50 (LA members £22.00) ISBN 0 85157 408 4.

It is when one looks at this new edition that one realises just how much interest there is in family history today, to judge from the number of new and revised works included - the bibliography runs to twenty eight pages. The early chapters, which include information on introductory, ancillary and printed secondary sources, include particularly large numbers of changes and updates of information, while the opportunity is taken throughout the work to add topics, such as divorce and adoption, which were not covered in the previous edition. The sources discussed are now brought together in the bibliography rather than cited in full in the text, which makes for easier reference.

Gibson, J. Bishops transcripts and marriage licences, bonds and allegations: a guide to their location and indexes. 3 ed 1991. 40pp. £2.00. ISBN 1872904 25 2. Holding, N. World War 1 army ancestry. 2 ed 1991. 72pp. £3.95. ISBN 1872904 16 3. Wilson, E. The records of the Royal Air Force: how to find the few. 1991. 66pp. £3.95. ISBN 1872904 17 1. Raymond, S. and Gibson J. English genealogy: an introductory bibliography. 2 ed 1991. £2.00. ISBN 1872904 19 8. Raymond, S. Genealogical periodicals: a bibliography of their contents. 2 vols. 1991. Vol. 183pp. £5.00. ISBN 1872904 20 1. Vol. 2. 40pp. £3.00. ISBN 1872904 23 6. Raymond, S. Dorset: a genealogical bibliography. 113pp. £6.00. ISBN 1872904 21 X. Raymond, S. Somerset: a genealogical bibliography. 107pp. £6.00. ISBN 1872904 22 8. All published by the Federation of Family History Societies.

FFHS continues to issue a wide range of works of great value to family historians and others, whether they be beginners or experts. Among the current selection are two parts of an ambitious programme to produce a genealogical bibliography for each individual county. These are laid out to a standard pattern, and are backed up by a general introductory work intended to provide information on the most useful general works for genealogists researching in all parts of England: the latter includes a section on local history, with a note on the necessity of studying local history to put family history in context. The selective indexes of genealogical periodicals are again part of a series intended to make available information from older works in the field. The works relating to the army and air force both cover subjects on which information can be difficult to trace. Gibson's guide to bishop's transcripts is the latest edition of an established work.

Cox, M. ed. Exploring Scottish history: a directory of resource centres for Scottish national and local history in Scotland. Scottish Library Association and Scottish Local History Forum, 1992. 161pp. £6.95. ISBN 0 900469 79 8.

This is a most useful guide to resource centres in Scotland (and Berwick upon Tweed) with collections of interest to local historians. Included are libraries, archives, museums and local history societies. 238 collections are identified.

and the information provided covers both the general scope of each collection and lists of the main primary sources held. In addition, opening hours and details of access are given. Because it is a co-operative venture - of the Scottish LA, the Scottish Local History Forum, the Scottish Records Association and the Scottish Museums Federation, the range of organisations listed is wide, from the National Library of Scotland, the Scottish Record Office and the Mitchell Library to such bodies as the Dumfries and Galloway Family History Society and the Sunart Archive, Ardnamurchan.

The entries are well organised and there is an index to places. The introductory section includes notes on the collaborating organisations, the National Register of Archives (Scotland) and on copyright law. While collections outside Scotland are excluded, this is otherwise a comprehensive guide to potential sources for the Scottish local historian.

Linkman, A. Caring for your family photographs at home. Documentary Photography Archive, 1991. 18pp. £3.75 plus £0.50 p&p from the Archive, c/o Cavendish Building, Cavendish Street, Manchester M15 6BG.

A most useful and attractively produced booklet on basic conservation of photographs. A great deal of information is concisely provided and will be useful, for instance, as basic instruction for library staff involved with handling photographs, as well as to the individuals to whom it is addressed. Sections include handling, the storage environment, and storage materials and methods, as well as notes on framing and display and on the importance of recording information about each photograph. There is a short reading list and a list of useful addresses. Librarians may care to note that copies are offered to libraries at one-third discount for sale to the public.

Reilly, L. Family history in Greenwich: a guide to sources. Greenwich Libraries. 1991. 14pp. £1.00 from Greenwich Local History Library. Woodlands, 90, Mycenae Road, London SE3 7SE. ISBN 0 904399 10 9.

An outline, logically arranged, of sources relating to the Greenwich area which are likely to be of use to family historians. A brief introduction points out the problems of searching and the need for persistence and good luck, and this is followed by brief lists of books on techniques and of guides to sources. The rest of the pamphlet is devoted to a range of relevant material including parish registers, census returns and poll books, giving locations in a wide range of institutions.

Wilkes, M. The Scot and his maps, Scottish Library Association, 1991. 48pp. $\pounds 4.50$. ISBN 0-900469-81 X.

A beautifully presented introduction to various types of maps, of interest to people far outside Scotland. It is arranged basically by theme, covering for instance coastal charts, communications and the development of town and city maps. Apart from the text, the book contains a large number of reproductions

of relevant maps from the collection of the National Library of Scotland. The book's A4 size makes it possible to provide good-sized illustrations. It is noted that the SLA received a grant from the Scottish Arts Council towards publication.

Tameside bibliography. Tameside Leisure Services, Libraries and Heritage Division, 1992. 77pp. £4.95 plus £1.40 p&p from the Local Studies Library, Trinity Street, Stalybridge, SK15 2BN.

This is an example of a straightforward listing of material held in the local collection at Stalybridge which is likely to be of interest to school students and local history researchers. It could also be useful to teachers looking for subjects for projects, being arranged by subject. It includes books, pamphlets and periodical articles, with occasional short annotations, and there is an index. Compiled by the staff of the local studies library, it is a revised and much enlarged version of a work first issued in 1986. As a workaday listing, it has been very simply reproduced and each topic is paginated separately, presumably so that individual subject lists can be supplied to enquirers or updated separately.

Glenday, D. Anderston as it was. Glasgow City Libraries, 1992. 67pp. £4.99. ISBN 0 906169 37 2.

Hart, V, Knight, R and Marshall, L. Camden Town, 1791-1991: a pictorial record. London Borough of Camden Leisure Services, 1991. 48pp. £4,50 plus £1,25 p&p. ISBN 0 901389 70 6.

Two interesting collections of photographs. That for Anderston owes its origin to an exhibition of photographs mounted by Glasgow City Libraries in 1991. while that for Camden Town was produced as part of the area's bicentenary celebrations. The Anderston illustrations cover the period from the beginnings of this part of Glasgow to about 1960, after which the area was extensively redeveloped. The captions are much fuller than is often the case with books like this, and acknowledgement is made to the many local people who helped by providing photographs or tape recording memories. The quality of reproduction is generally good, though some of the photographs are rather small, and the maps have not reproduced well. This is a useful compilation dealing with an area which has now largely disappeared and will be of much interest to future local historians. The Camden Town booklet is very well produced, the A4 size allowing larger illustrations than Anderston, though the captions are shorter. There are 75 items in all, attempting to illustrate some of the changes since Lord Camden first began building and which are continuing today. Some of the pictures, such as that of a Cypriot woman doing 'outwork' at home, will provide useful social evidence for the future.

There is an introduction tracing the history of the area. The librarian reports that 900 copies of *Camden Town* were sold in five weeks.

Donaldson, I. East Lothian gravestones. East Lothian District Library, 1991. 72pp. £8.95 plus £1.00 p&p from the Community Services Librarian, Library Headquarters, Lodge Street, Haddington, EH41 3DX.

This volume is intended as a visitors guide to the tombstone art of East Lothian. The author is obviously an enthusiast and, after a historical introduction, chapters deal with specific types of emblem used, for instance 'Sowers and Reapers' and 'Angels and Deaths Heads'. It is very well illustrated, though the keying system from the gazetteer and index is neither clear nor explained. A fascinating book, well designed and illustrated, but suffering from some production errors. Surprisingly, there is no ISBN.

Jamieson, I. Local Studies. In British librarianship and information work, 1986-1990. Vol 1, LAPL, 1992, pp117-131.

A survey of developments in local studies librarianship over the period, continuing similar surveys in previous editions of BLIW. There is an 83 item bibliography.

Spittal, J. From Beowulf to the University of York computer: the historiography of local history, Local History Magazine, 33, March/April 1992, pp 14-17: 34, June/July 1992, pp 14-18.

A useful outline of the development of local history studies, ending with the York University bibliographical project, now unfortunately in abeyance. Since the article was written, other computer based systems, such as those developed at Hull University, have come into existence.

Godfrey, A. An invitation to explore: ten years of the Godfrey maps. Local History Magazine, 33, March/April 1992, pp 10-13.

Briefly describes the origins and development of the series, which now numbers over 550 sheets, with a description of present progress and future plans. The article also gives Alan Godfrey's personal views on the nature and importance of local history.



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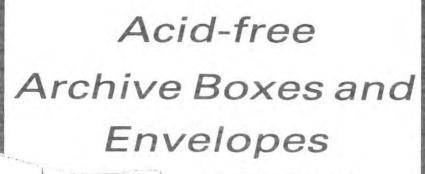


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