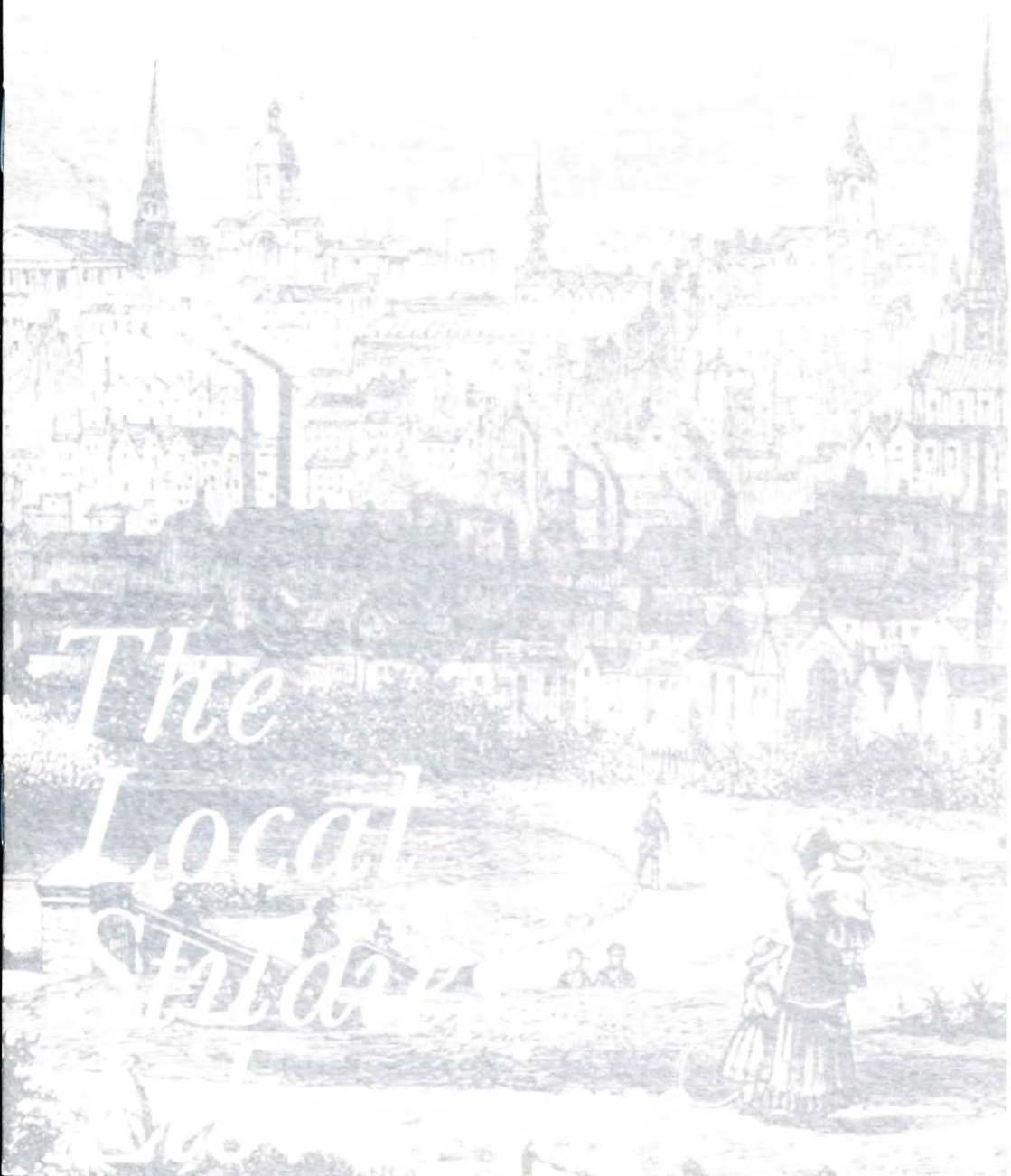


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A stylized umbrella logo with a single drop falling from its handle, positioned behind the word 'Umbrella'.

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EDITORIAL

As we celebrate our 25th year, we can clearly see that we are a well-established part of the library scene. We are consulted by others about our subject, we have several highly respected librarians actively involved in our work, and we have recently issued a *Bibliography of Local Studies Librarianship* and also a new edition of our *Guidelines* for local studies librarians. Our Sub-Groups are active in promoting local studies in their areas and *The Local Studies Librarian* continues to keep people in touch with events by including, for instance, summary reports of talks at Day Schools so that readers can make further enquiries of the sub-group or speakers – particularly important where sub-groups would not be viable.

One of the more visible things we do is to present the Dorothy McCulla Memorial Prize to an outstanding local studies librarian. But this award can only be made if people are nominated – and that is up to **you** – it is not just the prerogative of the Chief Librarian. Anyone is welcome to nominate someone they feel is doing outstanding innovative work. Contact Diana Dixon, our Hon. Secretary, for further details.

LSG, then, works at a local level within Britain, but we have, as you will have read in *LSL*, various overseas contacts: while we may be local, we cannot be parochial, and we have had a chance to see what other people do through the IFLA Annual Conference, held this year in Glasgow. We include two reports from LSG members: these may seem long, but they give the authors' views of the proceedings: while there is some overlap in the sessions attended, different things are sometimes extracted from them, so the two complement each other nicely. You can see from these, too, that local studies librarianship is practised all over the world and that new ideas come from many places.

IFLA sets the international scene, with its annual meetings in different countries. In the UK we have Umbrella, and in 2003 this will once again be in Manchester. CILIP has tried long and hard to find another suitable venue, but all of those looked at so far have been unsuitable either because of lack of accommodation in the right place, lack of sufficient meeting rooms, or lack of enough exhibition space. Wherever it is held, though, it is a chance to meet people and network as well as hear the leaders of the profession. Ask your Training Officer about it. There is a note about LSG participation elsewhere in this issue.

With the New Year comes the time to pay your annual subscription, to CILIP for the first time. We hope that everyone will do so, and also renew their membership of the Local Studies Group. The Committee works hard behind the scenes to represent your interests: the more members we have the more effectively they can do so, and the more likely we are to be able to establish other sub-groups. We look forward to sending *The Local Studies Librarian* to you again in 2003!

IFLA GLASGOW 2002

The 68th IFLA (International Federation of Library Associations) General Conference and Council took place in Glasgow's Scottish Exhibition and Conference Centre (SECC), 16-24 August 2002. Almost 5000 delegates from over 100 countries participated in this major international event. Under the banner "Libraries for life; democracy, delivery, diversity" the conference aimed to comply with IFLA's objectives to promote "international understanding, discussion and development in all fields of library activity and information service".

Below are two reports from LSG members; Margaret McGarry, who was sponsored by the Group, and Don Martin, who attended as a speaker, and gave a presentation on our new Guidelines.

1. Margaret McGarry, Local Studies Librarian, Motherwell Heritage Centre.

Sponsored by the CILIP Local History Group, I much appreciated the opportunity to attend my first IFLA conference. A full programme of open lectures, plenary and poster sessions, commercial stalls, library visits, social events and sightseeing tours was available for the full-time attendee. As a two-day delegate, it was imperative to make best use of time by careful selection of the open lecture sessions most relevant to the specialist field of local history. A careful perusal of the lecture programme identified the most pertinent topic-based sessions. Newspapers; geography and maps; genealogy and local history; preservation and conservation; audio-visual and multimedia formed my conference programme.

Armed with a heavy 'welcome pack', a tight schedule, and a conference suite plan, my 8.30 a.m. start meant a virtual race through the conference suite in search of the venue for my first set of lectures, the Geography and Maps lecture room. Concentrating on the map libraries of the British Isles, the session explored the history of British map libraries and how they are responding to the needs of a new information age and a new range of user groups. "Maps have all but been abandoned by the academic geographer" stated Peter Barber (British Library). Local history librarians are all too aware that historians, lifelong learners, genealogists or student nurses are more likely to require the use of our map collections than the stereotypical geography student. How do map librarians plan to serve their new clientele? The answer in most cases seems to be to improve accessibility of their map collections. Oxford University's Bodleian Library in partnership with the universities of Birmingham, Cambridge, Edinburgh, Imperial College London and Manchester are currently engaged in an RSLP (Research Support Libraries Programme) funded project to promote map research in a wide range of disciplines in the Humanities and Social Sciences. "Mapping the World" is a retrospective conversion of the consortium's individual, unstandardised card catalogues of post-1850 overseas maps. The resultant on-line map catalogue will be available to all members of CURL and to non-members on a customer basis. The Ministry of Defence are taking accessibility issues a stage further. Plans are under way to scan the entire map collection and create a digital library of over 500,000 maps. As for the British Library, a major priority is to mount on the internet, map catalogue data currently held on a very expensive, little purchased, and therefore, underused CD-Rom. A restructure of the British Library's map room envisages provision of supporting materials such as gazetteers, travel guides and photographic images. A local history library on a grand scale?

The Map and Geography session of lectures over-ran, leaving little time to reach the next venue before the introductory lecture on Preservation and Conservation: fortunately the nature of the conference allows for a little coming and going without too much raising of eyebrows. The series of lectures on National Preservation Initiatives gave me my first taste of the international flavour of the conference. The contrast between the preservation and conservation experiences of Northern Hemisphere countries and the countries of Southern

Europe could not be more stark. While Northern Europe and North America were "racing against time" deacidifying, microfilming, digitising, training and co-ordinating, Southern Europe, according to a survey carried out by Maria Luisa Cabral (Biblioteca Nacional, Lisbon), was content to adopt an interventionist, restorational approach. If national co-operation was a novel concept to Southern Europe, the same could not be said for the situation in the Netherlands. Dennis Schouten (Koninklijke Bibliotheek, the Hague) delivered an outstanding paper on the Netherlands National Preservation Programme, "Metamorfoze". Launched in 1997, *Metamorfoze* aimed to address the problem of acid paper used in manuscript and printed works between the years 1840 and 1950. The four year programme, subsidised to the value of 70 per cent by the Ministry of Education and Culture, demanded the participation of all libraries, museums, archives and institutions with a preservation function (this excluded most public libraries). Selecting all materials of Dutch origin and with national importance, produced between the years 1840 and 1950, the programme aimed to preserve over 400,000 books, 1,500 newspapers, 30,000 volumes of periodicals, 2 million manuscripts and 500 collections within a four year period. The first phase of *Metamorfoze* concluded with a high hit rate, a proven work plan and an established infrastructure of transport, storage and expertise. A second four year, government subsidised phase was embarked upon in 2001. The level of government support may be the envy, not only of Southern Europe, but also of UK national initiatives such as NEWSPLAN which rely heavily on Heritage Lottery Funding.

Expected to have a wide cross-discipline appeal, a series of lectures on the theme "Digitisation of Audiovisual and Multimedia materials for lifelong learning" was conducted in the main auditorium, complete with a team of interpreters and headsets for non-English speaking delegates. The relatively young audience was advised of a range of digitisation projects being implemented by institutions throughout Europe, Australia and the United States. The European Union's TRIS programme has seen the launch of 25 interactive, educational digitisation trials including the National Museum of Scotland's KIST project which provides an on-line tour of the treasures of the NMS from anywhere in the world. Worthy of perusal is the National Library of Australia's award winning Picture Australia, 'one-stop shop', pictorial history of Australia (www.pictureaustralia.org). For me, the highlight of this session was an account of a US museum/library collaboration "Voices of the Colorado Plateau". Enthusiastically presented by Matt Nickelson (Southern Utah University), the project aimed to explore new ways of attracting visitors to small museums and libraries with good collections in an 83,000 square mile section of the Colorado Plateau. Using the oral history and photographic collections of participating organisations, an online database was created of "great stories" narrated by the people of the Plateau themselves (www.archiv.li.suu.edu/voices). Accessible by subject, by person, by location and accompanied by appropriate images and references, the database forms a useful research tool for those studying the history of the American West. It would be interesting to learn the effect of the project on library and museum visitor figures. Perhaps it is time to look afresh at our dusty oral history cassettes of the eighties.

A new day, a new set of lectures. The focus turned once more to the domestic scene. A session on "Newspapers of the British Isles" gave an entertaining account of the history of the newspaper industries in Scotland, England and Wales. Elizabeth Melrose (North Yorkshire County Library) emphasised the wealth of historical information supplied by local newspapers in England: humour, pathos, politics, religion, the "minutiae of everyday life". Other speakers showed that if proof was needed that national identity and culture affects the development of a country's newspaper industry then it can be found in the very different experiences of Scotland and Wales. While Welsh language and even split Welsh/English newspapers proliferate in Wales, Scotland has been unable to sustain a Gaelic language or, indeed, a truly national newspaper. Geographic isolation, poverty, politics, the influence of the church, educational standards and community identity all play their part in forming the market for newspapers and in turn are reflected in newspaper content. Whatever the influences, the value of newspapers – particularly community-defining, local newspapers –

to a country's culture and heritage cannot be underestimated. It is in recognition of their cultural richness that the NEWSPLAN 2000 initiative (by now a familiar term to all local history librarians) was launched to preserve 1,700 local newspaper titles throughout the UK before the end of 2004.

Time for lunch – a sandwich, abandoned to a gang of wasps – and a chance to tour the exhibitors' stands. A huge range of organizations, including publishers, conservationists and CILIP special subject groups – including LSG – vied for my attention. With my newly acquired collection of publicity leaflets, I departed for the next lecture session considerably enlightened, but with a much weightier welcome pack over my shoulder.

Genealogical research has in recent years attained an air of respectability, claimed Patrick Cadell. From Sweden to China local history libraries, archives and family history research centres all report an upsurge in visitors searching for their roots. No longer content with a 'names and dates' family tree, the full resources of local history centres are employed in a bid to add meat to the bones. Increased demand coupled with advances in IT has seen a rush by the information world to meet local and family history user needs. Some digitisation projects discussed included the creation of an on-line union index to Scottish Archives as well as an index to Scottish wills and an on-line Old Scots handwriting course (www.scan.org.uk). Shanghai University is creating an on-line general (global) catalogue of Chinese genealogy in order to improve access to a semi-closed, but culturally significant resource. Swedish Archives (SVAR) are proposing to digitise the most well-used items in their successful inter library loan collection of microfilmed parish records. With a myriad of archives and national agencies clamouring to digitise their collections, it has been apparent for some time that researchers may no longer need to leave the comfort of their home. Remote access to archival documents has its attractions, but as Cadell points out it also has its hazards: increased expectation that all information is available at the press of a button; dubious assumptions of accuracy of data that 'fits' the family tree; dissociation from the source of the data. It is the last scenario that causes most concern. Will the ability to retrieve information at home deter, rather than promote a visit to the source agency? One thing is certain, with immediate access we sacrifice much of the fun of discovery.

My IFLA conference had come to a conclusion. As full-time delegates prepared for an evening of social events, I headed home to mull over my experience. I was left in no doubt that digitisation was going to play a huge part in the future of local studies libraries, museums and archives. Digitised catalogues and indexes will certainly provide a greater awareness of historical collections, but will the rise of 'pay per view' commercialism prove to be just another barrier to the desired improvement in accessibility?

The lasting impression I will take from the conference is of the friendliness and enthusiasm shown by delegates from all corners of the world. The relaxed atmosphere mingled with a sense of anticipation created the ambience of a sort of multi-cultural, multi-lingual university campus on Freshers week. With a distinguished array of guest lecturers from around the globe to complete the effect, it is a learning environment I can recommend to all. Berlin 2003, or perhaps Buenos Aires in 2004?

A full-text version of a selection of the above papers, presented on Tuesday 21 and Wednesday 22 August is available on the IFLA website (www.ifla.org/IV/ifla68/prog02.htm).

2. Don Martin, Reference and Information Librarian, East Dunbartonshire

The IFLA conference offered an almost unlimited choice of opportunity. It was possible to balance the parochial with the cosmopolitan, the routine with the exotic, or the banal with the ultimate in sophistication. Apart from staffing the LSG stand, I gave a paper myself and attended the Opening session and several sessions related to local studies.

The opening session was dominated by the artistry of Irish poet Seamus Heaney. Like many poets Seamus constructs his speeches in flowing, artistic prose, soaring from theme to theme like a bird in flight. I particularly liked his delight in the word 'holdings' as a term for the wonderful riches of knowledge and expression held in libraries. To gather 'holdings', he suggested, is like "making a granary out of the writer's gleanings".

Standing Committee on Genealogy and Local History

My first commitment was to the Standing Committee on Genealogy and Local History, on the morning of Saturday 17th August. I was there to deliver a short talk on the new *Local Studies Guidelines*. When I arrived, the first thing I noticed was that the men seemed to be wearing a 'standard uniform' of dark suits, spotless white shirts and large ties of subdued design, and as I was similarly attired I began to feel at home. I then realised that they were all members of the LDS Church (Mormons), there because of the church's great interest in family history/geology. Indeed, Melvyn Thatcher, the Chairman of the Standing Committee, is a member of the church, though the other officers of the group do not seem to be. The Secretary, Ruth Hedegaard, works in a Historical Museum Archive in Denmark and the Treasurer is Janice McFarlane, who was the only British person present apart from myself, is Head of Reference at the National Library of Scotland. To balance my contribution on our *Guidelines* a printed set of *Guidelines for Developing Beginning Genealogical collections and Services* from the Reference and User Services Association, USA was circulated. Although brief, this seems very useful. The Standing Committee seems as much concerned with archives as libraries, so during discussion I felt obliged to point out that Archives is a separate profession and that librarians cannot necessarily speak for archivists. Apart from giving a talk, my purpose in attending the meeting was to forge links between this IFLA Standing Committee and the CILIP Local Studies Group, and this was duly accomplished. I also had a long talk with Janice McFarlane, and we agreed to maintain links at local level, here in Scotland.

Preservation and Conservation

I next attended the session on 'Preservation and Conservation'. Here current UK national preservation initiatives were summarized by Helen Shenton of the British Library. Like several other speakers during the week she reminded us that the recommendations of Resource are intended to apply to England only, but it is hoped that other librarians/archivists/museum curators from the other home countries will find them useful too. In Preservation a great deal of work has been done by Resource in compiling Benchmarks in collection care for museums, archives and libraries. Also of the greatest importance is the National Preservation Office, which was established in 1984. Much useful information is available on the NPO website and a Synthesis of Reports on Digital Preservation has been prepared. A new Digital Preservation Coalition has been formed in 2002, with the aim of providing guidance on the preservation of documents that are only available in digital format. A handbook is available on the Internet at www.jsccmail.ac.uk/lsts/digital-preservation. At this session useful papers were also delivered on preservation initiatives in the USA and Holland. The American paper covered both 'brittle paper surveys' and preservation of digital records. The Dutch paper covered progress with their national preservation programme, begun in 1996. It dealt in detail with the strategy for selection of preservation priorities. 'Dutch origin' is an obvious priority, but there has also been a careful examination of the different levels of impurities found in paper manufactured at different periods in the past, with the object of targeting the most vulnerable. As in Britain, newspaper preservation has been placed high on the agenda. The criteria for selection of periodicals for preservation are interesting: the emphasis is on illustrated magazines with a nationwide circulation that have enjoyed a published life of 25 years or more. An extensive de-acidification programme has been part of the strategy.

Newspapers

At the 'Newspapers' session on Wednesday three out of the four speakers were Scottish – reflecting the fact that British newspaper preservation is currently managed at top level by

the Scottish diaspora. Even the paper on Local Newspapers in England was delivered by Elizabeth Melrose, Chair of Newsplan, who described herself as 'a Scottish person giving the benefit of her knowledge and experience to England'. John Lauder described the development of the NEWSPLAN 2000 project – very familiar ground to many of us. He placed heavy emphasis on the partnership with the British newspaper industry, without which the operation of NEWSPLAN would be very difficult indeed. Ian Hutchinson of Stirling University delivered a most interesting commentary on Scottish newspaper reading habits and the influence of newspapers on Scottish life and politics. He pointed out that Scots have always been more avid newspaper readers than people elsewhere in the UK (which he proved by the use of statistics). I would have wished to contest some of his other conclusions, but felt that it was not appropriate to indulge in parochial Scottish matters at an international conference. Elizabeth Melrose provided a very interesting overview of the history of local newspapers in England: apparently news sheets flourished during the Civil War, but the first local newspaper as such was not published until 1702, in Bristol. The final speaker at this session, Aled Jones of the University of Wales, provided information on the difficulties of maintaining a publishing balance between English language and Welsh language newspapers in the Principality.

Genealogy and Local History

The afternoon session on Wednesday, on 'Genealogy and Local History', included papers by successive Keepers of the Records of Scotland, Patrick Cadell and George Mackenzie, and there were contributions also from Wales, Sweden and China. The session was presided over by Melvyn Thatcher, chair of the Genealogy and Local History Standing Committee. Patrick Cadell, in the keynote contribution, addressed the topic 'Genealogy and Local History Services: past present and future', but talked mostly about genealogy – for instance he played glowing tribute to the work of the Mormon church and the work they have done in making genealogical information more readily available world-wide.

He welcomed the trend that now led genealogists and family historians to investigate life events in the past rather than just 'foliage on the branches of the family tree.' He told of his disapproval of those archivists who apparently 'do not like family history'. He welcomes trends towards digitization of archives which he saw as the modern equivalent of publishing records. He believes that because of all this researchers in future will be able to do the bulk of their work at home on their own PCs. He has mixed feelings about this but believes that it will lighten pressures on archivists and librarians. His final message was that archivists *must not* question a researcher's motives, and that family historians should always be regarded as valid researchers. George Mackenzie provided an overview of the development of SCAN (the Scottish Archives Network) which I found most useful. He sees it as a 'Virtual Archive' (the equivalent of access to an archivist), Margareta Bovin described the work of SVAR, the National Archives Conference and Research Centre at Ramsele, Sweden. This institution provides a really comprehensive range of services to researchers. As well as acting as an archive and reference library (with fee-based help for visitors provided by resident research assistants) it offers a postal lending service (especially of genealogical microfiche), an extremely popular sales service (including the sale of microfiche and learning packages), and conference facilities. It also offers certifications for study circle leaders in genealogy (2 levels) and village history. Genealogists and family historians are deliberately targeted as the principal user group for SVAR services. Although it seemed unlikely that the speaker on the *General Catalogue of Chinese Genealogy*, Gu Yan, would offer much of relevance to Scotland, in fact she provided a most fascinating talk. It appears that in China printed genealogies are regarded as an art form, and families take great pride in publishing elaborate descriptions of their origins and development, beautifully illustrated with woodcuts, engravings and other illustrations. Shanghai Library has about 14,000 of these publications in a special collection. Modern versions are published as CD Roms. The paper seemed to me to be a rebuttal of those libraries – and there are many – who refuse to accept privately published family histories for stock, even if offered free of charge. During the discussion which followed I felt humbled when my local question to George Mackenzie was followed by

another to the same speaker from an African delegate who wanted advice on protecting her archives from terrorist attack.

Local Studies Group Display

As Representative of the CILIP Local Studies Group I had responsibility for preparing and staffing the stand throughout the week. Although I had help with the staffing I spent some considerable time on the stand itself, and spoke to many interesting visitors. African delegates, in particular, seemed interested in the concept of Local Studies because of their commitment to cultural matters. Great interest was expressed in our recently published *Local Studies Guidelines*, although it was frustrating that we did not have any copies available for sale.

The Exhibition

I had little time left to browse round the exhibition, but nevertheless I made some interesting contacts. I spent some time at the OCLC stand discussing the latest developments in CORC (now known simply as 'Resource Cataloguing', as part of their *Connexion* promotion). I also spoke to a representative of the Democracy and Local History Centers of Austin, Texas, which embrace a 'philosophy of community support and celebration'; local history there is regarded as an important vehicle for outreach services to communities. I spoke to several representatives of firms selling digitization equipment; it seems that the going rate for a quality film scanner is £60,000!

Conclusion

For broadening perspectives of modern librarianship the annual IFLA Conference is a unique event. I am very pleased to have had the opportunity of attending, even if only once in a lifetime.

CRAGSIDE, NORTHUMBERLAND: CATALOGUING THE BOOKS

Julie and Malcolm Watson

It was completely by chance that we, as retired professionally qualified librarians, became involved with Cragside as volunteers for the National Trust, though we had visited the house many times. At a lunch at Kirkley Hall College, where he was Chairman of the Friends, Malcolm found himself sitting next to the then Northumbria Regional Director of the National Trust, Tiffany Hunt, who suggested that as a bibliographer and a cataloguer respectively we might be interested in recording the books at Cragside. This led to a discussion with Hugh Dixon, the Regional Historic Buildings Representative and in 1997 we embarked on the task, armed only with 5 in. x 3 in. catalogue cards and some odd loose drawers discarded by North East England Guides.

It is intended that at some time in the future the National Trust will have a computerised union catalogue of the holdings of its libraries of the various properties and that entries will be standardised. At Cragside we had to devise our own format which was kept as simple as possible and which would enable entries to be suitable for a union catalogue when the occasion arose. In 1999 the Trust appointed a Libraries Adviser, Mark Purcell, who fortunately approved of our efforts and who has since become both guide and friend.

Cragside, situated near Rothbury in Northumberland, is not a great English country house in the accepted tradition – it was the country home of a wealthy, very

successful, Victorian industrialist, William George Armstrong, 1st Baron Armstrong (1810-1900), who formed an engineering firm on Tyneside in 1847. The firm later became involved in the production of armaments and warships.

The house was originally built for Lord Armstrong by an unknown architect between 1863 and 1866 but was improved and extended by London architect Richard Norman Shaw between 1870 and 1885. Alterations and additions continued well into the 1890s. Lord Armstrong's engineering skills are reflected in the many innovations in both house and grounds driven by a hydraulic system – Cragside was the first house in the world to possess a hydro-electric lighting scheme. The grounds at Cragside belonging to the Trust extend to about 1,000 acres – the rocky slopes with the Debdon Burn running between were planted with a variety of conifers and acid-loving shrubs under Lord Armstrong's direction and Cragside's rhododendrons and azaleas are a splendid sight in May/early June each year. There is also a formal terraced garden, acquired by the Trust in 1991, which is gradually being restored. The remainder of the original estate remains in the hands of the Armstrong family, although the title is now extinct.

The date of the house and the nature of its creator preclude the existence of a great library full of bibliographical treasures. There is a room which is called the Library, which is where we began our task, but this is more of a comfortable living room and its low bookshelves contain, for example, sets of Trollope and Bulwer Lytton, some early books and examples of fine bindings and illustrated books. The Library houses roughly one fifth of the books in the house which number 4542, apart from those in store.

Two other main rooms on the ground floor also contain books. In the Study, originally Lady Armstrong's sitting room, we found books relating to estate management, agriculture and natural history, whilst the Japanese Room (so called because of the 19th century prints on the walls) has the largest collection of books in the house and here the subjects range through fiction and religion to local government committee minutes and naval history. Most of the bedrooms contain a small collection of books, mainly light reading or religion, with most of the books upstairs to be found in the Morning Room where English literature predominates.

For those who have worked in libraries and are used to a systematic arrangement on the shelves, the books at Cragside are something of a culture shock. The arrangement on the shelves is for the most part completely and utterly haphazard – in the Japanese Room, John Chancellor's *How to be happy in Paris without being ruined!* stands next to a fine late Victorian edition of Milton's *L'Allegro*.

We must also assume that the books belong to the house and that they appear on the shelves more or less as the occupants of the house have left them. We must, however, also remember that when the National Trust took over the house in 1977, some books must have gone to Bamburgh Castle (which had been purchased by Lord Armstrong in 1894 after the death of his wife) with the last Lady Armstrong (Maria Teresa "Mariella", 1916-1999, widow of Henry Cecil John Watson-Armstrong, 3rd Baron Armstrong of the second creation, 1919-1987) and gaps on the shelves may have been filled with alien material.

The book collection at Cragside consists of a handful of early books but mainly contains printed books of the Victorian period and twentieth century books collected by Lord Armstrong's successors. If we have failed to find bibliographical treasures, our reward has been a greater understanding of the life and times of those who have lived there. It is regrettable that we have found so few books reflecting the interests of the 1st Lord Armstrong – we can only surmise that Bamburgh apart, his main scientific collection of books was either left in the offices of his Elswick Works or perhaps gifted to some local institution(s). It is also sad and perhaps surprising that the books on local history number so few – perhaps these too now survive at Bamburgh. The interests of Lord Armstrong's wife, Margaret (1807-1893), who helped to lay out the gardens of Cragside, may be reflected in the gardening books which remain.

Lord Armstrong was succeeded by his great nephew, William Henry Fitzpatrick-Armstrong, 1st Lord Armstrong of the second creation (1863-1941), who won prizes at agricultural college, was interested in the arts, served on various local committees and with his musical first wife, Winifreda (1806-1914), brought up a son and daughter (we presume that the earlier children's books in the house including Bertha and Florence Upton's "Golliwogg" books belonged to them). The daughter, Winifred Margaret Watson-Armstrong, sadly died in 1912 aged 18. William John Montague Watson-Armstrong (1892-1972), 2nd Lord Armstrong of the 2nd creation and his family appear to have travelled widely and enjoyably judging from the many travel and guide books which remain.

Turn of the century interests (i.e. late 19th/early 20th century) are reflected at Cragside by the number of books devoted to Darwinianism, spiritualism, theosophy etc., along with books on the European situation leading to the Great War and the war itself. Vast quantities of fiction, including novels for the Housekeeper and the servants (early 20th century and kept downstairs in what is now called the Committee Room) remain at Cragside. Perhaps this reflects the local weather, Cragside's rural location, or perhaps just the fact that radio and television had not yet developed but maybe it is also paralleled by the absence of craft books (we have only discovered one, on basket making) and books on household management, including cookery. One wonders if the novels were ordered from catalogues, since while very few are first editions, many are reprints published in the same year. The reading of novels continued to be a favourite pastime of the families at Cragside although romantic fiction appears to give way to detective novels in the nineteen forties and fifties.

We have no library aids at Cragside – all that we found on arrival were a very old card file of the books in the Library and a large loose-leaf ring binder compiled by a previous Housekeeper using the spines of the books as they stood on the shelves. This ring binder we have checked as we have moved from room to room adding a broad subject heading to each title. When the season ends and the house is put to bed for the winter, we take the queries we have amassed and spend our "Cragside time" in the Robinson Library of the University of Newcastle using the British Museum Catalogue of Printed Books as an authority file.

Our queries arise mainly from lack of information about headings and dates. Many turn of the century authors, many of them female, used pseudonyms (our favourite

is The Gentleman with a duster, i.e. Edward Harold Begbie!). Many English publishers - the majority of Cragside books are English - were coy about revealing dates (a good example is the Walter Scott Publishing Company) and many persons with titles needed to be identified. We have tried to take a commonsense approach and the convolutions of the British Museum Catalogue have not always been followed - Thomas a Kempis will be found under Thomas, as in the NUC, not under Haemmerlein. The National Trust union catalogue compilers of the future will need to supply both references and added entries, since ours is a one book, one card system as was agreed at the outset. Each volume has been given a fixed location and this season a team of volunteers led by a retired librarian has dusted the collection and maintained its order.

In addition to essential information such as the author, title, publisher, date, etc., we have included notes on each catalogue card as appropriate. Illustrators considered important, fine bindings and limited editions have all been noted, along with dedications, ownership bookplates (the vast majority of these are those of Winifreda, first wife of William Henry Fitzpatrick Watson-Armstrong) and information about previous locations.

We have come across one or two quirks for the unwary cataloguer, mainly involving binding which is a strange feature of the Cragside collection, where very ordinary books have been given expensive bindings - a good example of this is to be found in the bookcase on the upper landing. In the Study, though dates on the spines of some volumes of the Connoisseur are correct, volume numbers bear no relations to the contents which are merely selected articles and can only be recorded as "incomplete". In the Japanese Room, Acts of Parliament relating to Blyth Harbour have been bound together but not in chronological order - the mind boggles! These are but minor details and on the whole, the recording of the books has been straightforward.

In the summer of 2001, Mark Purcell visited the Northumbria Region. His collation at Cragside, with which we helped, revealed two books recorded by Wing and two listed in the ESTC. In addition that summer we were asked to divert from books at Cragside for a few weeks to sort out two heaps of sheet music plus some bound volumes of music and song books which belonged to the house. This gave us the opportunity to work in the Drawing Room, the grandest room in the house with its enormous marble fireplace, and one of the pleasantest. The bound volumes were fully catalogued as before but the sheet music was sorted by instrument revealing piano music mainly belonging to Winifreda, piano and violin music along with tutors, perhaps for Will and Winnie, her children and quantities of vocal music, both solo and part songs, in English and other languages (German, French, Italian and even Russian) along with scores from post Great War musical comedies. This was briefly listed. Various odd items included parts for a military band quick march and a home-made cardboard programme listing music to be played for dancing, unfortunately undated but which possibly took place at Cragside, perhaps as family entertainment.

We have now finished the cataloguing of the books in those parts of the house open to the public and are to be found, usually on Mondays (this is the most convenient

day for us to work since the house is closed to the public on that day), almost at the top of the central tower in what was a maid's bedroom, now set aside for the preservation of the remaining bookstock. Here we have separated fiction from non-fiction, arranging the former alphabetically and separating the non-fiction into very broad categories, the result mirroring the subject areas which we had noted in the books in the public rooms. This will certainly occupy us for the rest of the season and with queries to sort out probably well into the next.

Finally, we must pay tribute to the National Trust staff both at Cragside and at the Northumbria Regional Headquarters at Scots' Gap. Throughout our time at Cragside we have been very fortunate in finding the House staff both friendly and co-operative – they have accepted us, borne with our requests and made us feel welcome. The Property Manager and his secretary have also been most helpful to us, whilst Hugh Dixon and his assistant, Pamela Wallhead, at Scots' Gap have always been there to guide us or give any advice or permission which we have needed.

Julie Watson was previously Reference Cataloguer for Newcastle City Libraries, then a cataloguer for Newcastle upon Tyne Polytechnic (now Northumbria University). Malcolm Watson was previously Head of Department of Information and Library Management, Newcastle upon Tyne Polytechnic (now Northumbria University).

BLACK HISTORY AND LOCAL STUDIES

Terry Bracher

Until recently, Black* peoples contribution to society in Britain past and present has been marginalised by those who write and teach history, and by Librarians, Archivists and other information professionals who collect and make accessible our written and pictorial heritage. Yet Black people have been present in Britain since Roman times. Moorish soldiers, originally raised in North Africa, were stationed in Britain in the third century AD. There is written and pictorial evidence of Black people in the Royal Courts in the medieval and Tudor periods. There was also a significant Black population during the reign of Queen Elizabeth I. By the eighteenth century they numbered around 20,000 in London. These patterns are also mirrored around the country, including the county of Northamptonshire: this article is written with special reference to the Northamptonshire Black History Project.

Our research in Northamptonshire, as with others around the United Kingdom, has demonstrated that rural and urban communities have never been homogenous, but constantly evolving. Therefore, as Local Studies Librarians and Archivists we should be attempting to ensure that all of our diverse communities, both past and present, are reflected in our collections. Of course, the fact that there have always been Black people within our communities does not mean that those groups and individuals within the present Black communities should automatically be interested in learning about Black History. However, just like anyone else, it is more likely that any minority or socially excluded group will want to visit and use our collections if there is something they can relate to. The work that has been undertaken in

Northamptonshire has demonstrated this. It is also just possible that some young black people can be inspired to follow careers in Local Studies Librarianship or Archive Management, where there are traditionally few practitioners from minority groups.

The rest of this paper will demonstrate the ways in which Librarians and Archivists can identify, collect and promote sources for local Black History that are most likely contained within their collections, and connect with the present Black communities.

Sources for Black History

The earliest recorded Black presence in Northamptonshire discovered so far is contained within the Pipe Rolls of 1205, which refers to "Peter the Saracen" a crossbow maker in Northampton. While it is always worth looking at such records, most written and pictorial evidence will date from the sixteenth century to the present. Although much of the evidence comes to light through serendipity, there are certain categories of historical material that will usually contain references to a Black presence.

Some Librarians and Archivists who have collections covering large rural areas may feel that they are unlikely to find evidence of an early Black presence. However, where there are large country houses there is almost certainly to be found black servants/slaves. Like the rest of Britain, Northamptonshire's economy was intertwined with the slave trade. Many large families enhanced their wealth through the slave trade and also brought Black people to the county as slaves/servants, such as Caesar Shaw at Althorp, Caesar Parisetti at Upton Hall and Black Charles at Boughton House, who were illustrated in family portraits and particularly fashionable in the eighteenth century. Such portraits will provide a good starting point for research. It also follows that references will be found in wills, personal correspondence, depositions and estate records. For example, the notable writer, composer, grocer and former servant Ignatius Sancho is recorded in the records for the Brudenell family (Earl of Cardigan, Duke of Montagu) at Deene Park, Northamptonshire. Slave owning families can often be tracked through the registers of compensation of slave owners (PRO) and calendars of government papers e.g America & West Indies and Plantations.

There are also numerous entries for Black people in parish records, particularly for baptisms and burials (and, therefore, gravestones), the incumbent often making a point of noting that an individual was Black, perhaps for clarity with regard to settlement under the poor laws. The fashion for giving slaves classical names such as Scipio or Caesar also helps identification. For example, the registers for Blatherwyck, Northamptonshire, shows a baptism of "William Scipio, Mrs O'Brian's Black". Other parish records such as churchwardens and constable's accounts also provide a wealth of information. Indeed, most official documents such as militia lists, school log books, Quarter Sessions and Poor Law records will contain references to a Black presence. The Pytchley school log book for 1869 notes "A black boy from Africa", while the 1777 militia in Warkworth, also in Northamptonshire, included "Henry Gordon, Black".

Like other counties, there were also some notable visitors to Northamptonshire such as the Native American Mohegan preacher Sampson Occom, John Anderson the fugitive slave, the Black actor Ira Aldridge, The African-American Fisk Jubilee Singers, an Hawaiian princess, several African kings, some Indian leaders and Susi & Chuma, the former servants of David Livingstone. Information can usually be found through sources like theatre playbills, biographical and autobiographical works and, perhaps most importantly, newspapers. By the late nineteenth and twentieth centuries photographs become an important source. In addition to some of the individuals already noted here, a sizeable collection within Northamptonshire Central library also includes photographs of soldiers and sportsmen such as Walter Tull, an early Black professional footballer who played for Northampton Town, and Black American GI's during World War II; entertainers, doctors and politicians.

Simple Strategies for recording and promoting Black History

Attempting to record and promote Black History can appear to be an overwhelming task. Librarians and Archivists have many constraints on their time, but there are simple ways to begin. First you can limit any research to sources likely to contain references e.g. Newspapers during the movement to abolish slavery, tours by visitors/entertainers, and estate papers of slave owning/trading families. Also it is worth talking to Local History and Family History Groups and other researchers who systematically look through records such as parish registers. They will be delighted to provide you with examples they have found during their research. Therefore why not also provide a logbook for researchers to note any finds. Make use of and link to Black History websites to stimulate research and discussion, and subscribe to groups such as the Black & Asian Studies Association, where there is an active forum and a newsletter providing latest information on research around the country.

To move beyond these simple strategies, you only need one good example to start a project. The gravestone of Charles Bacchus in Culworth, Northamptonshire, led to an educational project with a writer in residence and a local school, and it also helped provide a stimulus for the creation of a Northamptonshire Black History Group. If you are unable to create an exhibition or other projects on Black History, ensure the exhibitions and promotions you do have include some representation of the Black presence and encourage teachers to use examples in their work with children.

Having used these strategies, one should not expect individuals and groups from the Black community to simply come through your door. Much work will still need to be undertaken through outreach activities. If you do not have easy access to the communities, contact local Racial Equality Councils or similar organizations to establish links with community groups and individuals. Visit them, especially at places of worship or community centres, and invite communities to visit the library or record office. Above all, it is important to build up trust within the Black community. Too many times the perception of the Black community has been that official organisations see their work with them as a "tick-box" exercise. In particular, they are targeted during Black History Month, but forgotten thereafter. While this national event provides a useful focus for some initial activities, it is important to try to look beyond it.

Nationally there are many interesting projects beginning to emerge. For example, the Archive and Museum of Black Heritage based in Brixton, London, is a Heritage Lottery Fund pilot project to provide a national focus for materials relating to Black History in Britain, while the Caribbean Studies Black & Asian History project (CASBAH) based at the Institute of Commonwealth Studies has been a research demonstration project aimed at mapping resources around the UK. There are also local projects such as the Millennibrum and BE-ME projects in Birmingham and Wolverhampton respectively, and others that in some way are giving a voice to the Black communities around the country.

The Northamptonshire Black History Project

In Northamptonshire we are fortunate to have some solid foundations on which to build a project based upon the work of the Northamptonshire Black History Group, which was formed 1992 and an individual local researcher, Paul Bingham. Around the same time Professor Julia Bush at University College Northampton produced some research highlighting the early Black presence, and there were also museum exhibitions and a regional TV programme. The Northamptonshire Record Office had also been involved in logging some evidence that came to light. Over the last five years, Northamptonshire Libraries & Information Service has also been committed to making its Northamptonshire Studies collections reflective of the diverse communities within the county, actively collecting information on local Black History and helping promote this through an exhibition, which also toured local schools with a Royal Theatre, Northampton, production.

In 1999 individuals and organisations came together under the Northamptonshire Black History Project and decided to look for HLF funding to take research further. In September 2001 the project was awarded £360,000 with other contributions coming from Northamptonshire County Council, Lloyds TSB and Northampton College to bring the project total to £500,000 over a period of three years. Wellingborough Racial Equality Council agreed to be the lead agency and other partners include Northamptonshire Libraries & Information Service, Northamptonshire Record Office, University College Northampton, LEA Advisory Services, community organizations and individuals. Most importantly, the project is built on genuine partnerships with local communities.

The aims of the project are as follows:

- map existing research and resources on Black History in Northamptonshire
- conduct new research
- collect archives of current community organisations and individuals (deposited at the NRO)
- help train community groups to organise archives (especially if they do not feel able to deposit their records)
- collect oral & video histories of community pioneers
- create an interactive website
- involve community as volunteers e.g. as researchers and advocates
- develop IT and soft skills of volunteers and other individuals in the community
- create educational resource material (this is to be a separate project for the future)

A Project Director, Carolyn Abel, was appointed in June 2002 and the posts of Oral History Officer and Archivist/Researcher will soon be in place. The Director is responsible to a management committee made up of representatives from the participating organizations and community groups, and individuals. There will also be project officers for Oral History and Archives/Community Liaison. Consultation with the wider community also takes place on a regular basis, while individuals and group representatives from the community have also been involved in the interview process for the appointment of project officers. It is hoped that this will provide a template for similar projects around the East Midlands region.

Conclusion

It is clear that the history of Black people in Britain is gradually receiving the attention it deserves. Local Studies libraries and Record Offices can and should play a key role in collecting, disseminating and promoting resources for Black History, especially if we are to create services that are socially inclusive and ensure that our collections reflect our diverse communities. Above all, as demonstrated by the Northamptonshire Black History Project, much can be achieved from a small beginning if we can build genuine partnerships with the community and, most importantly, TRUST!

Terry Bracher is Local Studies Librarian, Northamptonshire Libraries & Information Service

* Black is defined in the context of the Northamptonshire Black History Project as any individual or group who defines their identity by reference to visibility vis-à-vis the effects of racism. It includes people and groups from visible minority communities, especially those with African and/or Asian origins.

LOCAL STUDIES AND SOCIAL INCLUSION: THE MIDLANDS AND ANGLIA DAY SCHOOL SEPTEMBER 2002

Gwenda Culkin and Ruth Gordon

What a day! Fifty Local Studies Librarians from all over the region, and even further afield, crammed ourselves into the embarrassingly small meeting room at the back of Alfreton library to consider what role we could play in fostering social inclusion. It was certainly the right venue for the delegates to feel socially included, we all knew each other very well before the day was out as we formed chain gangs to pass the tea and coffee and tripped over each other's feet.

But then again, Social Inclusion is exactly what MALSG is about. Why do we so seldom offer a fee to our speakers? Why do we stage events in offbeat locations like Bingham, Hinckley and Alfreton? Because it keeps the costs of our events right down and means that more people can come to them. Those less than perfect rooms are chosen because they are generously offered free of charge by the hosting libraries, and local caterers in small towns charge reasonable prices. This means we can offer Day Schools on a shoestring. Local Authorities can, and do, pay for several delegates to attend them. They are even affordable for an individual if their employer will not fund the costs.

Of course, choosing the right topic is vital in getting employers to fund places on any course but for the Local Studies librarians themselves there is another dimension. At least as important as the subject matter is the rare opportunity to network and share problems with colleagues from other authorities. This hidden benefit of our events is maximised by putting on a buffet lunch so people can spend time chatting. The quantity and quality of the MALSG lunches is becoming legendary, and Alfreton exceeded all previous records on this score.

The day got under way with Elizabeth Melrose sparking her usual incisive way through her keynote speech: "Out or In? Social Inclusion. Equal Opportunities and Local Studies." Building on quotations from Chris Smith - "One of the government's highest priorities is to combat social exclusion" - and John Prescott - "Departments cannot ignore social exclusion any more - it is part of their everyday work", she clearly outlined the problem areas and offered some solutions while acknowledging that with limited human and financial resources we cannot achieve everything. She challenged us to think about what we as Local Studies Librarians can do to promote our libraries, and our materials to more sections of the community, and to our own Library Authorities too, ensuring that Local Studies is in the forefront of new developments for Social Inclusion.

Then Malcolm Dick shook us all with the sheer scale and variety of the Millennium Project for which he was Project Director. He told us how Birmingham people had been drawn to create a record of their experiences, beliefs, contribution to the community and hopes for the future. This massive project included videos, creative writing, recording oral history, collecting artefacts and photography. He warmed us with tales of mischief as the Kid's Eye view of Birmingham photo competition promoted those aspects of the city that local councillors least wished celebrate. He saddened us with an oral history interview with a quiet, gentle Kurd, grateful to be allowed to record just a little of his people's history that has been destroyed in his homeland. Then he socked it to us in a video short of a young woman from Birmingham's Black community who gave us her vision for Birmingham in no uncertain terms.

Then lunch, a chance to chat, share good and bad experiences, swap ideas and draw new members in to the national Local Studies Group of CILIP and the local group as both AGMs were held over the lunch period.

The afternoon session began with Mandy Morris from the East Midlands Oral History Archive giving us an insight into her project, Talking Histories, which is bringing together the first large-scale collection of oral history for Leicestershire and Rutland. She was honest about the problems and sheer time involved in making new oral history recordings and creating transcripts. The EMOHA offers support, advice and training throughout the region and she left many of us thinking about how we could take advantage of the training and expertise on offer.

Then Terry Bracher from Northamptonshire gave us the clearest message of the day with a fascinating insight into the Northamptonshire Black History Project. Now a major, externally funded project, Terry demonstrated that a project like this really can grow from the smallest beginnings without extra staff or funding. All you need is to harness the enthusiasm and goodwill of the local community and keep the momentum going over time. The enthusiasm of the local Black community resulted in a book being placed in Northamptonshire Record Office in which researchers were invited to report information about Black people found by chance in the course of their own studies. Now external funding will add new dimensions to the already impressive volume of evidence collected. [Note: Terry's paper itself appears elsewhere in this issue].

The day ended with a lively and prolonged roundup discussion. Is it worth it? Will we really reach anybody new or just end up serving the demands of our most vociferous users? Is it

better to concentrate on increasing access to the most popular resources, eg photographs and newspapers, and so reach as big an audience as possible, rather than targeting specific groups of people? How can we hope to do anything to make our premises more accessible when we know that there is absolutely no chance of any funding?

"Never give in to despair", says Elizabeth Melrose. "Keep on at it, just keep chipping away. One day the tide will turn." Someone says he has just had improved lighting fitted over the study tables ...after 15 years of campaigning. "Well done!" says Elizabeth. "That is a real achievement, feel proud! Now start working on them for improved signing!"

In spite of the inadequacies of the venue the response to the day was overwhelmingly positive with new members joining the group; there were many verbal and emailed expressions of thanks and everyone who completed their feedback form voted it either a good or an excellent day. The comment that came up again and again was how unusual it is to get four such passionate and inspirational speakers together at a single event.

Gwenda Culkin is from New Mills Library and Ruth Gordon is Local Studies Librarian, Derbyshire

LOCAL STUDIES LIBRARIAN OF THE YEAR 2002

Marilyn Higson, Local Studies Librarian for Telford and Wrekin Council has been awarded the Dorothy McCulla Memorial Prize for 2002.

The award was announced at the Local Studies Group's special 25th Anniversary meeting at CLIP headquarters on 4 November. In our Jubilee year it is somehow appropriate that it was made to a librarian working in an authority which did not exist when the LSG was inaugurated in 1977. In fact it was largely for Marilyn's work in welding together a local studies service for Telford and Wrekin Council, created in 1998, that the award was made. In particular her active involvement with local organisations, user groups and other heritage providers was held up as a model of collaboration and promotion work. The Wrekin Local Studies Forum which was formed largely as a result of her activities in 1997 now includes over twenty groups, many of which feature in the annual diary of events and guide to sources.

Perhaps this is the place also to urge more librarians to make nominations for this prestigious award. There are many local studies librarians doing excellent and innovative work who should at least be given the opportunity to win this award. The nominator does not have to be a chief librarian - nominations are welcome from colleagues and service users; the nominee, however, must be a member of the Local Studies Group. Think about it before nominations are called for. More details about the Award can be obtained from our Hon. Secretary, Diana Dixon.

SILVER JUBILEE CELEBRATION

The Group held its Silver Jubilee celebration meeting at CLIP on November 4th. There were three short talks pointing up particular aspects of the last 25 years. Don Martin spoke about the *Guidelines* and problems encountered before their recent successful revision, Ian Maxted gave a brief history of the Group since its inception, and Diana Dixon talked about local studies bibliography over the years. Although there was a small audience, it did include three past Chairmen of the Group and we also welcomed Diana Winterbotham, the first winner of the McCulla Award and former long-time Committee member. All present had a very pleasant afternoon.

LOCAL STUDIES GROUP ANNUAL REPORT 2001

2001 was a successful and productive year for the Local Studies Group. The second edition of *Local Studies Libraries: Library Association Guidelines for Local Studies Provision in Public Libraries*, edited by Don Martin, was approved by the Public Libraries Committee of LA Council and went to the publishers at the end of the year to be published in February 2002. The Group's other project, *Local Studies Librarianship: a world bibliography*, compiled by Diana Dixon, was published in October by Library Association Publishing.

We organised a successful programme at Umbrella 6 at which the AGM was held. The theme was 'social inclusion and local studies'. Speakers included Nasreen Akhtar; Neil Bennett; Joan Bray; John Gray; Don Martin and Elizabeth Melrose.

The Dorothy McCulla award was presented to Michael Marshman of Wiltshire County Libraries.

There were several changes in the committee. Elizabeth Melrose stood down as Chairman and we warmly thank Elizabeth for her unfailing dedication, enthusiasm and energy in promoting the work of the Local Studies Group. Patrick Baird, our Hon. Secretary since 1988, resigned and we are grateful to him for his work on our behalf. Ian Maxted took over as Chairman and Diana Dixon as Hon. Secretary. We also welcomed a new committee member, Ed Button.

Our web page was greatly improved and the *Local Studies Librarian* appeared twice during the year.

Regional activity flourished and our regional branches continued to organise a wide variety of activities and events.

Midlands and Anglia held a day school on newspapers in June at Bingham Library and a meeting on Emergency planning in November at Sutton Coldfield.

North West organised a visit to the Smedley Hydro and the General Register Office in Southport Office and a day school on the Changing face of Local Studies at Chetham's Library in June. An autumn day school on the census took place in Liverpool. For the first time the North West branch produced a Newsletter for members.

The Scottish branch visited the offices of the *Glasgow Herald* and organised meetings on Sources for transport history and Scottish photography. They are planning to publish a Handlist of photographic collections in Scotland.

The Welsh branch held a meeting on 'Heritage Lottery Fund: the opportunity's there' at the National Library of Wales.

The Local Studies Group is represented on BRICMICS; SCAM; the Consultative Group on Newspapers and the Black and Asian Archives Working Group.

Diana Dixon, Hon Secretary, LSG

FROM OUR CILIP COUNCILLOR

It seems that all the CILIP committees have woken up and are starting to organise Autumn meetings in October. As I attend the Council, the Professional Development Committee and the International Panel, this has been a feat of time management. I report some success in the use of paperclips and highlighter to organise the documentation sent out only a few days in advance. I had queried some agenda items in my mind and was pleased to hear more experienced members in the crowded Council meeting comment on these.

There have been several issues at this meeting that might be of interest to our Group members, quite apart from the 2% increase in membership subscriptions. Reports from the CILIP Directors were tabled and the very detailed CILIP Regulations were discussed and amended. In these, sections 96 to 101 deal with Special Interest Groups (SIGs) describing how these may be set up by the Council, the composition of the committees, and the necessity for the Group Councillor to report back not only to every committee meeting but also to the annual general meeting. Sections 102 to 104 on Associated Members of SIGs, allow practitioners who are interested in a specific subject area to join a representative Group, without necessarily joining the umbrella organisation. This regulation was carried with the promise of review after a year, despite dissent from those who considered that it might encourage some to avoid the annual CILIP subscription.

The extended Annual Report for 2001 was presented showing the extent of members' involvement in the information world. From a total membership of 22,939 some 5,477 had come from the public library sector. The Local Studies Group report described the highlights of the Group's activities alongside the accounts of twenty-three other Groups.

The Policy Development Committee and other relevant panels have been asked to look at any previously published 'Library Association guidelines' to ensure that out-of-date documents are withdrawn. Meanwhile consultation on the ambitious draft Corporate Plan had been carried out and it was salutary to note that there had been only 119 responses to the exercise, including those from the Groups. Observations on the Plan had asked that the role of CILIP as advocate should be stressed, as should the importance of Groups as communities of knowledge with a key role in professional development and in sharing and highlighting good practice.

I am a member of the International Panel and was a delegate at the 75th IFLA conference in Glasgow last August. I had been able to renew many of the international contacts made by the Local Studies Group, meeting up with supporters of local studies librarianship from Germany, Latvia, Finland and Hungary as well as those manning the professional Local Studies Group stand. So I was interested in the Council reports on this successful international event. Moving forward to 2003, through the minutes of the Enterprise Board, Bernard Naylor, Director of Studies for the Umbrella weekend study school, requested that the Groups presented strong programmes, which would attract the members and, especially, their employers so that they would encourage staff to attend.

These are my impressions of my second Council meeting. I hope that any member of the Local Studies Group who has any comment or any issues that they might wish taken to Council level will contact me.

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FROM OUR SUBGROUPS

The *North West* sub-group reports that, with the aid of funds from the national group, it has been able to buy a digital camera. Lynn Knowling has already put it to good use and will be reproducing some of the images in the next newsletter, which is well under way. It is also hoped to produce images for the website. It is also reported that the proposed day school on funding had to be cancelled due to a lack of delegates: however, it has been rescheduled for next autumn, perhaps to be run in conjunction with museums or archive bodies. Meanwhile, the group is planning a Spring meeting on crime and punishment at Lancaster Castle in April. The subgroup's AGM was held on 12th December at Manchester Central Library, and produced changes in the officers. Susan Halstead stood down as Treasurer, and is succeeded by Eileen Hume. Mike Eddison, the Secretary, also resigned, and Alice Lock was appointed in his place. A great debt of gratitude must go to both for their work over many years. Luckily their experience will still be available as they are both remaining on the committee.

Midlands and Anglia report the success of their Day School on social inclusion at Alfreton in September: it was a sell-out. A report on the day as a whole and the paper by Terry Bracher appear elsewhere in this issue. More recently a day school, "Preservation on a shoestring", was held at Norwich. This also attracted a good attendance to hear two of the National Preservation Office staff deal with various aspects of the topic. Future plans include a day school on family history for the lifelong student later next year. The sub-group have decided that future activities will largely be full day meetings, as it seems easier for people to be able to attend these.

After the successful "London Maze" in March the *London and Home Counties* sub-group is planning its new activities programme: the first event is likely to be another London Maze at the Guildhall Art Gallery.

From *Northern Ireland*, the LISC Local Studies Panel reports that this year's annual seminar was on "Kith and Kin", concentrating on services libraries can provide for the family researcher and problems peculiar to Northern Ireland: about thirty people attended. It was noted that the Department of Culture and Leisure (NI) is aware of problems re availability and location of resources in Northern Ireland and hopes to address this as part of an overall tourist strategy. It is also reported that the ELNI project for a single on-line catalogue for all five Education and Library Boards in Northern Ireland has implications for local studies in that it will have to accommodate five different local studies collection classification systems: working parties are addressing this problem.

The *Welsh* sub-group reports that, while several of its members enjoyed a visit to the Rhondda Heritage Park at Trehafod, and the guided tour which they were given, the planned Day School to celebrate the 25th anniversary of LSG to be held in Aberystwyth in November had to be cancelled due to insufficient support. Because of their other commitments, several of the sub-group's officers and committee members wish to retire at the end of their term in March. New volunteers for these posts are urgently required.

ALAN BALL LOCAL HISTORY AWARDS 2002

The Alan Ball Awards were established to encourage the publication of local history by Public Libraries and Local Authorities. They are organised by the Library Services Trust and this is the eighteenth year they have been awarded, so they have become an established part of the library awards scene. This year the judges made the maximum number of three awards, and commended a further publication.

The Awards are:

Durham County Council for *The Gateshead Gurkhas* by Harry Moses. This is a first-class and handsomely produced regimental history, enormously detailed and well researched; Newcastle upon Tyne City Council for *Crossing the Tyne* by Frank Manders and Richard Potts. This is an excellent account of the Tyne's river crossings, embodying social history as well as engineering history, and written in an agreeable way for the general public; London Borough of Southwark for *The Story of Bankside* by Leonard Riley and Geoff Marshall. This is a good, attractively-produced history of part of the Borough, written to appeal to a wide public.

The judges felt that it was worth commenting that the Newcastle and Southwark publications were inspired by recent developments in the areas concerned – Gateshead Millennium Bridge and Tate Modern respectively. This shows how interest in something new can lead to an examination of a wider context (Tyne crossings) or a geographical area (Bankside).

The Commended work was:

Nottinghamshire County Council and Derbyshire County Council for *George Sanderson's Map – Twenty Miles Around Mansfield, 1835*. This is a good example of co-operation between neighbouring local authorities, resulting in a clear A4-paged reproduction, as two booklets in a slip case, of an early Victorian map that originally measured more than seven feet across. Were the judges permitted to make a fourth award, this most certainly have been the one.

A final comment from the judges was that it is strange that the entries for the Alan Ball Awards are still almost all printed items. This year they received one CD-ROM, *Carterton* from Oxfordshire County Council. While this was not given an Award, it would have been useful to be able to compare it with similar projects from other local authorities – of which, surely, there must be a significant number. The judges, therefore, would like to point out that local authorities should not regard the Alan Ball Awards as purely print-based and should consider submitting items such as tapes, CDs and CD-ROMs.

Congratulations to all these authorities (and to the authors!).

NOTE: did your authority make an entry this year? If not, why not look at your new publications programme and think about it for next year? For more information about the Awards contact Eric Winter at the Trust's office at 7 Ridgmount Street, London WC1 7AE, tel 0207 255 0648. Email eric.winter@cilip.org.uk

MORE RECOGNITION FOR LOCAL STUDIES PUBLICATIONS

Local studies publications did well in other prestigious competitions, announced at the CILIP Awards Gala Presentation Day in November. The Besterman/McColvin Medals for outstanding works of reference provided two commendations:

In the Electronic category *Troubled Images: posters and images of the Northern Ireland conflict from the Linen Hall Library* was highly commended. This CD-ROM contains more

than 3,000 posters and artefacts documenting the Northern Ireland conflict, taken from the library's political collection. In addition to visual items there are 50 expert essays on major events and themes, 30 minutes of audio interviews and detailed research notes for every image.

In the Printed category *Proper Brummie: a dictionary of Birmingham words and phrases*, compiled by Carl Chinn and Steve Thorne and published by Brewin Books was Commended. This work is the first attempt ever to document the Birmingham dialect and as well as being highly informative is also fun.

In the CILIP/Emerald Public Relations and Publicity Awards, Printed Publicity Material category, a Commendation went to Bolton Archives and Local Studies for *Bill Naughton Archive*. Bill Naughton is a famous local playwright and the archive brings together writings, articles, photographs and cuttings, and the descriptive booklet is beautifully designed to promote the collection. The guide and archive itself have already received extensive media coverage.

In the Sponsorship and Partnership category there was a Commendation for *A Naval Tradition*, from Plymouth Library Services, City Museum and Art Gallery. This partnership promoted the local studies collection and archive, charting the lives of the local people of the Devonport area who were directly affected by the Dockyard during the 19th and 20th centuries. The *Naval Tradition* project itself was funded by the DCMS/Wolfson British History Challenge Fund. Quality publications and printed publicity were enhanced by appropriate branding and have proved successful in the promotion of walks, talks and visits, and specially printed postcards were used to encourage participants to record their comments, all of which were positive. Promotion has also been extended to the local media and the professional library world.

COMMUNITY, COLLABORATION AND CELEBRATION: VAC, 2002

Elizabeth Melrose

In July I attended the tenth anniversary conference of the Hungarian Local Studies Group. One of the many highlights was a cruise up the River Danube to Esztergom where a modern bridge connects Hungary with Slovakia. The cruise-boat was moored and the conference delegates, with video cameras and press in attendance, made for the middle of the bridge to allow the Chairman of the Hungarian Group and his Slovakian counterpart to sign and exchange scrolls of co-operation and collaboration. All this to the great amazement of car passengers and pedestrians queuing up for the passport control between the two countries! After this ceremony against the backdrop of the river, the curiosity of the passers-by and the gravity of Esztergom Cathedral on the horizon, the scrolls were rolled and the Slovakian delegate left to walk across to her own country.

The main conference venue, however, was Vác, the historic town on the Danube Bend where the Hungarian Local Studies Group had held its very first meeting, before the Group was ratified by the Association of Hungarian Librarians. Membership of the Group has grown from its early beginnings. Its members have actively and successfully promoted local studies as a vital part of library provision in modern Hungary. Among the 104 conference delegates were not only colleagues from Romania and Slovakia but also the President of the Association of Hungarian Librarians who formally opened a splendid photographic exhibition in the Town Library illustrating the work of the Group over the past decade. I was present as a guest with an anniversary letter of greeting from the Chairman of the UK Local Studies Group for our sister organisation.

The formal conference covered many of the issues with which local studies librarians are familiar in this country: is there a place for the study of local history in an increasingly global environment? the management of local studies collections; local studies and the internet; copyright of electronic material; digitisation programmes; conservation of documents and source material; co-operation with museums and archive departments. Other discussions were more particular to a country whose people have of necessity become part of a Hungarian diaspora: partnerships with local studies departments in Slovakian public libraries; problems of differing languages in the creation of common databases; backlogs in the organisation of material relating not only to Hungarian minorities in other states but also to foreign enclaves such as the German groups who had to leave Hungary. A unique session was devoted to biographical papers on outstanding national librarians of the past, part of the historic heritage of the profession.

Other events were also planned - excellent walking tours of the historic buildings in the town, the Town Hall, the Franciscan and the Piarist churches. Librarians wondered at the awesome display of medieval coffins in a museum crypt, attended while a wreath was placed by the plaque commemorating Lajos Katona, founder of the Town Library, and stood by as an independent party of re-enactment soldiers marched along on a similar mission. There was folk dancing, much good food, dark coffee and palinka along with a very special candlelit evening in the Library garden.

At the end of this most enjoyable of conferences, I took an afternoon to walk south down the cycle path from Vác to the next village, through a park, by a lake peopled with fishermen. I followed the Danube to a look-out point where I could sit on the river-bank, watch the town in the distance, and hope that my lack of language had not made me too tiring a guest. I had had an excellent and informative time, meeting up with friends and incidentally taking on a few small tasks for the Hungarian Group. I do remember, however, that on the Danube cruise I had noted that every single one of the five translators allocated to me was fast asleep!

Elizabeth Melrose is Reference Adviser, North Yorkshire Libraries and a past Chairman of LSG

UMBRELLA 2003

As mentioned in our Editorial, Umbrella 2003 will once again be held in Manchester, just about the only place which can be found with suitable accommodation for people, lecture rooms and the exhibition. As on all previous occasions, the Local Studies Group, along with the other CILIP Groups, will be playing a full part, with a full programme. The theme for our sessions will be "Local Studies in the 21st Century". While our programme is not yet finalised, it is anticipated that there will be, among others, a session on Volunteers (joint with CSG), one on Local Studies in Library Buildings and one on the 'Blitz Kids' project. Also suggested are papers on Photo London (a portal), on storytelling for local studies librarians and a joint session with ISG on access to newspaper information. All of these papers look fascinating - keep your eyes open for information in *Update*, and for the full Umbrella programme when it is sent out, and alert your Training Officer to your interest in attending.

NOTES AND NEWS

Recent notes in *Backtracks*, the newsletter of Camden Local Studies and Archives Centre, remind us that material can come from all sorts of sources. A builder recently found a carrier bag of material in a house that was being renovated, and it was passed on to the Centre. It contained papers and family photographs of Mr. Charles Paul, a resident in the borough for most of his life. Another acquisition, of two small sketchbooks of delightful watercolours, came through a letter from Mrs Oram in Camborne, whose great grandfather was the artist, and who at the time of the census of 1881 was living in Kentish Town: they include some lovely views of Hampstead Heath under snow. A further report in this issue records the help given to the Centre by volunteers. Margot Shelley has been listing the Centre's collection of several thousand slides to provide a computerised A-Z format that can now be easily searched and updated. Other volunteers are starting to index a deposit from the *Hampstead and Highgate Express* of some ten years of photographs used in the newspaper and which at present are identified only by the edition of the newspaper in which they appeared. The volunteers will be identifying and indexing each individual picture, which will make this a major resource available to users.

Tameside Local Studies and Archives has put over 12,000 of its old photographs on the web, so that they are available all over the world at the click of a mouse. They include views of the nine towns in the Borough, industrial scenes, sport, amateur dramatics, pubs, schools and civic events. Although only part of the old photograph collection at the Local Studies Library in Stalybridge has so far been scanned, the electronic version allows much more flexible searching of many different formats of images: for instance the digitisation process has allowed the integration of images which had previously been held only in negative format so that the collection may seem to have grown enormously to anyone used to researching the photographs in the Library. Copies of the pictures can be ordered online. As a result of the web initiative, the Local Studies Library has already received comments from people in the United States and Canada who have found their ancestors, and sometimes even themselves, on the database. You can take a look at the photographs on www.tameside.gov.uk/history

A list of Local Studies Librarians in Scotland has been published in the latest issue of *LOCSCOT*, the journal of our Scottish sub-group (vol 4 no 1, Autumn 2002, pp13-16). *LOCSCOT* always carries interesting items. This issue includes, for instance, an article by Elizabeth Carmichael on sources for family history on the Web, as well as other contributions of interest to people outside Scotland, including an item on the George Macdonald Collection: Macdonald (1824-1905) is widely regarded as the originator of fantasy as a new literary genre, including such children's all-time classics as *At the back of the North wind*. There is also a short description of a cooperative operation undertaken by a group of volunteer librarians with the help of their authorities to rescue and distribute to libraries copies of O.S. maps no longer needed by the Land Registry. The journal is always a good read: for further details contact joint editor Ann Nix, at the Edinburgh Room, Central Library, George IV Bridge, Edinburgh EH1 1EG: tel 0131 242 8032, email ann.nix@edinburgh.gov.uk

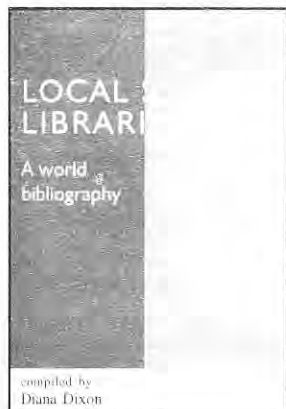
new from library association publishing

Local Studies Librarianship

A world bibliography

Diana Dixon, compiler for the LA Local Studies Group

As local studies and community information resources are increasingly seen as the unique assets of public library provision, this publication is particularly timely.



It is an invaluable resource for anyone whose work or interests lie in local studies collections. Including all relevant published material and unpublished theses, this annotated international bibliography covers every aspect of local studies librarianship, including management, acquisition, cataloguing, promotion, conservation and preservation. With a strong international emphasis, the thorough coverage of English language materials is matched by material in all major European languages and especially from those European countries with a local studies tradition. The bibliography also extends outside the library sector to include local studies material in museums and archives. Contents include:

- introductory chapter on the challenges and issues facing local studies librarians in the 21st century
- general works on local studies librarianship
- collection management-acquisitions, cataloguing, preservation, conservation and disaster planning
- services - educational, family history
- materials
- marketing and promotion
- ICT and local studies - digitization, the internet and CD-ROMs
- partnerships and co-operation
- indexes of authors and places.

October 2001; 288pp; paperback; 1-85604-307-X; £29.95 (£23.96 to LA Members)

Look out also for the new edition of *Local Studies Libraries: Library Association Guidelines for Local Studies Provision in Public Libraries* to be published in February 2002.

For further information about either title e-mail mark.o'loughlin@la-hq.org.uk or call 020 7255 0597.

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