

# *The Local Studies Librarian*



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Cover Illustration: *First Water Lane, York, 1810*  
Courtesy: *City of York Libraries: York Reference Library*

## **Illustrations are copyright works!**

*Tim Padfield*

Everyone has heard about copyright. For most people, that is as far as it goes. For some people, though, more is required: because they are creating works and wish to protect what they have created, because they wish to use copyright works but do not wish to infringe someone else's rights (or perhaps more practically they do not wish to pay the damages and costs after being sued), or because they are providing access to copyright works and wish to know where they stand. The idea behind copyright is relatively simple; the problem lies in the details.

Copyright is one of a group of rights known collectively as intellectual property rights (IPRs). There is no separate thing called an 'intellectual property right'. Other such rights include patents (protecting commercial exploitation of a new invention or a new process), trade marks (protecting logos and other marks used to identify the products and services of manufacturers and traders) and moral rights (protecting the author's reputation by preventing derogatory treatment of the work and ensuring that the author is acknowledged). Copyright is a right which protects the effort (the skill, labour and judgement) required to produce certain kinds of work, especially literary (ie written) works such as books, diaries and letters; artistic works such as paintings, photographs and maps; films; and sound recordings.

A lot of skill and labour is needed to create many artistic works: a painting, a sculpture or a model might take months. Sometimes there is very little skill or labour required: a modern digital camera does most of the work and all the user need do is decide what is to be photographed then point and shoot. So long as there is some skill and labour involved, whether it is a lot or a little, a copyright work may be created. The effort involved must not be trivial, but a simple drawing of a hand holding a pencil, used to show a voter where to put an X in a box, has been found to be sufficiently substantial to be protected.

Sometimes even a certain amount of artistry will be employed in the creative process, or so the painter would have us believe, but oddly enough artistic creativity is not required to create an artistic work for copyright purposes. Copyright protects the effort involved in creating, for instance, a literary work like a letter or a book, a dramatic work like a play or a ballet, a musical work, a film or a broadcast, or an artistic work, but in each case there is no requirement of literary or artistic quality. Already then we can see that copyright is important to people handling artistic material, and the simple rule to adopt is that any illustrative material will be protected.

Copyright arises automatically, as soon as the work is created. There is no need for registration or publication. Also, there is no need to 'claim' copyright, though the use of the copyright symbol ©, with the name of the author and the date, is sensible, especially if the work is unpublished.

The person who first owns the copyright in a work is normally the 'author'. The author may be the writer of a literary work such as a letter or the composer of a musical work. The photographer is normally the author of a photograph and the cartographer is normally the author of a map. In some cases there will be several people involved, and if they have contributed enough they might each be joint authors. What the law is looking for is the 'inventive or master mind', or in some cases minds, behind the work. Plenty of professional photographers employ assistants. It may well be that for some of their images the camera shutter is actually released by an assistant. If the photographer himself was responsible for the appearance of the image, he is the 'author' but if the assistant contributed they might be joint authors.

If the author is creating the work in the course of employment, the first owner of the copyright will be the employer, not the author. This sounds simple, but becomes less obvious when the author is 'employed' to do something but is not actually an employee: you might 'employ' an architect to design your extension, but he is not your employee. In such circumstances, if the person commissioning the work wishes to own the copyright he or she would need to secure an assignment from the author, which transfers ownership of the copyright to the assignee.

Copyright lasts for a long time. The standard term is now to the end of the year 70 years after the author died. This standard term applies even to works created in the course of employment, so employers need to keep track of their employees after they have left or retired. Those employees were the authors of copyright works, and their former employers need to know when they die, and thus when the 70-year term starts to run.

This standard term applies to almost all artistic works, of any date. Thus most illustrations whose authors died over 70 years ago are no longer protected by copyright. However, the standard term cannot apply to artistic works whose authors are unknown and unknowable by reasonable enquiry, and instead they are treated as anonymous works. The duration of copyright in them is dependent on a number of factors, but copyright mostly expires 70 years after the work was made available to the public (such as by being published). Some though will be in copyright until the end of 2039, regardless of their date of creation, if they were unpublished in 1989 (when the 1988 Act came into force) and the normal 70-year term would give an earlier terminal date.

The copyright owner has a collection of rights in relation to the works whose copyright he or she owns. These rights are more negative than positive, giving the power to prevent other people using the work without permission. The copyright owner cannot necessarily use the work himself, though, if for instance the only version of it is owned by someone else who will not allow access. This sounds confusing, and it can be. It is important to distinguish between the ownership of the copyright and the ownership of the artefact embodying it: the writer of a letter owns the copyright, the recipient owns the letter.

The most important 'restricted acts' controlled by the copyright owner are copying (including, for instance, photocopying a photograph or an illustration in a book, or tracing a map), issue to the public (including publication), and communication to the public (such as for instance by putting the work on a website). Doing these acts, in the absence of the copyright owner's permission or a statutory exception, is an infringement. A copyright infringer can be sued by the copyright owner, and could be liable for damages and the costs of the case (though most infringement cases are settled long before they get to court).

There is a limited number of circumstances in which an artistic work may be used without permission. The most obvious is that once the copyright has expired the copyright owner has no rights. Also, the use of an 'insubstantial part' of a work will not infringe, but it is far from clear what might be an insubstantial part of an artistic work. Certainly a large part would be substantial, but so also would be a small part if it is the essence of a work. Although it is not in copyright, consider a small area of background as distinct from the same area including the smile of *Mona Lisa*.

There is no infringement by fair dealing with a copyright work. The use must be fair, which means that only a reasonable proportion of the whole is used, the use does not damage the copyright owner's interests and the author has been acknowledged. The use must also be for one of a limited range of purposes: private study or research for a non-commercial purpose, criticism or review, and current news reporting.

Librarians dealing with literary works such as books and magazines can use an exception especially aimed at them. This allows the supply of a single copy of a single article from a journal or of a reasonable proportion of a published edition of a book, so long as the user completes a declaration form which states, among other things, that the copy will be used solely for the purposes of private study or non-commercial research. The librarian may not supply the copy if he or she knows, or has reason to believe, that the declaration is not true. Librarians and archivists may also supply copies of unpublished literary works, so long as they are available to the public, on the same terms.

One major problem with the exceptions for librarians and archivists is that they do not cover most artistic works. An artistic work may be copied using the exception only if it is an illustration to a literary work being copied at the same time. Thus, a librarian may copy an extract from *The Tale of Samuel Whiskers*, including Tom Kitten being rolled up into a roly poly pudding, and a librarian or archivist whose collection holds it may copy the diary of Beatrix Potter (died 1943), including any drawings of animals or flowers it might contain. However, they may not copy just the Tom Kitten picture or just the other pictures of animals or flowers, without permission.

If someone wishes to use an illustration from your collection, perhaps in a publication or on a website, they might need permission from the copyright owner. There are several things for them to do:

- Identify the author. If he or she is not identified on the work, they must undertake 'reasonable enquiries' to try to identify him. If these are unsuccessful the work is treated as anonymous.
- Decide whether the work is still in copyright. There are charts helping with this decision in my book (see details below) and in The National Archives copyright leaflet, available on-line at:  
<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/legal/pdf/copyright.pdf>  
If copyright has expired, there is no problem.
- Trace the copyright owner. This may not be easy. For artistic works, try the publisher if there is one, or the Design and Artists Copyright Society at 13 Northburgh Street, London EC1V 0JP or at [www.dacs.org.uk](http://www.dacs.org.uk), or perhaps the WATCH (Writers, Artists and Their Copyright Holders) website at: [www.watch-file.com](http://www.watch-file.com). Also try standard reference works (such as Who's Who?) and maybe try advertising.
- Seek a licence. If they have not traced a copyright owner, they will have to decide whether to find a different illustration or whether the risk of infringing is sufficiently small (perhaps because of the age or the obscurity of the image) to go ahead without permission. In this last case, they should publish with the image a disclaimer to say that unsuccessful efforts were made to identify and contact the copyright owner, and that the publishers would be glad to hear from anyone who can show that they own the rights so that a licence can be agreed.

Further guidance on copyright is available from many places, including books and websites. Try for instance the government's official intellectual property website at: [www.intellectual-property.gov.uk](http://www.intellectual-property.gov.uk) or the National Archives guidance leaflet, which includes charts to help you work out the duration of copyright, at: [www.pro.gov.uk/about/copyright/copyright.pdf](http://www.pro.gov.uk/about/copyright/copyright.pdf). In the cultural sector there are two bodies dealing with copyright, the Libraries and Archives Copyright Alliance:  
<http://www.cilip.org.uk/committees/laca/laca.html>  
and the Museums Copyright Group:  
<http://www.mda.org.uk/mcopyg/index.htm>

Those books of particular use to librarians, archivists and museum professionals include:

Graham P Cornish, *Copyright* (4<sup>th</sup> ed 2004, Facet Publishing) and *Copyright in a Week* (Hodder and Stoughton, 2002)

Sandy Norman, *Practical Copyright for Information Professionals* (2004, Facet Publishing)

Tim Padfield, *Copyright for Archivists* (2<sup>nd</sup> ed 2004, Facet Publishing)

Peter Wienand, Anna Booy and Robin Fry, *A Guide to Copyright for Museums and Galleries* (Routledge, 2000)

*Tim Padfield is Copyright Officer at The National Archives*

## **AFTER THE FIRE: The Local Collection in the former Norfolk and Norwich Central Library ten years on**

*Clive Wilkins-Jones*

In November 2001 the new Norfolk and Norwich Millennium Library, designed by Sir Michael Hopkins, opened its doors to the public for the first time, seven years after the fire of 1 August 1994. Those thousands of people who wandered around the building on that first day discovered, amongst other changes, that the old Norfolk Studies Library had been transformed into the Norfolk Heritage Centre, a coming together of the former Norfolk Studies Library and elements of Norfolk Record Office. Most of the questions that were addressed to staff on that day focussed around what had survived the fire and what had been destroyed. Some visitors drew attention to a piece of 'fearful symmetry'. The Norwich Subscription Library had also suffered a devastating fire on 1 August 1898.

The lapse of ten years is a good time to assess the progress that has been made in rebuilding the former Norfolk Studies Library – widely recognised as one of the finest local collections in the UK – and what remains to be done.

Anyone who saw the film footage of the 1994 fire could be in no doubt of the seriousness of the disaster. The losses the Norfolk Studies Library suffered were truly devastating – around 30,000 books out of a total collection of 70,000, 15,000 photographs out of a collection of 30,000, over 3,000 Ordnance Survey maps, 2,500 postcards, most of the newscuttings library as well as large collections of ephemera. Of the special collections, the library that had been established by the City Assembly in 1608 was relatively unscathed but the Colman Library, the collection put together by Jeremiah James Colman, the 'Norwich Mustard King', and his son, Russell Colman, was very seriously affected. Out of 7,500 volumes around 2,500 were totally destroyed. Virtually all the surviving stock from the Colman Library required conservation work of one kind or another. Evidence of provenance was irretrievably lost, as was much of the work carried out by the Colman family's own binders in the latter part of the nineteenth-century.

The recreation of such a unique collection, built up over a hundred years, was a daunting task but it received a stupendous fillip in 1995 with the donation of 17,000 items by the people of Norfolk and well-wishers from other parts of the country, the result of a public appeal greatly assisted by BBC East, Anglia TV, Radio Norfolk and Radio Broadland. Local companies were especially generous. Jarrolds, the long-established Norwich printers, gave several hundred volumes of local books and ephemera – from Norwich City Football Club Handbooks and catalogues of Caley's chocolates to copies of the pension and life insurance scheme operating at Steward & Patterson brewery in 1934.

But perhaps the most generous gift of all came from the late Bryan Hall. Mr. Hall donated over five hundred volumes, including a mint set of Robert Ladbrooke's famous early nineteenth century lithographs of Norfolk Churches, three charming scrapbooks compiled by the Hastings family between 1893 and 1950 and a fine collection of the political pamphlets of Roger L'Estrange (the 'Dog Towser', as he

was called by his enemies), Charles II's licensor of the press.

Colleagues in libraries as far apart as Manchester, Liverpool, Cambridge and Kensington and Chelsea supplied valuable material from their rich reserves – in total, around a thousand volumes. It was a real revelation to discover so much rare Norfolk and Norwich material located outside the county.

Staff were particularly grateful for the prescience of the late Frank Sayer, librarian of the Norfolk Studies Library in the 1960s and 1970s, who, after the war, had built up a reserve collection at one of the Norwich branches. This collection was a godsend as it contained much unique material.

The magnificent public response to the disaster had a huge effect on morale and convinced everyone that the recreation of the collection was a feasible proposition. Events since have justified this confidence.

Ten years after, the collection is now larger than it was in 1994. There have been several major acquisitions. The purchase of the Gurney-Read Collection on Norwich was an important addition to the available sources on the history of the city, particularly its commercial growth. The purchase of the George Swain Collection of Norwich photographs went some way towards filling the gap caused by the loss of most of the historic Norwich photographs. So did the acquisition of 30,000 negatives from the Planning Department at Norwich City Hall which documented the great changes made to the cityscape during the 1950s and 1960s.

In 1996 the late Cliff Middleton's photographic collection was purchased which included several portrait photographs dating from the 1850s by W.J.J. Bolding of Weybourne and six photographic albums by Walter Clutterbuck. Cliff Middleton was the first to identify the importance of Norwich in the early history of photography and did valuable work on Thomas Damant Eaton, Christopher Davies and John Payne Jennings. The acquisition of the Peter Larter Slide Collection was important too. Many of these slides were copied from originals in the Norfolk Studies Library during the 1980s. Another significant acquisition was the Richard Tilbrook Photographic Collection on Norfolk and Suffolk Churches.

The Heritage Centre is particularly strong on the photography of the 1840s and 1850s. As well as work by Thomas Damant Eaton and George Fitt there are examples of the photographic experiments of the painter, John Middleton. For those who are interested in examining the collection more closely sixteen thousand images are available on Norfolk Library and Information Services' website at <http://norlink.norfolk.gov.uk>

Botanical books are another strength, particularly the works of James Edward Smith, William Jackson Hooker and John Lindley. A recent acquisition was Hooker's magnificent *Description of the Victoria Regia or Great Water-Lily of South America*.

If I had to single out a particularly outstanding acquisition it would have to be the Neville-Rolfe Blomefield, an extra-illustrated set of Francis Blomefield's famous *History of Norfolk*, expanded to thirty-seven volumes by the Neville-Rolfe family of Heacham Hall. In size it is not far behind the equally remarkable Dawson Turner Blomefield in the British Library. Other extra-illustrated volumes added to the collection since 1994 include a large-paper copy of Benjamin Mackerell's *History of King's Lynn*, a much-expanded copy of Richard Taylor's *Index Monasticus* and an extra-illustrated copy of T.O. Churchill's *Life of Nelson*.

Other important acquisitions were a complete set of Blake's Guides to boating holidays on the Norfolk Broads from 1912 to date and the Tinkler Theatre Collection, received on permanent loan from the University of East Anglia.

Some major gaps in the collection remained unfilled until relatively recently. All the post-war, large-scale maps of the county were totally destroyed in 1994. During the last few months all the available editions of the 1: 2500 and 1: 1250 maps of Norfolk were purchased from the Ordnance Survey, almost 3,000 sheets.

The remaining gaps in newspaper holdings are also being filled with the purchase of microfilm copies of around twenty-five local titles from the British Library – long-running titles like the *North Norfolk News*, the *Eastern Football News*, the *Watton and Swaffham Times*, the *Cromer and North Walsham Post* and the *Downham Market Gazette* as well as short-lived ones like the *Hunstanton Telephone and West Norfolk Chronicle* and the *Holt, Melton Constable and Wells Post*. At the same time gaps in already existing microfilm holdings of newspapers such as the *Norwich Mercury* and the *Diss Express* are being filled. The destruction of the newscuttings library has been made good by the creation of a newspaper database of titles in full text, accessible via the PCs in the Millennium Library.

Through the use of the internet it has been possible to track down even the most rare and fugitive of items. Material has been acquired from as far afield as South Africa and Zimbabwe, India, Australia, New Zealand, Japan, the USA and Canada as well as Germany, France, Denmark and Holland.

Of course, some items will never be replaced. The Library's magnificent run of the *Norwich Gazette* dating from 1706 to 1741 was unique. So was the collection of early nineteenth-century Norfolk and Norwich trade cards. However, despite these caveats, the rebuilding of the collection has been a success story, a success confirmed by the much increased visitor figures. Use of the collection has increased by over fifty percent since 1994.

The addition of an archive element has widened the appeal of the collection. Significant investment has been made in the purchase of microfilm copies of parish registers, poor law and prison records, tithe maps, rating records, electoral registers, school log books and wills. To expand the sources on family history even further over 150 Norfolk parish registers have recently been microfilmed for the first time. Two archive assistants are available permanently in the Heritage Centre to ensure that these new resources are fully exploited.

But perhaps the biggest achievement of the last ten years was the recreation of the catalogue. The destruction of the card catalogue was a devastating loss. The analytical entries – particularly the notes that threw light on provenance as well as providing information on why a particular item was in the collection – were of crucial importance. Work on creating a digital catalogue began in 1995 and still continues.

There is still plenty of material to acquire and further investment to be made in digitisation but the richness of the collection ten years on is a tribute to the generous efforts of a sympathetic public.

*Clive Wilkins-Jones is Team Librarian, Norfolk Heritage Centre*

## **LOCAL STUDIES GROUP COMMITTEE**

The Local Studies Group needs to elect TWO National Committee members to serve from April 2004. Nominations should be signed by the nominee, along with the names of the Proposer and Seconder, all of whom must be members of the Local Studies Group.

Nominations should be sent to Diana Dixon, Hon Secretary of LSG, 11 Cautley Road, Southwold, Suffolk IP18 6DD by January 31<sup>st</sup> 2005.

## **NEW HON SECRETARY REQUIRED**

Diana Dixon, Honorary Secretary of LSG, is relinquishing the post from December 31<sup>st</sup> 2004 and a replacement is being sought. This is an active and friendly committee and some interest has already been shown. If, however, you are an LSG member who would like to contribute to the work of the committee, please contact Diana Dixon, 11 Cautley Road, Southwold, Suffolk IP18 6DD for further information ([diana.dixon@cilip.org.uk](mailto:diana.dixon@cilip.org.uk)).

## **UMBRELLA 2005**

The Local Studies Group is again taking part in the Umbrella study school – we have presented a programme at every Umbrella since its inception at Leeds in 1991. Our theme this year is the media and papers planned to be presented include one on Thursday afternoon on Local studies and television: this will be based on the 'Who do you think you are?' project, and one on Friday morning on either local studies and radio or local studies and the press. Do try to come along! We know that it is difficult to take time off or be able to obtain funding, but Umbrella is always worth attending. Apart from LSG's own programme you get the chance to meet other local studies librarians and put faces to names. You also get the chance to attend plenary sessions with prestigious outside speakers.

## THE NORTHERN IRELAND PUBLICATIONS RESOURCE

*Monica McErlane*

Northern Ireland has no National Library and most probably never will. At present material published in the Province comes under the legal deposit jurisdiction of the British Library and Trinity College Dublin. However a study conducted by David Streatfield<sup>1</sup> in 1998, revealed that these institutions were actually only collecting an estimated 40% of Northern Ireland publishing output. The Northern Ireland Publications Resource (NIPR) was set up to redress the situation. Its main objectives are to identify, collect and preserve everything published in the Northern Ireland since 2000. Not having legal deposit status means that NIPR relies heavily on the voluntary donation of material by publishers. The greatest challenge faced by the newly formed organisation was to find out the extent of local publishing activity and then convince the publishers (who are already obliged to deposit up to six copies of their work with the UK legal deposit libraries) that NIPR was a worthwhile and sustainable initiative to support.

The publishing output of local history books and periodicals in Northern Ireland is increasing at a steady rate every year and these publications are already a core part of the NIPR collection. While the local mainstream publishers such as Blackstaff and Colourpoint regularly produce local history titles, it is the rural societies and individuals who publish the majority of titles in this field. Unfortunately it is often difficult to identify and acquire these, as they have rarely been assigned ISBNs/ISSNs and their existence is not widely known outside the locality in which they are produced. Due to supply and demand and financial constraints there is often a limited print run, which makes it is easy for them to fall through the legal deposit net.

The NIPR archive itself is based in Belfast and housed by the two lead partners, Belfast Central Library and the Linen Hall Library. It is however NIPR's aim to collect material published in all six counties of Northern Ireland, so a mechanism was required that would alert the project manager to any new material produced outside the greater Belfast area. The local studies librarians of the Province's five Education and Library Boards rose to the challenge and took on this role. They agreed to act as NIPR Co-ordinators and alert the NIPR Manager to any new local history titles produced in their designated geographical area. It is however NIPR's job rather than the coordinators to obtain the work for the collection. To give an idea of the work done so far, the NIPR's collection to date includes 684 monograph titles, 1,252 Government publications, 98 periodical titles and an almost complete run of the Northern Ireland Statutory Reports dating back to January 2001. Of these about 200 are local history titles.

The media, especially the numerous regional newspapers, are a wonderful source of information on newly published books and they often give substantial coverage to historical literature that illustrates the rich cultural heritage of their district. NIPR also has a presence on the Local History Panel, a subcommittee of the Library and Information Services Council (NI). The group is made up of representatives from all sectors of the Northern Ireland Library community, who meet on a regular basis to discuss ways of promoting local history in Northern Ireland and to exchange information on events taking place in their areas. Beneficially for NIPR this often includes news of publishing projects, both completed or in the planning stages.

NIPR is still a relatively new organisation so marketing has played a crucial role in the project's development. How could publishers be expected to donate material to an organisation when they are unaware of its very existence? A NIPR website was launched, [www.nibooks.org](http://www.nibooks.org) which gives information on the donation procedure, includes links to publishers web pages and most importantly hosts the NIPR catalogue. NIPR's aims and objectives are also clearly stated, hopefully convincing local publishers of the significance of the archive. Of course in turn [www.nibooks.org](http://www.nibooks.org) had to be promoted, so a designer was employed to give NIPR a corporate image. As a result a range of promotional material such as key rings, pens and mugs embossed with the NIPR logo and web address were distributed throughout the land. Plans are under way for a new look website which will hopefully be operational early in 2005.

Still not convinced that the NIPR message was reaching all parts of the country it was decided by the NIPR Board that a competition should be run to seek out the best local history publication published in the Province since January 2000. To attract as many entries as possible and generate widespread publicity for the project it was recognised that a substantial cash prize would have to be offered. Unfortunately NIPR did not have the required funds available so it employed the help of a local marketing firm, Citigate, to seek out sponsorship. Almost immediately it was offered financial backing from a leading mobile phone network. Although grateful for such a positive result the NIPR Board felt that the backing of this organisation would not be appropriate as there had been much resistance from rural communities in Northern Ireland (one of NIPR's main target groups) to the erection of phone masts. It was agreed that an ideal sponsor would be one which served the whole of the Northern Ireland community, so when Royal Mail offered £3,000 backing the NIPR Board was delighted to accept this generous offer. Barbara Roulston of Royal Mail summed up the partnership when she said: "It is particularly fitting that Royal Mail, which has a unique presence in every town and village and delivers the written word across Northern Ireland should sponsor this initiative."

The competition, entitled "Celebrating Our Local History", was open to everyone who had published a local history or biography in Northern Ireland since 2000. Flyers and posters giving information on entry conditions and prizes were distributed to libraries, churches, local history societies and community groups province wide. To attract as much publicity as possible it was decided that the competition should be officially launched at a reception in the Linen Hall Library. The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State with responsibility for libraries and the arts, Angela Smith MP officiated at the ceremony and emphasised the point that: "It is essential that copies of those publications which cover local history are not lost forever in dusty attics but are archived centrally so that they can continue to be available for future generations to enjoy".

Entrants were asked to submit two copies of their publications on the condition that these works would become part of the NIPR archive. Material which had previously been donated to the collection was automatically entered. The response was phenomenal: in all 145 publications were submitted. The calibre of entries was extremely high so it was only after much deliberation that the judging panel came up with a shortlist of sixteen titles. Through accident rather than design this drew together something from almost every genre and represented every part of the Province. In the end Marcus Patton and his excellent publication *The Opera Hat*

of Sir Hamilton Harty<sup>2</sup> was chosen as the winner with three other titles named as runners-up. The awards ceremony took place on the 10<sup>th</sup> June 2004 and the NIPR Board was delighted that Sir John Semple, Director of Royal Mail in Northern Ireland, was able to present the prizes. "Celebrating Our Local History" was a resounding success for NIPR. Not only did it unearth publications that otherwise might have lain hidden, but it also ensured their preservation for future generations.

For NIPR to continue to prosper it must secure long-term financial support. The current round of funding from DCAL (Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure) is due to end in October 2005, however the NIPR Board are cautiously optimistic that an application for further funding will be successful. NIPR's work has only really begun. To help ensure the continued high quality of publishing in Northern Ireland, NIPR intends to promote good practice in publishing through information published on its website. A travelling exhibition, which will include a display of the publications shortlisted in the competition, will tour the Province next year and it is anticipated that when others see these impressive publications they will be encouraged to follow suit and delve into the local history experience for themselves.

*Monica MacErlane is the Manager, NIPR. For further information she can be contacted at Belfast Central Library, Royal Avenue, Belfast BT1 1EA. Tel (028)90321707, email [info@nibooks.org](mailto:info@nibooks.org)*

<sup>1</sup> Streatfield, David. *Access to Research Material: British Library Research Innovation Report 147*. London: British Library Research and Innovation Centre, 1998.

<sup>2</sup> Patton, Marcus. *The Opera Hat of Sir Hamilton Harty*. Belfast: Grand Piano Press, 2003.

## **PICTURE IT: EXPLOITING YOUR ILLUSTRATIONS COLLECTIONS**

*Louise Stocker*

This was the latest in the series of Day Schools organised by the Midlands and Anglia Subgroup of the Cilip Local Studies Group, and was held in Solihull on 16<sup>th</sup> September 2004. It was arranged to inspire us to maximise the potential of our illustrations collections, whilst also working to ensure that any images in our care are kept and used in the best ways to ensure that they are available for use by the generations of the future.

The day began with an enthusiastic presentation by Vanessa Ancliff, a photographic indexer involved in the 'Picture the Past' project. The main impetus for this project has come from a chance connection by an individual who realised the potential for partnership when he changed job and moved from working in a Nottinghamshire library to one in Derbyshire. He noticed that both areas were struggling to obtain funding which would allow for the digitisation of their respective photographic collections, and that the collections housed were similar in a number of ways as a consequence of the social patterns of development which had emerged in both counties. After some discussion, the partnership was established and a joint bid was made. Eventually funding for a three-year project was secured from the National Lottery Heritage Fund, who had previously been unsuccessfully approached by both counties. The project is

now in its final year, but the website that has been created is a well-catalogued, easy use-to-use resource which bears testimony to the time and efforts of a relatively small team (equivalent to 3½ full time posts) – in fact 'Picture the Past' won an Alan Ball Award this year. The site also allows users the opportunity to print one free copy of each image, and glossy photographic reproductions are sold at approximately £6 each.

The second presentation, by James Patterson of 'MACE' (Media Archive for Central England), was equally interesting as the audience were entranced by a video of show reels from the early 1900's. MACE is currently based at The University of Nottingham, where a small team strive to maintain the appropriate conditions for storing their collection of differing formats of moving images. We were told of recently confirmed plans to transfer much of the ITV archive into the collection which currently consists of around 24,000 images, and James explained that they would be happy to receive any films that are occasionally found in random piles in the dark corners of libraries, as their condition tends to deteriorate quickly if they are not stored in the appropriate environments. At present, it is impractical to portray these images on the internet, as technology does not allow easy access to the large files needed to facilitate this operation. However, James explained that this is an important project for the future as it will open up access to the collection and allow for the development of an educational programme to complement the national curriculum and places of local interest.

After lunch, Tim Padfield travelled from the National Archives to attempt to guide us through the web of current copyright in relation to illustrations. The presentation began by summarising copyright as fully as possible, before discussing Tim's excellent flow charts, designed to assist the lay person in the areas of duration and rights of clearance. This session was extremely informative and was communicated in a very accessible manner, instilling confidence and understanding in an area which is often viewed with anxiety. The session was completed with a question and answer session. An article on this topic appears elsewhere in this issue.

The final presentation entitled 'Caring for our Photographic Images', was given by Donata Santorini, a senior conservator, at Warwickshire County Council Conservation Department. Donata began by explaining the physical construction of photographic images before highlighting the main factors which can result in damage, and suggesting solutions for repair. She then continued to outline the best conditions for storage, describing new 'intelligent' sprinkler systems to prevent water damage in the event of fire, the ideal practices to prevent damage by handling and practical methods of avoiding environmental harm. This talk was also closed with a question and answer session, and it became clear that many of the problems faced today are results of the practices of the past. Food for thought indeed....

*Louise Stocker is Community Librarian, Holbeach Group, Lincolnshire Libraries.*

# **IFLA AND LOCAL STUDIES: THE WORLD LIBRARY AND INFORMATION CONGRESS, 2004**

*Elizabeth Melrose*

"All the passengers in rows 1 to 7, please get up and sit at the far back of the plane. The weight distribution needs to be adjusted for take-off..." I abandoned my aircraft seat and retreated. Takeoff from Gatwick accomplished, my fellow passengers and I crept back to our original seats and settled down for the first leg of the flight to the 70<sup>th</sup> annual IFLA Conference in Argentina. Thirteen hours and another plane later, we touched down in Buenos Aires in the early morning, in the pouring rain, glad to find the hotel taxi sent to collect me. This was my third visit to an IFLA Conference but my first visit to South America and this is my report to LSG.

## **Involvement with the Section**

The Genealogy and Local History Section of IFLA is a young group, formerly a Round Table. The Section Committee includes representatives of the National Libraries of Scotland, Wales, Ireland and Korea, along with librarians from the Genealogical Society of Utah, and the Vendsyssel Historical Museum, Denmark. I had given a paper for the Section open session at IFLA Berlin 2003 and had been co-opted onto the Committee email list. In the following months the Committee involved me in all the advance preparations for the next Conference.

## **Preparation for the conference**

The Committee had agreed that our 2004 Buenos Aires open session would address the subject of 'Resources for immigrant history: their origins, lives and contributions'. The topic seemed to fit within the main IFLA conference theme of "Libraries: Tools for education and development" and yet to encompass aspects of the journeys undertaken by displaced communities and the search for global family roots. It was important to relate to both genealogy and to our host country, Argentina, a land populated by many waves of migration. The Section Secretary put out a call for conference papers. Abstracts were received and compared by the Committee, through email discussion. Not only had the authors to keep to the brief, and show an understanding of their subject, but the Section had to co-ordinate an integrated programme of short presentations that would interest a diverse and multilingual conference audience.

Five papers were chosen and the authors were asked to send in their conference papers for further checking and translation, both for publication on IFLANET and for the open session. A paper on the Holocaust website from East Renfrewshire was excellent, but several weeks after the paper was submitted, the website had been judged the runner-up in the Emerald 'Change Lives' runner-up award and we felt this accolade should be highlighted. On the other hand, our Argentinian speaker produced 29 pages of annotated bibliography of source material on immigration to one specific area of her country, translated from the original Spanish. I was asked to modify the English translation and to cut the material down for web-publication and the speaker was reminded about the time constraints.

Also in advance of the Conference, the Committee conducted an email listserv Committee meeting, lasting over four days. This was to prepare the agenda for the

main Section Committee meetings in Buenos Aires. It was a new development, requiring some organisation by Mel Thatcher of Utah, our Chairman. Emailing through many time-zones and from several continents, we discussed the Buenos Aires Conference programme and study tour, the update to the Section Strategic Plan for 2004-2005, and the publication of the promotional leaflets in various languages.

### **The main Section committee meetings**

This electronic preparatory work did ease the two Section committee meetings that I attended on the first and last Saturdays, book-ending the main Conference proceedings. The meeting also welcomed delegates from the IFLA Geography and Map Section to discuss a possible joint lecture session and workshops at the 2005 IFLA Conference in Oslo. Suggestions included themes on the use of maps in illuminating genealogy and local history and convict and felon records.

### **The Open Session**

There are very many overlapping meetings taking place over the period allocated to the various IFLA Sections. However our committee was pleased by the attendance. Eighty-five delegates came to the Genealogy and Local History session. One of the speakers just did not turn up, but what was a concern for our Session organiser did, in fact, allow much more time for discussion in Spanish and English. The papers ranged over areas of immigrant history:

- European emigration records, 1820-1925
- Jewish settlements and genealogical research in Argentina
- Holocaust remembrance 2004 in East Renfrewshire, Scotland and the making of the website [www.eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk/holocaust](http://www.eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk/holocaust)
- From Europe to Misiones (a province of Argentina): sources for the study of immigration

All these papers, and the contribution of the absent speaker, 'Russian refugees at Belgrade University from 1919 to 1945: their contribution to science and teaching' can be downloaded from IFLANET at <http://www.ifla.org/IV/ifla70/prog04.htm> (scroll to no. 84)

### **The study tour**

There was so much to do and see, both at the conference and in Buenos Aires, but an enthusiastic group from different continents, the USA, the UK, Europe, Russia and the Far East, joined the study tour and walked along the waterfront to the Museo Nacional de la Inmigración. Here we were taken round the 'Immigrants' Hotel', where scores of families, hoping for a new and better life, stayed after embarking from ships that had crossed the Atlantic from the old world. We saw a slide presentation and examined a database of the individuals who had stayed at the Hotel. A great honour was being greeted by the elderly founder of the museum, Professor Jorge Ochoa de Eguileor. The afternoon visit was to the National Archives, where staff were doing their utmost in underfunded circumstances. Among other public papers we saw a document signed by Juan Peron and heard an original recording of Evita speaking to her supporters – a connection I afterwards continued by visiting her family mausoleum in the Buenos Aires Recoleta cemetery.

### **Other activities**

There was so much to be enjoyed and Buenos Aires was an amazing city. Despite being so involved in the Genealogy and Local History Section, I was able to attend

sessions organised by the Newspaper Section, which concentrated on the press of Mexico, Columbia and Latin America, and the Reference Work Section which concentrated on various aspects of the Reference Librarian toolkit. The Reference Work Section has been working on the development of Digital Reference Guidelines and Standards, applicable to all who deal with virtual reference, including local studies librarians. See: <http://www.ifla.org/VII/s36/pubs/drsp.htm#3>

There was much else to do and see. The early rainstorms cleared into sunshine and walks along the waterfront were a pleasure. Despite 27 lanes, at the last count, of speeding vehicles and a city railway line between my excellent budget hotel and the conference centre, motorists and lorry drivers treated pedestrians generously. I had coffee in a café run by the Jorge Luis Borges Foundation and on another occasion in a converted cinema, now the largest bookstore in South America. I photographed the commemorative column to Christopher Columbus and visited the Boca Juniors Football stadium. I was able to relate the tragic monument to 'The heroes of the Malvinas' to the tented encampment of Falklands veterans, protesting against the non-payment of their pensions in the main square overlooking the Presidential Casa Rosada. Here too the Mothers of the Disappeared walk each week in a circle marked on the ground by the designs of their emblematic headscarves.

I met good friends and made many more as we were treated to a reception at the British Embassy, with an energetic display by folk-dancers from North Argentina – and a magnificent Cultural Evening at the Opera incorporating folk ballet, circus theatre, Tango displays and a choir who had the audience on their feet with a final rendering of "Don't cry for me..."

After the Conference I took advantage of a tourist trip to Patagonia. Here, at the Peninsula Valdez UNESCO World Heritage Nature Reserve we took a boat into the bay to whale-watch. Enormous sea-lions and smaller seals came close to the shore or lay resting on the sand before and after giving birth to pups. The next day we visited the Gaiman area. On the coast we had seen where 19<sup>th</sup> century Welsh emigrants had disembarked, firstly to shelters on the shoreline before moving inland in the province, maintaining their culture and language to this day. It was strange to be enjoying scones, cakes and apple pies in a typical 'Welsh tea-house' in the centre of an Argentinian town.

### **The future**

Since I returned to York I have continued my involvement in the Genealogy and Local History Committee. The Section Strategic plan and action plan is to be uploaded to IFLANET. As part of a recruitment drive, the committee is compiling a survey of the genealogy and local history services provided by National Libraries. We are to follow this up by collecting local studies guidelines produced by library authorities while, at the same time, examining the possibility of publishing the Section conference papers. Our chairman is to write a Section position statement for FAIFE (Freedom of Access to Information and Freedom of Expression – one of IFLA's core activities). Assisted by Richard Huws of the National Library of Wales, I am to overlook the next edition of the Section Newsletter and I have sent out a plea to the listserv for news articles. Plans for the Section activities in Oslo 2005 are advancing and the Committee is talking to representatives of the National Library of Korea about the IFLA 2006 programme.

My time at the IFLA conference was a great experience. I must thank the Local Studies Group for the very generous grant that made it easy for me to meet up with many like-minded colleagues and friends and expand my knowledge of the best of international librarianship and the connections that link us all. I was fortunate to be involved with a group of practitioners whose expertise has encouraged me in my work at home. But we all have to start somewhere... and I would suggest that anyone with time and some energy should look at the IFLA website or contact any of the Section officers to ask for a leaflet and further information on the work of the Genealogy and Local History Section of IFLA.

#### **Section officers:**

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## **FROM OUR CILIP COUNCILLOR**



This is a longer than usual report, as it covers both CILIP Council in July and the first two meetings of the Group Review Working Party. My full reports have been put up on the LSG website, but the important points are covered here.

### **CILIP Council, July 2004**

By the time of this meeting, the first (preliminary) meeting of the Group Review Working Party had taken place. Although the minutes were not yet available Pat Beech, who chaired that meeting, gave a positive oral report on the discussion which had taken place. Points made included the fact that there was no intention to abandon the Special Interest Groups, but there was a need to rationalise the group funding structure, look at the aims and responsibilities of the Groups and their satellite subgroups and to examine how Group committees accounted to their membership. More about the Review is given below.

Apart from the Review of Groups, several other important items were discussed by Council, one of these being the new subscription model. There had been member consultation about the flat-rate subscription model – both through the web and through an article in Gazette, which had been published to lay out the reasoning behind the subscription. A few comments had been received at Ridgmount Street, but advice from CILIP solicitors was that only the AGM could make a final decision on this. The financial health of CILIP was said to be much improved, and the Treasurer considered that it would be even more stable if the AGM could agree to the principle of automatic direct debit subscription. [Editor's note: this has now been resolved: following a poll of members, as decided at the AGM, the flat-rate subscription system has been approved, with 77% of those voting being in favour].

Following the presentation of the report of the Ethics Panel all Council members present gave the Principles and the Code of Practice their unanimous support. The new Framework of Qualifications were discussed and progress noted. Other matters included a reminder to Branches and Groups that they must hold annual elections for officers.

#### **Group Review Working Party first meeting, 6 July 2004**

This was a preliminary meeting at which eight members of CILIP volunteered to meet with National Councillor Pat Beech and Sue Brown, the Director of CILIP Member Services, to make up a small working party to consider the viability and status of the CILIP Group structure. Representatives from six Groups, including LSG, took part and were asked to look at the case for the Special Interest Groups as a whole.

It was stated that CILIP has no intention of discarding the Special Interest Group structure – indeed, as the CILIP sector advisers are leaving, there might need to be a stronger role for the Groups. Already CILIP HQ is devolving more responsibility to the Group committees. There were however several issues surrounding the SIGs. For instance, some, like LSG, are subject-specific, while others, like the Cataloguing and Indexing Group, are cross-sectoral. Several groups seem to have overlapping interests focussing on somewhat similar subject areas. Others have no presence in some geographical areas. There is also the difficulty of maintaining strong and lively Committees and the need for some of them to engage more fully with their membership in order to nurture future activists and to encourage new members.

There are also external changes affecting the governance of Groups. The Group funding structure needs careful scrutiny, especially in view of the overall CILIP budget. At the same time the SIGs do require a financial allocation in order to publish their newsletters and stage events. The process of review has already begun with the issue of revised Group Rules and it would be useful to examine the aims and objectives of each Group and its relationships, if any, with the geographic Branches.

The Working Party considered a timetable which would include a lengthy period of consultation with members. It would also compare the practices of other organisations and investigate all aspects of Group provenance. A consultation document would be prepared for the membership, to be distributed early in 2005, and it is intended that the Review should be completed by September 2005. All members of the Working Party invite comments at any time: no investigation of the Group structure can be complete without members' involvement. Pat Beech, Chairman of the Group Review Working Party, is happy to attend any Group or Group Committee meeting to explain the thought behind this review. Do send any of your views and queries to me.

#### **Group Review Working Party 2nd meeting, 5 Oct 2004**

Once again the meeting stressed that, although the Review must progress and that no group should consider itself free from scrutiny, there would be thorough and far-reaching consultation with members.

There was a feeling among the Working Party members that

- the relationship of the Home Nations, the CILIP Branches, affiliate and extra members to both subject-specific and cross-sectoral Special Interest Groups, must be examined

- A mapping exercise was required to find out what the Groups were achieving at present and whether the present Group officers could deal with procedures being divested from the centre at CILIP HQ. Extra responsibilities required extra funding
- as some Groups had not been able to appoint a representative to the Working Party, all Groups should have a named contact on the Committee who would be responsible for the speedy dissemination of information about the Review
- the Working Party must recognise the many strengths of the Groups and not focus on weaknesses
- a campaign should be launched to persuade Chief Librarians of the value of Group membership to young professionals

On behalf of the Local Studies Group I reported the receipt of three emails from members giving comments. This was despite the fact that I had that I had requested feedback through the Local Studies Group website, if only to say that I was not sending out enough information.

However, it is hoped that more observations from all the 26 Groups will be forthcoming. The Working Party will be sending out a Group Review Consultation Questionnaire to all members. At the meeting the Working Party examined the questionnaire and made many suggestions to improve it: these will be reflected in the final document. **I do urge everyone in the Local Studies Group to deal with this questionnaire as soon as it arrives and to return their completed forms.**

The timetable for the review is that the Group Rules are to be reviewed by April 2005 and that the Group Review Working Party should report by September 2005.

Much of the investigative work on what is to be included in the Group Review Questionnaire will be concluded by December 2004. The Questionnaire will then be sent out in early January to be returned to the Working Party as soon as possible, and at the latest by April 2005.

LSG's Honorary Secretary, Diana Dixon, attended a meeting on the Group Review facilitated by the Public Libraries group, and now has a very clear idea of the conclusions reached. The Public Libraries Group intends to hold further similar discussions, so if there is one of these near you, please do attend and let me know what happened ...**and when you do receive the Questionnaire please make sure you complete and return it.**

*Elizabeth Melrose, Councillor representing the Local Studies Group.  
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## **ALAN BALL LOCAL HISTORY AWARDS 2004**

The Alan Ball Awards were established to encourage local history publishing by Public Libraries and Local Authorities and this is the twentieth year they have been awarded. Organised by the Library Services Trust, they have become an established part of the library awards scene, and give local studies a welcome amount of publicity, particularly in the winners' home areas. This year the judges made the maximum number of three awards, and commended a further four publications. They

were particularly pleased that the number of non-print entries had substantially increased, and this year one Award was restricted to non-print items.

The Awards are:

**Newcastle upon Tyne City Council** for two books, *Steam and Speed: railways of Tyne and Wear from the earliest days*, by Andy Guy, and *The Shadow of the Gallows*, by Barry Redfern. The judges considered that these were the two most impressive printed items in respect of their research and physical production;

**Nottinghamshire County Council** for *Picture the Past*, a website giving access to local studies images that is a welcome collaborative venture by four local authorities (Derby and Nottingham City Councils and Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire County Councils);

Non-print Award: **The Highland Council** for *Am Baile: the Celtic village*: a website ([www.ambaile.org.uk](http://www.ambaile.org.uk)). Providing a comprehensive guide to the history and culture of the Scottish Highlands, it is a bright and lively site with many photographs, illustrations, books and documents included. There is a fun section for children and the site is in Gaelic and English. The website was created by a consortium and was funded in part by NOF.

The Commendations are:

**Durham County Council** for *The Fighting Bradfords: northern heroes of World War One*, by Harry Moses. This was well researched and nicely produced;

**Sandwell MBC** for *West Bromwich Town Hall*, by Anne Wilkins. This clearly fills a local gap with a well balanced and attractive book;

**Bolton MBC** for *Bolton Revisited*, an interesting local studies website that relies upon the involvement of members of the local community;

Non-print item: **Gateshead Council** for *Farne – Folk Archive Resource North East*. A website (<http://www.folknortheast.com>). This site is an introduction to the folk music tradition of the North East. Once again it was created by a consortium and part funded by the National Lottery. It will give people a chance to discover more about this country's musical heritage.

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

**NOTE:** There is a wide range of material here, and some of these authorities have been previous winners. 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 WC1E 7AE, tel 0207 255 0648 or 020 255 0500, email [ericwinter@cilip.org.uk](mailto:ericwinter@cilip.org.uk)

## FROM OUR SUBGROUPS

Our *Midlands and Anglia* subgroup reports continuing activity. Another edition of its newsletter has been issued, and the group held a successful day school on exploiting illustrations collections in September. A report on the day as a whole, and an article by Tim Padfield of the National Archives, who was one of the speakers, appear elsewhere in this issue. The group is in a healthy state financially and its committee has been re-elected.

LOCSCOT, our Scottish subgroup reports that, for a variety of reasons, it has had some problems in attracting sufficient numbers to its meetings. However, a recent Day School on "Sources for River History" attracted delegates from a good representative spread of library authorities: "River History" is the subject of the 2005 Local History Week. Meanwhile, this year's Local History Week was on the topic of 'Graveyards' and was very well supported right across Scotland, with over 100 events taking place, including a variety of exhibitions, displays, talks, and graveyard tours. Locscot magazine is now in very good health, with issues now being regularly published twice a year. LOCSCOT has for long been represented on the committee of the Scottish Local History Forum, the leading umbrella organisation for local history societies in Scotland. Locscot's representative, Elma Lindsay of Stirling Libraries is to stand down in 2005, and Sybil Cavanagh, of West Lothian Libraries, will take her place.

Our always active group from *Northern Ireland*, the LISC (NI) Local History Panel, is continuing to plan for its local history year, "Celebrating Local History" in 2006. The Panel aims to hold a high profile media launch with a 'big name' and possibly a closing event at the end of the year. It also aims to publicise the events, work and projects carried out, along with the services provided by the libraries, under an "umbrella brand". There is also the intention to carry out an audit of users' needs and opinions of these services. LISC was also one of the sponsors, along with Royal Mail, of the highly successful competition for local publishers and authors run by the Northern Ireland Publications Resource (see article elsewhere in this issue). A successful and well attended seminar on the importance of newspapers for local history was held in September, the audience being front line staff and others who have a responsibility to deliver Local Studies services: the content was informative, thought provoking – and amusing.

While our Welsh subgroup is still in suspension, some of the members of the former subgroup committee were involved with the Day School on 'History in the making' at St. Deiniol's Library, Hawarden, in October. There are people who would like to maintain an LSG presence in Wales, but undeniably one major problem is its geographical structure, with long distances between major centres. If anyone would like to be involved or has any suggestions for a way forward, please get in touch with our Hon. Secretary.

Our *North West* subgroup reports that that its Autumn event, a visit to Styal Mill to see the textile history collection with talks from the curator and other relevant speakers, had to be cancelled due to lack of applicants. It seemed a very relevant topic for the North West, but the committee will be having a post mortem: on the whole the North West events attract good audiences. Meanwhile, the subgroup's future plans include a meeting at Stonyhurst College on the theme of education and something on World War One based at Accrington to mark the anniversary of the Somme in 2006, and possibly a meeting on architecture in Chester and a visit to Fort Perch Rock and Wallasey Docks. The subgroup's publication by Alan Crosby – on the development of local history 1850-2000 – is selling well, but there are still copies available. It is also reported that Lynn Knowing has become involved in the revamp of the CILIP website as an "early adopter".

## **HAVE YOU SEEN...? Some recent items of interest to local studies librarians**

*Reid, P. The digital age and local studies. Oxford, Chandos Publishing, 2003. xix, 237 pp. £39.00. ISBN 1 84334 051 8.*

Peter Reid states that 'The advent of the Internet has dramatically changed the way in which users approach local studies investigation...' His book gives support to those managers who are aware that the growth of global interest in local, family and community history has been underpinned by the internet and website development. Use of local studies departments and archive repositories has increased dramatically over the last two decades. Even more important, local studies practitioners must accept not only the elaborate progress of electronic development, learning how it impacts on the delivery of source material to the public, but they must also welcome and understand these developments, in order to fulfil the greater expectations of their clients.

Dr Reid is the course leader for the MSc in Information and Library Studies at the Robert Gordon University, a programme delivered at the university and also by distance learning using the University Virtual Campus. His interests are varied, but revolve round teaching reference and enquiry services, digital reference and local studies collection management. This book is based on his overview of web development and local studies practice in the past years, and is particularly aimed at students and local studies librarians in the public sector. He also takes the work of other national, academic and special institutions in the UK and abroad into account and he credits the work of individual authors in the field, singling out Michael Dewe's publications on collection management for special mention.

This informative book is divided into eight chapters, prefaced by a clear contents list of the chapter and section headings. In the introduction, Dr Reid discusses the basics of local studies librarianship and collection building, alongside the question of "how local is local?", the identity of the individual communities that must be reflected in the appropriate collections. The present government initiatives of social inclusion and lifelong learning are well served through joint exploration of the past life of the locality but the digital age can ensure that specific collections are part of an international network of historical assets.

For those who regard the World Wide Web as just an obsessive novelty or those who have been disenchanted by problems with the technology, chapter two includes a section on the issues and concerns. The author does not expand on the underpinning ICT services or content creation. He emphasises that familiarity with the internet is not only about what local studies departments can put onto a website, but also about the electronic catalogues and reference material from other resource centres that staff and library users can indeed access.

Other aspects of electronic delivery are considered in the next two chapters. The first looks at electronic enquiry services, including email, electronic forms, or weblogs. Any Ask-a-Librarian email facility or real-time Virtual Reference Service, such as those implemented by Gateshead and Somerset, is likely to receive local studies enquiries relating to another district. The skill for staff here is to know how to extract the nature of the question from what is an informal type of delivery, and how to use the Internet to find an accommodating website or a forwarding address. The next chapter assesses the types of material that can be made available electronically to give remote users a unique yet pertinent interpretation of the history of any community. Here the author details an A-Z of content creation, from A for audio, through Y for yell or publicise to Z for zip files. The Knowsley Local History website <http://history.knowsley.gov>.

uk is used as an example of best practice, as is the Port Gordon Local History Online website, produced by a local historian - <http://www.portgordon.org>

There are very many essential genealogical websites. FamilySearch - <http://www.familysearch.org> - is possibly one of the most important and well-known of these. In a chapter on E-genealogy and the library, Dr Reid describes the advantages and disadvantages of its use alongside that of other important electronic resources such as the Origins.network website <http://www.origins.net>, founded in 1997 and covering British, Irish and Scots Origins - an example of recent "joined-up thinking". Many useful genealogical resources, such as monumental inscriptions and valuation rolls, have yet to be digitised. This is an area where local studies librarians could co-operate with local associations and lobby for space on council websites, though Dr Reid advises caution in collaboration since some private web development can lack the requisite essential standards. However electronic partnerships can enhance those alliances that already exist between experienced local organisations, archives, museums and libraries.

The last two chapters of the book cover E-learning and the necessity for evaluation. As someone who is presently involved in an education, archives and local studies electronic project for Primary and Secondary schoolteachers, this chapter is of especial interest. Our grant-aided project has been received by the focus group of teachers with some enthusiasm, so "the lack of appreciation for work being done..." has not been evident, probably because the group has been able to overturn our staff pre-conceptions about the way forward, and relationships have been forged, as Dr Reid claims is essential.

Indeed the best way to develop modern local studies services, especially digital services, is to explore what other leading colleagues are doing and to conduct rigorous evaluation into whether they have been successful - and into whether these services would translate into one's own environment. It is also fundamental to confer with the local historical organisations, many of whose members will also be immersed in web-development on their own account, promoting the history of their town or village. He suggests that much can be done to widen access to new users and to capture published material available only in web-format through effort on the part of local studies staff.

There is a bibliography and the chapters end with extra notes and references. The author has described models of good practice and gives examples of evaluation criteria. The book is easy to read, demonstrating the teaching experience that the author brings to his writing. Everyone in charge of a local studies collection, who has pretensions to connect with the Digital Age, should read it and pass it on to their managers. It will become an important local studies reference textbook.

*Elizabeth Melrose*

*Raymond, Stuart A. Words from Wills and other probate records: a glossary. Federation of Family History Societies in association with SA & MJ Raymond, 2004. 114pp. £8.50 + p&p. ISBNs 1 86006 181 8 (FFHS): 1 899668 37 3 (Raymond). Available from SA & MJ Raymond, PO Box 35, Exeter, Devon, EX1 3YZ (£1.00 p&p).*

This work gives definitions for words commonly found in early modern probate records and is based on a wide range of published collections of probate records. It is pointed out that the words listed are defined solely in the context of probate records - other meanings can be found, for example in the OED or Wright's Dialect Dictionary. While admittedly selective, with its specific purpose this is a very handy little book for local historians and will offer a good deal of help. There is a bibliography.

*Golding, J. Local history at the National Monuments Record. The Local Historian, 34(3) August 2004, pp 140-150.*

The National Monuments Record is the public archive of English Heritage and holds about eight million items relating to England's archaeology and buildings: potentially, therefore, it has much of interest to local historians researching their area. The NMR was created by various national institutions concerned with research and survey programmes of the buildings and archaeology of England. It now holds a vast range of materials including its own and those acquired from others. This useful article describes the various sources and services offered by NMR which are of use to local historians, using as a case study the village of Steventon, Oxfordshire. It also briefly explains the enquiry and visitor services available, including contact information, and ends with a list of its online sources and online catalogues and databases.

## NOTES AND NEWS

Dorset Local Studies Collection and Dorset Archives have merged as Dorset History Service. After a closure of about a month to allow building works to be carried out, the Local Studies Collection is moving into the County Record Office in Dorchester, thus providing a new centre for the study of Dorset's history: by the time you read this the new service should be in full operation. There has been a long standing and close relationship between the two collections, and both believe that the amalgamation will benefit users. Before it all happened, however, a consultation exercise was carried out, with a leaflet explaining the proposed changes and asking readers whether they thought it was a good idea and whether they approved of the name "Dorset History Service". 85% of respondents agreed with the proposal and 12% disagreed, while 72% approved the title and 16% disapproved. Several other titles were suggested by readers but few had more than one supporter. The main concern mentioned by readers was related to the more limited opening hours of the record office, as these opening hours will initially be maintained: others were around drawing in further, related collections, and car parking. As part of the new service provision, the current Catalogue and Microfilm Research Rooms are being converted into a Local Studies Library area where the main collection of books are on open access shelves, and other alterations are also being carried out.

Tameside Local Studies collection, too, is on the move. This is to a new purpose-built centre next to the Central Library, Ashton-under-Lyne. This means that for the first time the entire Local Studies and Archive collections will be housed in one building – and the first time that the whole collection will be housed above ground. The new building is constructed to house material under National Archives approved conditions. There is a much bigger reading room with space for more microfilm readers and public access PCs, along with eating space and toilet facilities. The service has been closed since Oct 2004 and resumes operations in early March.

Down in Devon things are moving in the opposite direction. Following a Heritage Lottery Fund grant the Devon Record Office is moving from its current site in Castle Street in the centre of Exeter, adjacent to the Westcountry Studies Library, to massive new premises at Great Moor House on Sowton Trading Estate adjacent to Junction 29 of the M5. It will be merging collections currently split between its central office and a large outstore on a trading estate. It will also be taking over the extensive Meteorological Office Archives, following the Office's move to Exeter into premises just across the road from the new Record Office building. The new Record Office will probably reopen during February 2005. The Westcountry Studies Library will stay put, but it is intended that it will contain microfiche copies of the most used archival sources. Hopefully too the Westcountry Studies Library will be able

to expand into some of the space vacated by the Record Office, as it is at present extremely cramped. More details of the move are on the Devon County Council website at [http://www.devon.gov.uk/the\\_county/record\\_office.htm](http://www.devon.gov.uk/the_county/record_office.htm)

The Dorset Coast Digital Archive website, mentioned in our last issue, has recently introduced a new development – a GIS map layering facility. Paired digital images of Estate maps (1769-1773), Tithe maps (1837-1860), OS maps (6" first ed, 1880s), and aerial photographs (1940s and 1970s), plus a modern base map, can be compared in minute detail using the Map Viewer and its 'zoom-in' facility. Coverage at present is restricted to those parishes close to the coast. In addition, the Tithe Apportionments, providing names of landowners and occupiers, can be searched in original or transcript format – a particularly valuable resource for local and family historians. The Estate maps and Tithe maps with their Apportionments have all been digitised from originals in the Dorset Record Office and will allow remote access to these popular records for the very first time. Try the website at [www.dceda.org.uk](http://www.dceda.org.uk)

In Northern Ireland the North Eastern Education and Library Board Local Studies Service held an Open Day in partnership with the Ballymena Times in October to examine the Ballymena and district experience of the first world war. Local historians Des Blackadder and John Hoy had been using the Local Studies resources to develop their archive examining the Ballymena district's involvement in the Great War - their end aim being to create on-line and hardcopy archives of those who served or died in the War. Mr. Blackadder approached Local Studies about the possibility of their facilitating an interactive day to further the project – and thus the Open Day was born. It proved to be a success: its opening hours were officially 10.30 am to 3 pm, but clients started arriving at 9.45 and the last ones did not leave until 4 pm. A high proportion of visitors were "first timers" and over a hundred people signed the Comments book, while the Project team had a steady flow of people exchanging knowledge, asking for advice and providing information to be added to the archive. The event brought good publicity for the library and served as an example of how a local studies service can work in partnership with a local group. The Local Studies Service mounted displays of material both from the library and loaned by staff and clients. Interest in these has continued since the Open Day, including visits from schools.

Many congratulations to Diana Dixon on the award of her PhD, entitled 'The English provincial newspaper past and present: access and preservation'. It was approved by the examiners at University College London in August 2004. The thesis examines bibliographical control of older and current newspapers, cataloguing, indexing, preservation, digitisation and the NEWSPLAN project.

At a meeting of local studies librarians in the south west region in November one of the chief concerns was job evaluation. There were mixed messages about this across the region. In one authority assistants had dropped two grades, in another the lead local studies librarian had also been downgraded while in a third the equivalent post had actually gone up a grade. In one part of the region fully qualified museum curators and archivists came out a grade higher than librarians, which did not please librarians in that location who work more closely with museums and archives than they do with libraries. On the other hand in one service archive assistants had been graded lower than library assistants. Those who still have to go through this exercise wait with trepidation. It was pointed out that local studies staff have a wide range of links with the community at all levels and often act as ambassadors for the service. It appeared that qualifications and specialist knowledge count for less than cash handling and staff management, both areas which score low in small departments.



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