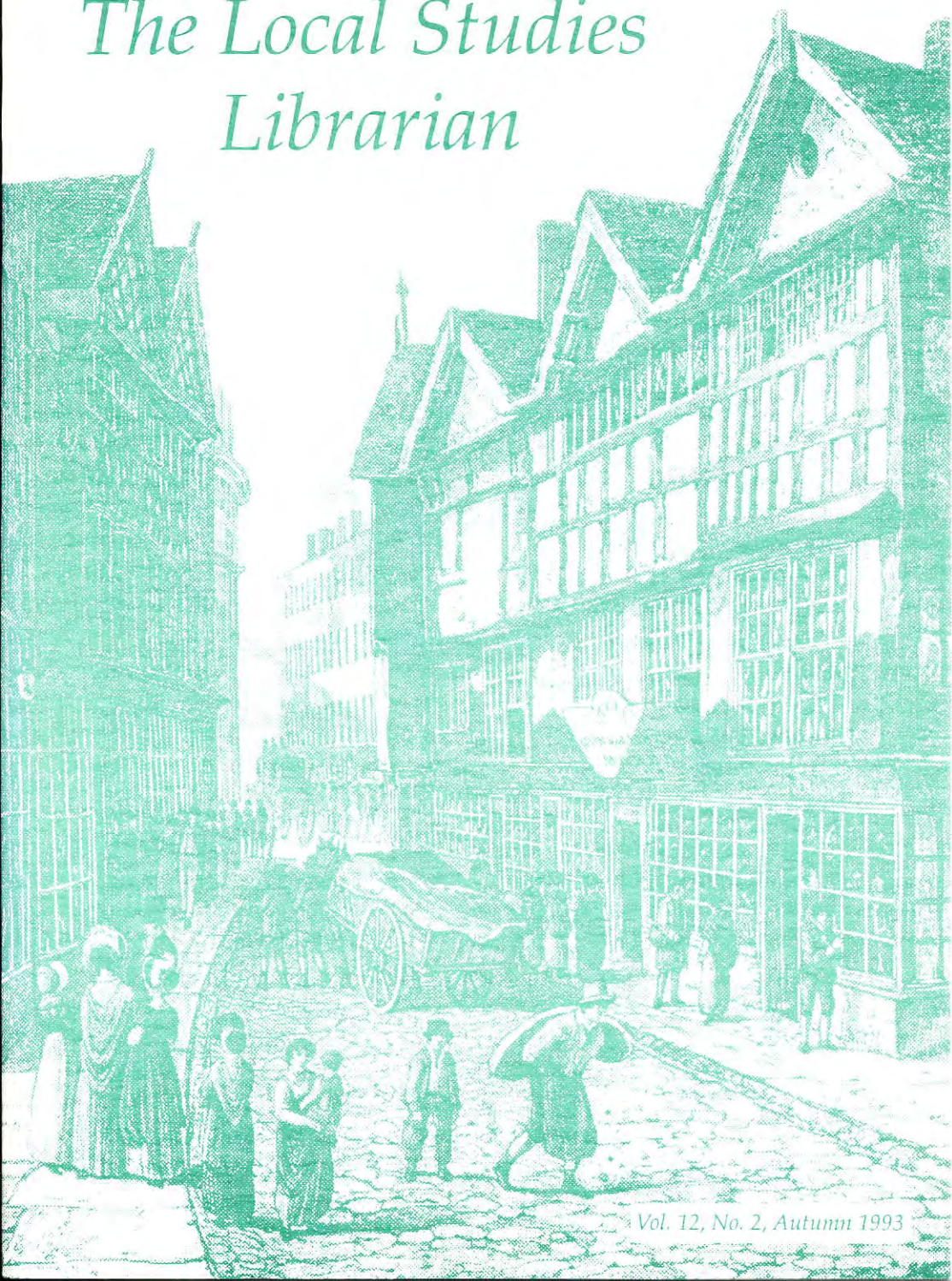


The Local Studies Librarian



Vol. 12, No. 2, Autumn 1993



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Cover Illustration:
Market Street, Manchester, 1823.
Courtesy of the Local Studies Unit, Manchester Central Library.

Editorial

Umbrella 2 proved to be a successful exercise both from the point of view of LSG and in general. The Group's sessions were well attended and the joint sessions with other groups worked well. The Group has already decided to participate in Umbrella 3 in 1995. The organisers on behalf of the Group are Paul Sturges and Diana Winterbotham, so if anyone has any ideas about topics or speakers, please get in touch.

The theme of the Group's contributions at Manchester was 'Local but not parochial', and this issue, somewhat fortuitously, returns to this theme with a major contribution on the local studies situation in France, and a report on this year's BALH conference. In addition, the Group Committee has recently adopted an international policy as a formal statement of its aims which have developed over the last few years: we now have links with Australia and New Zealand as well as Spain, France and eastern Europe. Recently, as reported elsewhere in this issue, we welcomed Andrey Masevich from St Petersburg to several local studies collections, and also helped financially.

To be involved with the outside world is important, but it is also essential not to forget problems at home. Kate Thompson, the Hertfordshire archivist, has been pointing out that there is an increasing number of withdrawals for sale of deposited collections of papers in Record Offices. While the position is not quite the same in libraries, where many of the collections have been donated, it is still possible in many cases for this to happen, so we need to keep our eyes open and perhaps be ready to make an emergency appeal for funds.

Within our own Association the restructuring exercise has continued. Following many representations, the Groups retained their individual representatives on Council, but the idea of sectoral groupings has not been so clear, as many of the Groups have not been placed. This includes LSG, and discussions continue about this. The Group did, in fact, make a submission to the 'restructuring' working party, although this was not acknowledged in the printed copy of the report issued in the LAR.

Finally, this is the time when you will be renewing your LA subscriptions. The various activities of LSG are worth supporting. Please stay with us for next year.

LOCAL AND REGIONAL STUDIES IN FRENCH LIBRARIES

Alain Girard

I am very happy to be able to help contribute to the continuation of Norman relations with Great Britain, which can never really be a foreign country to any Norman aware of our common history. My thanks go to the Library Association and the Local Studies Group and to the British Council, who have all supported this venture.

There has long been co-operation across the Channel: the Caen public and university libraries both have bonds of friendship and co-operation with the Hampshire libraries and the Hatrics network, of which they are members. The city of Caen, the Region of Lower Normandy and the Department of Calvados have made twinning and other co-operative agreements with Portsmouth, the County of Hampshire and the County of Devon. The Hampshire County Council attaches great importance to this co-operation with Lower Normandy.

A few words about my methods. Naturally, the first reaction of a librarian-lecturer is to ask himself what others have written on the subject. To my great dismay, I must tell you that there is but slight bibliographic evidence of the existence in France of local and regional studies. In this essential field we have at our disposal no teaching manual or doctrine of library science; very few articles have appeared and no national or regional survey exists to help the lecturer.

Worse still, except for meetings at the local level in this field - and there are more and more - the Association of French Librarians (ABF) has held no national or regional study day on this theme since 1979. There exists no Local Studies Group, nor any equivalent of your magazine *The Local Studies Librarian*. However, local and regional studies *à la française* do exist: many are developing in a very dynamic way and are making innovations, mostly in co-operation with each other. Thus we note in passing a scientific observation of which the implications must not be underestimated: strange as it may seem, for countless natural or human phenomena - including libraries - there is a pre-bibliographic, or a-bibliographic, life. This is decidedly hard to admit for a bibliographer of any consequence.

Now for the facts. What I intend to do is

- First, as a reminder, a short history of French libraries, a history which conditions and explains in part the current situation and its future evolution;
- A presentation of the different types of libraries which keep local and regional collections and which offer, for the most part, a reference service in this field;
- Finally, a short presentation of different actions undertaken by various cities or regions, undertakings which appear to me innovative in the management and development of L. and R.S.

I do not think it necessary to deal with those points of library science which are nearly the same on both sides of the Channel, as it seems to me that it would be more interesting for you to hear about those aspects specific to the French situation.

A bit of history: from romanticism to CD-ROM

The first French libraries open to the public and dependent upon local secular authorities appear in the eighteenth century. This bond between local authorities and libraries is at the origin of our local and regional collections. However, long before the Enlightenment, the scholarly public was admitted to the libraries of religious orders and of rich patrons of the arts, to those of the universities and of learned societies, and to the *Bibliothèque Royale*. During the conversion to secular uses of the clergy's possessions, the French Revolution entrusted to local authorities millions of publications and manuscripts which were then decreed national property. In the first decades of the nineteenth century, many municipal libraries sprang up from the roots of these old stocks. Our public libraries, in reality, thus took upon themselves the missions of erudition and conservation, from which they would not depart until the twentieth century. Regionalist feeling appeared, underpinned by the prevailing political choices and a nostalgia for the *Ancien Régime* and its "provincial freedoms". This phenomenon shows up clearly in Normandy. Thus the first local and regional collections would develop against this historical background, in the midst of an ambivalence toward the modern post-revolutionary world and of great economic expansion. The pro-Bourbon provincial nobles, on the fringe of society after 1830, played a prominent role in the rapid development of learned societies.

None of this will surprise a British audience. Comparative research still remains to be done on the intellectual relations between Norman and English scholars, united by their studies on the Anglo-Norman Middle Ages. Think of the Norman excursions of the architect Augustus Pugin, of John Sell Cotman, and of Andrew Coltee Ducarel and Dawson Turner, the authors or illustrators of some of the loveliest books in our Norman collections.

A second period, from the 1880s to the First World War, represents a new stage in the development of local and regional studies and of their cultural and scientific base. This was the golden age of French learned societies: our bibliographies show a prodigious number of local historical writings. The libraries were pivotal to these researches, and the scholars and book collectors were not ungrateful: their donations or bequests have decisively enriched our collections. We owe to this period not only many printed catalogues of regional collections (always very useful), but also an enhanced notion of what a local and regional collection really is: a look at the shelves shows us that in many areas, minor documents such as ephemeral literature and chapbooks were gathered together and saved from destruction. Today we have a broad concept of what local collections should contain, and thus these principles apply; but studies should be made to clarify this idea. Paradoxically, the history of local and regional collections is little known in France. The separation of these collections

from the other services is, it seems, more prevalent: special call numbers as well as general and specialized catalogues abound in most well-run libraries.

What, then, will be this century's contribution to library science, in the field of local and regional studies? It would seem that three new factors affect the modernisation of local studies collections: first, the economic, social and practical bias of the regional documentation in large libraries (a de facto application to these collections of general reference work principles); secondly, the application of reasoned and scientifically-based conservation techniques; and finally, the impact of data-processing and electronics techniques with their corollaries, library networks and inter-library co-operation.

The State and local communities: A shared responsibility?

Political and administrative factors also have a part to play. The modern organization of local communities and their respective responsibilities in the cultural sphere determine, to a great extent, the current situation and the future of public libraries. All this has its effect upon local studies collections. Where do we stand on this issue today, and which libraries have missions to fulfil in this area?

The French Republic, of a unifying tendency and extremely centralized, has nonetheless experienced, since 1982, a rapid acceleration of decentralization. Relations between the State and local communities changed, and the latter acquired new powers in practically all areas. On the other hand, the regional administrations of the central government gained in autonomy and negotiating powers in respect to local communities.

Today, French public libraries are totally under the aegis of three local types of communities: Regions, Departments and Townships (or Districts). It is important to know that the state, through the Ministry of Culture, has a role of motivation and regulation: financial aid for new construction, for computerization, and so on. This is not to leave out the development and conservation of library holdings. But everything is contingent upon the goodwill and co-ordination of the central government, of its regional administrations and of the various local communities. A legal and methodological framework is being erected; change and development have only just begun. In 1990, the *Direction du Livre et de la Lecture* of the Ministry of Culture allotted 13.5 million francs (about 1.65 million pounds sterling) for the conservation of rare and valuable holdings in public libraries. This outlay concerns all types of documents and not only those in local collections. However, the newspapers, photographs, and prints of local interest benefit largely from these sums (for instance for microfilming, restoration, deacidification, disinfection, electronic archival storage, or the publication of catalogues).

A *Conseil scientifique national du Patrimoine des Bibliothèques publiques* studies and then authorizes (or not) all requests for restoration and conservation of special, rare and old material, whether or not included in a local studies

collection. The State is progressively installing a *conseiller patrimonial* in each region, who will be in charge of managing the State funds directed toward the municipal and departmental libraries. This government official is also a technical/scientific adviser. All this is of paramount importance for the future of rare book departments and local collections found in many small or medium-sized public libraries. Almost none can undertake alone the development of their historical holdings.

Co-operation amongst public libraries, although becoming more prevalent, remains a weak spot of provincial libraries. The extreme 'balkanization' of the local public library authorities impedes the establishment of networks: we have at least 1300 local authorities, each responsible for one library or network, naturally of widely varying sizes. Their co-operative needs are also quite different one from another. In compensation for this dispersal, there has been installed in every region, during the last 7 or 8 years, a co-operative agency in which public libraries play a major role. The financial commitment of the regions is an essential part of these agencies' dynamism and capacity of intervention. Progressively, Regional Acquisition Funds for Libraries (F.R.A.B.) are being set up (there are now 6); their purpose is to supply financial aid for the acquisition of valuable works or the purchase of entire collections. This is invaluable backing for the policy of enrichment of the special collections of municipal and departmental libraries. The F.R.A.B. are agreements between the State (Ministry of Culture) and the president of the Regional Council. The resulting subsidies can attain 50% of the cost of the documents. This is of course most useful for the realization of the capital! Many documents (manuscripts, books, pictures) thus purchased are destined for local studies collections. Recent administrative creations, the Regions do not coincide geographically, for the most part, with the borders of the great historical French provinces. Searching for an identity and for historical legitimacy, the Regional Councils - elected by universal suffrage - favour a regional cultural policy in which historical patrimony - and often enough, the rare book departments and local collections of libraries - have their part and generate subsidies. However, in 1990, this direct aid to libraries amounted only to an average of 1.2% of the regions' cultural expenditures. The realizations and projects originating in this regional co-operation, which is encouraged by the joint financing of the State and local communities, will be referred to again later.

Where are the documents?

Which libraries in France have local and regional collections, and also provide a reference service in this field?

For obvious historical and political reasons, they are the public libraries. Their collections and services vary widely according to the size and date of their establishment. The big regional capitals all possess collections which can number into the tens of thousands. The holdings of the libraries in medium-sized cities - at least in those which were founded in the last century - are also quite large. Most of these establishments, in towns having a population of more

than 15 000, employ one or more librarians especially for this service. The gathering of local materials, in France as in Great Britain, requires much alertness and creates not a few difficulties.

Another type of library is the *Bibliothèque Départementale de Prêt* (Departmental Lending Library; B.D.P.). These are located in all the French departments and have been administered, since 1982, by the General Councils instead of the State. In existence since the fifties, these libraries have developed local and regional collections for lending purposes and only occasionally possess rare book departments. These Departmental Libraries, doubtless comparable to your County Libraries before the reorganization of 1974, serve rural areas and small towns. Their personnel double as advisers and supervisors of the old stocks, including local collections, which are sometimes found in the public libraries of towns with a population of less than 10 000.

Paris' library network includes the *Bibliothèque historique de la Ville de Paris*, the exact equivalent of what the Guildhall Library is for London.

In every French department, the Departmental Archives often contain, in addition to the archives themselves, collections containing a wealth of historical and sociological information concerning the Department.

French university libraries generally do not have extensive local studies collections or a rare books department. There are, of course, exceptions. The University of Caen Library, for example, has a separate Norman collection, conceived as a special collection for the use of teachers and those pursuing a Norman Studies degree. The National and University Library of Strasbourg has a completely autonomous department devoted entirely to Alsace: the '*Alsatiques*' section. This is doubtless the largest collection of documents concerning a single region; it contains 100 000 volumes, 3500 periodicals, more than 30 000 engravings, photographs, maps, 4500 books printed in Alsace before 1600, and more.

Developing local and regional reference services

Different experiments, achievements and projects at the local and regional levels have placed new emphasis on the importance of local documents and information. I hope that these undertakings will be found to define the future of our services; such enterprises must be placed in the same framework as the conservation and administration of the rich cultural heritage of French libraries. The general situation mentioned previously applies also to local studies collections. Our libraries are the memory of our nations, the roots of their identity.

In developing collections, first of all we must gather the documents and unceasingly build our collections. There is no need to consider the difficulties involved in acquiring the numberless documents which bear witness to the life of a city, a community, or a region. Your problems are ours also; for example, that posed by the geographical area in which documents are to be gathered. The geographical outlines of these collections take on surprisingly varied forms,

which correspond only vaguely to modern administrative divisions. The Region, the Department, the District and its environs, the place of production, in particular for pre-1850 works, the French provinces before 1789: all these overlap. For instance, the Norman collections of Caen include Norman-English relations at the time of the Norman kings, the influence and impact of the Norman conquest on Sicily and southern Italy during the Middle Ages, and the Channel Islands. Let us not discuss the definition of a 'local author': that would take all night and most of tomorrow. The identification of these various divisions is made not to establish their legitimacy but to clarify them and make them known to library patrons and to other libraries. Joint acquisitions policies are based upon these principles.

However, very few joint acquisition plans have been set up. There seems to be only one in France, established in 1986 in the Burgundy region, under the auspices of a regional co-operative agency (*agence de cooperation regionale; A.B.I.D.O.C.*). Each participating library's responsibilities are defined by geographic and quantitative criteria. At least two copies of each publication are acquired by the library in charge of each geographical sector, one for long-distance loans, the other for reference purposes. Supplementary purchases are made, if need be, for home lending. I note that no plans for a regional union catalogue seem to have been made in this context.

Another source of enrichment for local studies collections is the regional copyright deposit (*depot legal regional*). Since 1943, the printer has had the obligation to send to his corresponding regional library two copies of each book or periodical printed by his company. This law was completely overhauled in 1992 and extended to include multimedia documents. This regional copyright deposit completes that made by publishers to the Bibliotheque Nationale. Some of the documents thus deposited are of local and regional interest. Thus we have a method, however haphazard, of following the production of printed works of local content. Unfortunately, many ephemeral works are passed over by this system. There are also agreements which exist between the Bibliotheque Nationale and certain public libraries, by virtue of which these libraries receive a copy of the publisher's deposit whenever the subject matter of the document is relevant to their local collections.

I have already mentioned the financial aid procedures for exceptional and costly purchases. The usual acquisitions are made on a day-to-day basis through booksellers, rare book catalogues, etc.

Cataloguing and indexing

It is quite impossible to give an overall picture of local collections catalogues, given their variety. Regional surveys are now under way to evaluate the situation. As is the case for Lower Normandy, these evaluations are linked to the computerization of manual catalogues and the subsequent formation of union catalogues. Apparently, both best- and worst-case scenarios exist: from no catalogue at all to indexed files of great richness and minute detail.

Public libraries are becoming more and more computerized: great strides have been made since 1988 and especially since 1990. Two-thirds of departmental libraries have been equipped, as have half of all public libraries. A large percentage of these are found in cities with a population of more than 30 000.

The impact of computerization on local collections is varied and difficult to assess. Very often, special collections and rare book departments are left out of this process, the preference going instead to the general public section and to the documents destined for home lending.

In general - although one must be careful in saying this - large libraries with a special local department do wish to integrate it into the overall computerization scheme.

In Caen, all the post-1980 acquisitions for our Norman collection have been catalogued in MARC format, leaving about 15 000 entries still to be done. For indexing purposes we rely on a national list of descriptors called RAMEAU. This list is also used by the Bibliothèque Nationale and by a great number of French libraries of all kinds. We have made several minor adaptations to this list for our Norman collection, particularly concerning the historical periods of our province. According to RAMEAU, the date 1066 has no significance for French history!

Far-reaching and costly plans for the retrospective conversion of catalogues are being developed and financed by the Bibliothèque de France, our new national library. To constitute a national union catalogue, a retrospective conversion is made of the catalogues of special collections and of thematic collections of scientific interest contained in the large public or regional libraries. We hope that the very rich Norman collection in Rouen will be treated in this way.

The data thus produced can be reutilized in a union catalogue for all Normandy, which is divided into the two Regions of Upper and Lower Normandy. The Region of Lower Normandy is now assessing a retrospective conversion project for local documentation in twenty or so libraries. Once the preliminary studies have been made, we must await the financial decisions. Dare we hope for a union catalogue extensive enough to cover the whole province of Normandy?

Very few union catalogues for local and regional collections now exist, although we know that every library, large or small, possesses documents which are found nowhere else, and especially not at the Bibliothèque Nationale. A recent study made in Lower Normandy shows that there is little overlapping of the different holdings and that, if we want to be thorough, every collection counts.

The union catalogue of Lower Normandy, on microfiches, was discontinued in 1980. To my knowledge, it is the only one of its kind: 29 000 titles have been registered in 12 libraries. However, the main part of the catalogue is composed of the Caen collections: those of the University, the Archives, and the Public Library. Our regional catalogue is undergoing a computerized rebirth, and will include more contributing libraries. If all goes well, we hope to be able to edit

a CD-ROM and also receive financial aid from the Bibliothèque de France. The 1980 microfiche catalogue will be converted and will form the hub of this project, starting off with 16 000 new locations and a minimum of 7000 hitherto unpublished entries. The Alsace and Loire regions are planning a similar project, also with CD-ROM.

Many on-line catalogues in French libraries (and also data banks) can be consulted via Minitel terminals. More than 5 million of these are now in service in France. This facility exists for the general catalogue of the Caen libraries, in which there are more than 7000 entries in MARC format representing the works in the Norman collection. Since 1983, the regional bibliographie of Alsace and the 'alsatiques' catalogue of the Bibliothèque Nationale and the University of Strasbourg have been available to Minitel users. (The access code is 3615 BNU; there were 32 000 entries as of 1992). Access to data banks has been generalized by what we call '*telematique*' (connection via Minitel terminals), during which the signals transit over the regular telephone lines; this has been a determining factor for the reference retrieval market in France. Anyone connected to the telephone system can have a Minitel terminal for a small monthly fee. Some large libraries, such as those in Bordeaux and Lyons, offer on-the-spot local documentation services (press kits, topical bibliographies, economic and tourist information, etc.); others offer long-distance services on the town or departmental levels via a Minitel-serving host.

Regional bibliographies

Regional bibliographies of current works on historical, archaeological and ethnological subjects come out every year. They are published and distributed nationally and internationally; most are developed from a review of regional historical studies. Local bibliographies of all kinds also abound, as do lists of newly-acquired publications having limited distribution.

Extensive regional bibliographies have been created for each of the old historical provinces: Brittany, Alsace, Burgundy, the Languedoc, Normandy etc.

Every year, the Bibliothèque Nationale publishes the Annual Bibliography of French History (*Bibliographie annuelle de l'histoire de France*), a fundamental research tool which includes indexation of regional studies. There is much redundancy amongst these bibliographies, but we note that local publications seem to elude inclusion at the national level. From a scientific point of view, they are sometimes of little interest.

The Norman Bibliography comes out each year as one of the issues of the magazine *Annales de Normandie*. Entries and indexations are made in co-operation with the University of Caen Library, the public libraries of Caen and Rouen, the Normandy Museum in Caen, and the French History department of the Bibliothèque Nationale.

In addition, the Caen public library has furnished a retrospective bibliography of books printed in Lower Normandy from 1480 to 1789, covering at this point about 4000 known editions: two volumes have been published, covering the years 1501 to 1700, and a third, covering 1701 to 1789, is in preparation.

An endangered heritage: Preservation and restoration

For reasons known to all, the preservation of documents is a permanent challenge. In this area, the state's financial aid is crucial and takes the form of mobile disinfection units, subsidies for the purchase of protective containers and envelopes, microfilming, electronic archival storage, and the like. It should be noted that there is, to my knowledge, no deacidification being undertaken of nineteenth and twentieth-century books and brochures in outlying collections, that is, outside of the Bibliothèque Nationale. Transfers to microfiches are still very few in number and the future, it must be admitted, looks bleak.

There are two essential priorities: periodicals and pictures.

Somewhat tardily in comparison to your Newsplan program, we are undertaking large-scale microfilming of local and regional periodicals, from the origins to 1945. Each Region has directing committees composed of state and local government officials, which manage the grants and organise the work. We have recourse to private companies and also to microfilm workshops (in the Loire region) installed by co-operative agencies.

In Lower Normandy, 300 000 pages have been microfilmed since 1988. Needless to say, it is a mammoth task and the end of these rescue operations is not yet in sight.

Each type of illustrated material - postcards, engravings, photographs, maps - poses knotty problems of treatment, communication and restoration. Here again, helped along as always by the Ministry of Culture, microfilming is continuing; thousands of negatives are being shot. Last year, Caen had 3000 prints microfilmed, representing the most valuable part of its Norman pictorial archives: some 6000 documents. All is paid for by the state. The total cost should reach 700 000 francs.

Some regions, such as Rhone-Alpes, Alsace, Aquitaine and Poitou-Charentes, have produced videodiscs of their regional pictorial collections which are also used as union catalogues. Their means of access - type of indexation and menus - depend on the planned utilisation of the disc for research or for general public use. Such a project exists in Normandy, jointly prepared by the cities of Le Havre, Rouen and Caen (the Norman City Network; *Réseau Normandie-Métropole*). We have obtained research credits but I fear that financial circumstances may well get the better of this project, at least for the time being.

The Rhone-Alpes, Aquitaine and Alsace videodiscs take the form of an image bank (the Alsatian disc has 34 000 pictures) which can be viewed in the larger

regional libraries. Instant on-line reproductions are possible. The Poitou-Charentes videodiscs can be purchased for the price of an art book - about 700 francs - and their presentation is very attractive. The regional agency A.B.C.D. of Poitou-Charentes is preparing an interactive laser disc on 16th-century history of the Charentes region, complete with animated cartoons, music, and still and moving pictures.

All these marvellous projects should not make us forget that a microcomputer, a pencil and an eraser are still our basic tools, and that present circumstances are far from idyllic. Most important of all are the will, patience and ingenuity of professionals who have set their heart on promoting these services. Good relations of all kinds have thus been cemented with individual users and with the community. Such intercommunication varies widely depending upon the place and the means, but it exists almost everywhere.

All of us have the same mission, to preserve and to communicate the fund of knowledge handed down to us by former generations. To this end we are aided by our indebtedness to our traditions and our obligation to transmit them. Our duty is also to gather material and to provide information concerning contemporary economic and social development. Our mission and our goals have been, are now, and will always be one and the same. As Friedrich Nietzsche said, "The future belongs to those who have the longest memories."

Alain Girard is Librarian, Bibliothèques de la Ville de Caen, France

This article originated as a lecture given by M. Girard to the Local Studies Group, London and Home Counties Branch, on 21 April 1993.

DISSEMINATION OF LOCAL MATERIALS

Don Martin

The Local Studies Group provides a range of services to members, including weekend schools, day-schools and afternoon meetings to keep local studies librarians up-to-date with the latest developments in their field, published *Guidelines* outlining good practice in the organisation and administration of local studies collections, and articles in the *Local Studies Librarian* giving information about recent local initiatives across the country. By way of an additional service, the Scottish Branch (LOCSCOT) is now actively involved in the distribution of local studies materials to appropriate local studies libraries in Scotland. Collections which have been acquired for dissemination in this way include the following:

1. A large collection of negatives of class photographs of schools all over Scotland.
2. A collection of nineteenth century local Acts of Parliament.
3. A large collection of nineteenth and early twentieth century 25 in. Ordnance Survey maps.
4. Bibliographies of early Scottish railways.

A considerable amount of work is entailed in sorting out and distributing the school-group negatives. The task was begun in 1990, but was suspended for a while because of the amount of work involved. It has recently been resumed through the good offices of LOCSCOT Committee member Anthony McNeill.

The Local Acts of Parliament turned up at the County Record Office in Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire. Many of them have been distributed to Scottish local libraries by the Huntingdon archivist, working in conjunction with LOCSCOT.

Distribution of the 25 in. O.S. maps is currently being carried out. The appropriate libraries have been contacted and most have been very keen to acquire their local maps. Although most of the maps are of Scottish counties, a number of English ones have now been acquired from the same source; an attempt will be made to distribute them in the same way. Much of the work has been carried out by LOCSCOT Vice-Chairman Neil Bruce, formerly of Aberdeen City Libraries and now with Highland Regional Libraries.

The bibliographies of early Scottish railways were prepared as part of an LA fellowship thesis. A set is held by Strathkelvin District Libraries and copies are made available to requesting libraries on payment of photocopying charges.

The Scottish Branch has been fortunate in acquiring important collections for distribution in this way. However, it should be possible for Local Studies Group members to co-operate in a fairly wide-ranging way to ensure that local studies materials are disseminated to their appropriate local home. Doubtless many local studies librarians co-operate to this end in an informal way (and indeed such exchanges have been observed 'over the table' at LSG Committee meetings!), but perhaps it might be expedient to set up a formal network, covering the whole of the U.K. Is this something that the Group could organise?

Don Martin is the Hon. Secretary of LOCSCOT

NOTES AND NEWS

To mark Industrial Heritage Year the Libraries and Heritage Division of Tameside Leisure Services is offering a prize of £150 for local family history research. The winning project will be that which, in the opinion of the judges, shows most evidence of original research in a wide variety of sources and which best relates family history to Tameside's social and industrial past. There is often little public recognition for researchers who have put great effort and energy into their work, although family historians develop extensive research skills: when their work is related to its local historical setting it can be a valuable addition to our knowledge of the past. The experience of an ordinary family through many generations can provide a vivid historical picture, and this award has been instituted to help recognise the value of this kind of history. Launched in July, the closing date for entries is 15 May 1994 and among the judges will be Alice Lock, Tameside's Local Studies Librarian, from whom guidelines and application forms may be obtained.

Gloucestershire's annual report for 1992-3 mentions several developments related to local studies. A review of conservation priorities has been completed: highest priority is to be given to microfiche copies of all county directories, conservation of maps, and microfilming of the Gloucestershire Collection newscuttings and photograph collections in Gloucester and Cheltenham. A new Local Studies Centre was opened in Tewkesbury with an augmented stock, including census and IGI data and copies of the *Tewkesbury Journal* and period directories. The Gloucestershire Collection has received, on deposit from the local Civic Trust, a selection of photographs purchased from the Frith Archive. Finally - a sign of the times - closed circuit TV was installed at the Gloucestershire Collection to improve security and reduce the potential for theft.

From the Mellon Foundation grant for microfilming projects, the British Library has awarded £16,875 to Sheffield Libraries to film the local studies pamphlet collection, which consists of over 6000 items.

**LOCAL HISTORY & HERITAGE:
THE BALH ANNUAL CONFERENCE, YORK, 1993.**

Paul Drew

The British Association for Local History, as the central organisation for local historians, is of interest to local studies librarians, and certainly the papers presented at its annual conferences are well worth consideration. This report covers the main papers presented at this year's meeting, which was held at the King's Manor, York.

The theme of the conference was concerned with bringing together the three strands of history, heritage and tourism. During his address the Chairman of the Association stressed the need to preserve our historical heritage, and allow people to enjoy it. BALH could play its part by arranging gatherings of relevant organisations (for example the Civic Trust) to discuss these matters, and BALH members could also get involved, perhaps in running, or participating in, suitable workshops to gain new skills. Other ways in which BALH could aid in the implementation of good practice might be in helping to run museums. It is not sufficient nowadays to pin up a few photographs for display and call the result a museum: standards, and public expectations, have risen - capital and experience are both required to ensure that the result is of a high enough standard to justify its existence. Another example of where work could be done cited English Heritage and its perception of the value of buildings: EH sees the *architectural* importance, but too often fails to appreciate the *historical* value also. What is certainly required is the continuation of a formal dialogue between history, heritage and tourism concerns, to ensure good practice - certainly evidenced by the conference being held in York.

BARLEY HALL

The next speaker was Dr Charles Kightley, a freelance historian, who has been involved in the reconstruction of Barley Hall, home of Alderman William Snowhill. Snowhill was a goldsmith and eventually became an important personage in the city. Born about 1413, he died in 1493. He was Sheriff between 1465-66, Mayor in 1468, and an Alderman almost until his death. He had a shop in Minstergate, trading in gold, silver and pewter, and trading often with the Canons. Also a jeweller, it is possible he was Master of the King's Mint. He married well, to Joan Thwen, with his son Seth receiving a public school education with the Canons. Seth married an heiress and eventually obtained his own coat of arms, thus moving up to the gentry.

This is a unique and innovative project. Barley Hall is named after Professor Maurice Barley; the medieval name is not known. The project, still not complete - about one third is finished - has involved a wide range of expertise on many subjects: archaeology, architecture, furniture, furnishings, genealogy, as well as much basic research.

In the mid 1980s a builder purchased the house and planned to turn it into offices. The preliminary survey found evidence of the medieval house underneath the brick work, and the builder, realising the importance of the find, generously sold it to the York Archaeological Trust in 1987.

The sequence of events then was:

- to try to date the house. With involvement of the University of Nottingham, two periods were found: first, the north range dated to May 1360, and the lower range to the thirteenth century; and secondly, the rest dated to 1451.
- an archaeological dig was commenced in the house itself; remnants of a tiled floor and a central hearth were found. A few tiles were left - green and cream arranged in a diagonal pattern.
- the plan of the timber structure was reconstructed.
- a documentary historian from the Royal Commission on Historical Monuments did some research on the early history of the house.

Nostell Priory, an Augustinian monastery in Wakefield, had given a piece of land in Stonegate in York to a Canon Prebendary to build a house. Being second only to London in importance, York was an ecclesiastical capital and important trading centre; it was important therefore to have a location in the centre of the city. By the fifteenth century there were forty monasteries with houses in York.

Sources of information

- The archives of York Minster Library; the will of Snowhill's neighbour was found, giving much valuable information.
- Leeds Archives; the Nostell Priory Act Book (1490?) gave fascinating details of menus, lists of the Abbot's servants and a list of leases. By 1466 Barley Hall was leased to William Snowhill, as by then the Priory had little use for the property; York was in decline and Nostell was in financial trouble - the lease brought in 53/4d (£2.66) per year.

Uses for Barley Hall

Dr Kightley campaigned for something radical to be done with the house. York had the Minster, its Viking and Georgian history, but little in the way of 'ordinary' history: the discovery of a citizen's house therefore was an opportunity to furnish it as it would have been in medieval times (1480s). However, there are many refurbished places in the UK already. What if the house could be not just refurbished but repopulated also? People living not only a day-to-day existence, not as actors but as a real household - a *medieval day-to-day*! Feast days, meals, events in the city in those times would be the factors that would affect the daily life of the household. Also the *Julian* not the *Gregorian* Calendar would be observed.

The reconstruction

There are eleven rooms in Barley Hall including the Great Hall, Kitchen, two workshops, Parlour and Principal Bedroom, and even in its heyday there would not have been a lot of furniture. Four sources were used to refurnish the house:

- originals - eg pottery, furniture - replicas of original pieces found elsewhere were also made.
- documentary sources - Alice Snowshill (William's grandmother) left 'one red chest', so a copy of a similar one was made. For other fittings, a list of inventories (from the neighbour of Snowshill, who died in 1490) gives information on items of furniture, etc and in what room each item was to be found.
- contemporary illustrations - pewter, glass, copperware, linen, chairs, tables, hangings etc can all be visualised and copies made.
- practical experiment - for hangings especially, the constituency of the material, and the colours that would result from using various dyes, needed experimentation.

In concluding this fascinating talk on Barley Hall, Dr Kightley stated that the cost of all this was not as great as one would imagine. Many craftsmen had been used for the varied furniture and furnishings needed for this project. The benefit would be to show a living and working household of the late fifteenth century - a unique educational and visitor resource.

LOCAL HISTORY IN SCHOOLS

A change of emphasis was then introduced. Sue Bennett, Professional Officer for History at the National Curriculum Council, and Dr Tim Lomas, educational inspector with Lincolnshire County Council, gave an overview of how local history is being applied in the following four school/age levels: primary schools - ages 5-11; lower secondary - ages 11-14; GCSE - ages 14-16; and sixth form - ages 16-18.

Primary schools

History and the value of local history was introduced into the National Curriculum in 1991. Objectives for this age group include: understanding the past; interpretation of history; use of historical sources. For infants an awareness of three time periods is required: current events; back to World War II; pre-World War II. Juniors have to study a more prescribed time period (eg Roman; Saxon and Viking; Victorian).

Lower secondary schools

Here specific topics are introduced (eg Industrial Revolution; making of the UK, 1500-1750; World War II), and the opportunity is given to design a particular unit (eg British Isles before 1920). One problem identified with the making of the UK unit, is its broad range. Bringing it down to a local level can be accomplished, by concentrating on, for example:

- a prominent local family (eg the Gilbert family of Compton Castle, near Torquay), which would ensure many different themes could be covered (eg religion, Parliament, Glorious Revolution). Sources would include printed material, monuments, buildings (eg almshouses) and engravings.
- the Civil War in Bridgnorth, Shropshire. Sources would include maps, plans, and buildings.
- social/economic developments - looking at the local community (eg Churchwardens, Constable, Surveyor of Highways). Use made of Court entries, local Probate Inventory.

GCSE level

The National Curriculum is due to be implemented in the summer of 1994. A choice of short or long courses will be available in three main themes:

- British democracy
- international conflict/co-operation
- economic/cultural change.

The local history content could be part of any of these three topics (ie if the full course in economic/cultural change is taken, the local history content could be agricultural changes over a specified period, or crime and punishment). At present the GCSE syllabus is based on two parts. Students take either a course entitled 'History Around Us', where a local site is picked, and students have to interpret sources and reconstruct the site and how people would have lived there; or, work on a specific local history project (to produce a piece of work several thousand words long), involving: a feasibility study; the collection and collation of information; using source material; comparing results; and presenting the findings.

Sixth form

Until ten years ago, little local history was studied. Now the standard is such that a great deal of the student output is published. The whole historical process is undertaken, from the initial questions of who, what, why, how and when to the final conclusions and presentation of results. The growth of this interest has

also posed problems for librarians and archivists who assist students in finding the material. Some of the topics mentioned were:

- an assessment of British Jews in Manchester
- a critical appraisal of lunacy in Wiltshire
- the development of fascist/non fascist movements in London
- why was Oxford fortified in the Civil War?

The speakers stated that BALH needs to promote work of this age group to a high standard.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

After lunch the AGM took place. One important item discussed was the Local Government Review. The Chairman stressed the importance of ensuring that the BALH voice its general concern over the future of county archive services, otherwise the present structure will be changed without proper consultation or the chance to comment fully on the implications of such a profound change. The importance of *The Local Historian* was mentioned. Ways of widening its general circulation should be considered, perhaps getting it into bookshops. The chairman stated that there is a large untapped market, including the members of local family history societies, to be investigated.

The whole structure and future directions of the Association needed to be looked at. A plan for the next ten years is being developed to reflect: the progress and achievements of the first decade; the increase in membership; the return to staffing levels enjoyed in earlier years; the effective use of opportunities for sponsorship and patronage; and, in the longer term, the creation of a Centre for Local History to meet new and developing needs.

The chairman stressed that the growth of membership is critical if the long term aims of BALH were to be achieved. Staffing levels need to be sustained, which means trying to attract new members; at present there are 1861 paid up members; a target figure of 2000 by the year 2000 was therefore an objective.

The Honorary Treasurer, Mr Michael Crellin, in presenting the accounts for 1992, reported a slight deficit of £589. This was due to higher staff salaries and the cost of producing *The Local Historian*. The treasurer explained that the current year will be no better than 1992, but 1994 should see an improvement.

Open forum

This was a new development, since in previous meetings the need for such a forum had been raised. The chairman invited questions or comments from the floor on any matter of concern to members. Some of the issues raised included:

- the BALH's relationship with local councils. It was suggested that the Association should be more informative on those issues (eg Local Government Review, proposed English Heritage restructure) of mutual concern.
- the question of a Centre for Local History. The chairman stated that the Association had to achieve a certain administrative size before questions of possible sites, cost etc could be explored.

the need for a business plan, to include having a royal/noble patron to attract sponsorship and finance. The chairman agreed that this latter suggestion would help in gaining useful contacts.

- the point that, as the Association is British, it covers Scotland also; however, they have their own Association. How much liaison is there with them? In reply, the chairman said that he had written to a contact last year but as yet there had been no reply. A further approach had been made, and he agreed that there was a need for liaison between the two associations.

Before closing the proceedings, the chairman mentioned that forthcoming centenaries of parish councils (of which there would be many) would provide a fitting occasion for local history societies to become involved in organising any planned celebratory event.

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

GENEALOGY WORKSHOPS IN BIRMINGHAM

Patrick Baird

The Local Studies and History Service of Birmingham Central Library has amongst its collections what is probably the largest and most comprehensive selection of material relating to Genealogical research. Not only does it cover the Birmingham area itself with such diverse items as directories from 1767, electoral rolls from 1839, 19th century census returns and microfilmed parish registers but also the current edition of the International Genealogical Index, General Register Office indexes of births, marriages and deaths from 1837 to 1930, National Index of Wills, those publications of Parish Register Societies covering the length and breadth of England and Wales, as well as numerous books on the subject of family research.

The subject has now become so popular that the service employs a library-trained genealogist who will conduct research for those individuals who wish to pay. However as local studies librarians and archivists throughout the country will be aware, there are those who do not wish to pay but enjoy the excitement and frustration of trying to research for themselves.

To cater for these and to try to reduce the number of individual enquiries from those who wish to 'go it alone' it was suggested that Local Studies and History, through the genealogist, organise a workshop in genealogy research. The idea was that over 1.5 to 2 hours a selection of appropriate materials plus equipment such as microfilm and microfiche readers would be made available and those attending would have tuition in the use of such materials together with a full explanation of what is expected to be found on civil certificates, census returns, IGI, General Register Office indexes and so on. A fee of £5.00 would be charged to those attending.

By keeping numbers down to 20 for the workshop it was anticipated that we should probably receive enough enquiries to organise two or three such sessions: however, interest was so great that twelve workshops were held between September and December 1992 and therefore it was decided to organise further workshops once a month on Saturdays throughout 1993. Again, demand has been such that each individual workshop so far has been filled to capacity.

Many people attending these basic seminars have been interested enough to ask us to organise workshops on individual topics in a more comprehensive way, including a session on the census - its helpfulness and pitfalls, and one on maps and their use in genealogical research: these we hope to arrange in 1994.

The Service has also produced a set of *Forms for Family History* which can be used by family history researchers to organise their records. There are fifteen blank forms, suitable for photocopying, including baptism and marriage entries forms, individual record forms, a checklist and pedigree forms. The pack is available from the Genealogist, Local Studies and History, Central Library, Chamberlain Square, Birmingham B3 3HQ.

Patrick Baird is Head of Service, Local Studies and History, Birmingham Public Libraries

A VISITOR FROM RUSSIA

During April and May Andrey Masevich of the Russian National Library at St Petersburg came to Britain on a study tour to visit various libraries. As Senior Research Worker in the catalogue department of the library, the main objectives of this visit were to meet professional colleagues concerned with incunabula and to make a comparative study of indexing methods for local information.

The tour was organised as a result of a personal initiative by Lynette Domoney of the National Institute for Social Work following a note in the LAR in 1992, and ultimately the National Institute for Social Work invited Andrey to attend its International Centre as a visiting scholar. Funding came from the British Council in Moscow and from several Groups and Branches of the LA, including the Local Studies Group, while hospitality was provided by Lynette for much of the time, but also by five other individuals and families, including Patrick Baird, secretary of LSG.

Andrey travelled far and wide in Britain to visit a variety of libraries and other institutions. Among those specifically concerned with local studies, his visits included the Birmingham local studies collection, the Guildhall Library, Edinburgh City Libraries and Hampshire County Libraries, where he visited Southampton and Winchester local collections and also heard about the library services' collaboration with libraries in Normandy. In Hampshire, too, he saw a demonstration of the MDA software for description of documents and artefacts, and at Napier University, Edinburgh, he saw Localcat, which was, of course, originally developed by the Scottish Library Association for local studies publications.

At the end of his visit the Aslib Social Sciences Information Group held a small meeting and reception at ASLIB at which Andrey presented a paper, as did Heather Creaton of London University and Gordon Dunsire of Napier University. The audience included several of the local studies librarians he had visited, as well as the Chairman and Vice Chairman of LSG, and the occasion provided a chance for his British contacts to meet in a less formal setting.

Although it was a very busy tour (he fulfilled 28 appointments in 8 cities), Andrey did manage to fit in some sightseeing and visits to theatres, art galleries, museums and a concert - not to mention a typical country pub, by courtesy of Patrick Baird! The Committee feels that our participation in the venture was well worth while, and we hope that contact may be maintained as part of LSG's international programme.

*This item has been compiled by permission from a report prepared
by Lynette Domoney for the British Council*

PUBLICATIONS AWARDS 1993

This year's winners of the annual Alan Ball awards have recently been announced. These awards, which were established by the Library Services Trust to encourage local studies publishing by public libraries, are now in their ninth year, and the judges, in arriving at their decisions, commented on the way in which standards continue to rise, with a very high overall quality and wide range of subjects in the entries. They found it difficult this year to reach decisions and were happy that recent changes in the rules allowed them to make five awards, the maximum number permitted.

The award winners for 1993 are:

Isle of Wight County Council, for *Romans on the Wight*;

Lancashire County Council, for *Riot! - the story of the East Lancashire loom-breakers in 1826*, by Jim Walker;

City of Newcastle upon Tyne, for *Newcastle's changing map*, edited by M Barke and R J Buswell;

Northamptonshire County Council, for *The Wakes of Northamptonshire*: a family history, by Peter Gordon;

Kirklees Metropolitan Council, for *Huddersfield: a most handsome town*, edited by E A Hilary Haigh.

The judges also commented that, although these winners were all books, they welcome any type of local history publication, in any format, for consideration for the Awards.

The 'Publications for Sale' category of the Library Association/T C Farries Publicity and Public Relations Awards again went to a local studies publication - Northamptonshire's *The Wakes of Northamptonshire*. This is the second year running that an Alan Ball winner has also taken this award.

AN INTERNATIONAL POLICY FOR THE LOCAL STUDIES GROUP

The Group Committee, at its meeting on March 17th, discussed the question of an international policy for LSG. The Group is committed to involvement in international activities, as can be seen by the contributions of overseas speakers at meetings, by reports and articles in LSL, and by our support for overseas visitors, and it was felt that it would be helpful to have a formal policy statement. The following statement, drawn up by a working party consisting of Elizabeth Melrose and Paul Sturges, was formally agreed.

LIBRARY ASSOCIATION LOCAL STUDIES GROUP INTERNATIONAL POLICY

Aims

The Group wishes to further its international links so as to enable exchange of ideas, experience and practice between its members and those practising local studies librarianship elsewhere in the world, with a view to improving service to users of local studies collections wherever they might be.

Objectives

To spread the benefits of the exceptionally strong tradition of local studies librarianship in Britain (first codified by William Wright in 1878 and redefined and developed in a series of major texts of which the latest is Dewe, 1987 and 1991) to colleagues in other parts of the world, via individual and group contact,

To learn from colleagues overseas by contacts of the same kind, and to disseminate this knowledge to local studies librarians in Britain.

To define regions of the world for immediate priority contact because of the strength of their need for advice and example, but not to exclude encouraging contact with areas (such as the USA, old Commonwealth countries, and western Europe) with highly developed and vigorous studies librarianship.

Programme

To develop a short term programme of three to five years with a specific region (Eastern Europe is suggested) in mind.

To make use of existing contacts and programmes (for instance the LA's links with the Baltic States and Hungary) within this programme.

To create a file of existing overseas contact persons, and a parallel file of members who have contacts, or who would be willing to take on a role in the programme.

To organise activities including: correspondence between individuals; exchange and subsidised overseas subscriptions to the Group's journals; seminars and meetings; study visits and tours; joint publications (in particular a short introductory article about the group and its work for translation and distribution, either as an article in a suitable journal or as a leaflet, in a number of countries).

Requirements

An organiser within the group to: set up and maintain files; put people in contact with each other; organise, or find organisers for other programme elements.

A budget, to include: secretarial expenses for the organiser; a travel fund which can be used to top up funds from other sources to permit travel to or from Britain on programme activities; provision for subsidised distribution of the journals in priority programme countries.

CORRESPONDENCE

Mrs Mary Casteleyn, FLA, FIGRS. Library consultant, writes:

I was interested to read the letter in the last issue, sent in by Miss M Johnson of the Department of Adult and Continuing Education at the University of Durham about a one day school on genealogy. I do agree with her point that one day courses cannot compete with a two year part time course on the subject such as those run by the Adult Centres at Universities but unfortunately the whole point is that many library authorities, with restricted training budgets, cannot afford to sponsor staff on such courses either in terms of course fees or time off from the workplace. One day courses can and do fill a much needed gap providing that they are held in readily accessible locations and are targeted to specific identified needs. I act as course leader for a very successful one day course for library and record office staff which is run at the Society of Genealogists in London. The advantage of the course is that it is targeted toward the identified needs of the library staff in resolving enquiries about genealogy and family history from members of the public. I am sure that there is room for both types of course and hope that Miss Johnson's letter will encourage people to consider undertaking a more lengthy study of the subject. Information about the courses at the Society of Genealogists may be obtained from the Society's Conferences Organiser on 071 251 8799.

LOCAL STUDIES GROUP ANNUAL REPORT 1992

Patrick Baird

The Group now has a membership of about 1800 and its five branches throughout the United Kingdom have remained particularly active, and each one has continued to organise seminars, courses and conferences. By the end of the year the main Group committee was heavily involved in preparations for the Group's sessions at Umbrella 2 in 1993.

Of the main Group Committee Brian Hall, a founder member of the Local Studies Group and Michael Dewe, a founder member and representative of the Welsh branch, both resigned. Michael left following his appointment as Secretary/Treasurer of the IFLA Section on Library Buildings and Equipment. Several changes have taken place amongst Branch committees with the retirement of a number of Chairmen and Secretaries but all have been replaced.

The AGM was held during a day school at Cheshire Record Office, Chester, with about thirty members taking part.

The Local Studies Librarian continues to be published twice a year and still includes interesting articles for local history enthusiasts, local historians and librarians, as does its Scottish counterpart *Locscot*, which now has a new editor. An index to Vols. 1-10 of the Local Studies Librarian was in active preparation at the end of the year.

The Dorothy McCulla prize for 1992 was awarded to Chris Makepeace in recognition of his many years service to local studies librarianship and his contributions to the subject as an author. The presentation was made at the AGM at Chester.

THE DOROTHY MCCULLA MEMORIAL PRIZE

This award, of £50 and a certificate, is awarded annually to the LSG member who, in the opinion of the committee, has contributed most to local studies librarianship. Nominations are therefore invited for this year's award from members, chief librarians, and anyone else with a suitable nominee. Nominations should be received by the Hon. Secretary, Patrick Baird, Local Studies Department, Birmingham Central Library, Chamberlain Square, Birmingham B3 3HQ, by 31st January 1994 and may be concerned with any aspect of local studies librarianship, examples being publication, an index, a new technique or good promotions work.

LIBRARY ASSOCIATION LOCAL STUDIES GROUP

INCOME

1991	1992
£	£
3395.00	3585.00
82.58	-
336.75	356.85
580.38	145.00
-	1228.92
152.17	-
27.00	18.00
-	3.30
-	1000.00
27.00	1.00

4600.88**6338.07****BALANCE at 31/12/91**

CURRENT ACCOUNT	1621.21
DEPOSIT ACCOUNT	3112.94

Less 1 unrepresented cheque

4734.15

-1.00

4733.15

Debitors

570.42

Less Creditors

5303.57

3339.11

1964.46

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 1992

EXPENDITURE

1991	1992
£	£
21.93	14.27
818.67	3136
254.72	34.58
27.59	171.24
494.67	613.92
1897.16	1727.70
0.65	3.30
346.09	-
-	1000.00
94.51	103.83

3955.99**3700.20**

Exc. of income over exp.

2637.87**6338.07****BALANCE at 31/12/92**

CURRENT ACCOUNT	1862.65
DEPOSIT ACCOUNT	4469.79

6332.44

Debitors

91.00

Less Creditors

6423.44

1821.11

4602.33

Represented by: 1 Jan 1992 1964.46

Surplus for the year 2637.87

4602.87

HAVE YOU SEEN...?

SOME RECENT ITEMS OF INTEREST TO LOCAL STUDIES LIBRARIANS.

Marcan P, compiler. *Greater London Local History Directory*. 2 ed, Peter Marcan Publications, PO Box 3158, London SE1 4BA, 1993. £15.00 + £1.50 p&p. ISBN 1 871811 08 2

This is a considerably revised and enlarged edition of a work originally published in 1988. Arranged by Borough, it lists a wide range of historical, amenity and reminiscence groups as well as libraries, record offices and museums. Publications of all these bodies from 1987 are listed, so this volume also acts, as the compiler claims, as a useful bibliography of many publications which are otherwise difficult to trace. Organisations covering larger areas of London and the southeast are listed separately. In total 348 bodies are included, about 50 more than in the previous edition. Librarians will need to keep the last edition for details of earlier publications.

Wyke T and Rudyard N, compilers. *Directory of local studies in North West England. Bibliography of North West England*, 1993, xiii + 272p. £9.95. ISBN 0 947969 11 X

This is the first publication from the successor to the Lancashire Bibliography, and is listed as Vol 14 in the series. With its expanded remit, this directory lists 530 bodies in the historical counties of Lancashire and Cheshire, together with the Isle of Man: there are also a few entries from outside this area. A very wide range of organisations is covered ranging from libraries, record offices and museums to learned societies, local and family history societies, National Trust properties and local publishers. The amount of detail varies, but the larger bodies give a good deal of detail about their holdings. There are subject and place indexes, which refer to pages rather than entries. This publication obviously meets a need for students of local history in bringing together details of such a wide range of information providers and, particularly at this price, should sell well both inside and outside the North West.

Gibson, Jeremy, et al. *Poor law union records*. 4 vols, Federation of Family History Societies, 1993. Vol 1, South East England and East Anglia. Vol 2, Midlands and Northern England. Vol 3, South West England, the Marches and Wales. Vol 4, Gazetteer of England and Wales. £3.95 + £0.60 p&p per vol.

The new Poor Law Act of 1834 created Poor Law Unions across the country and some of them lasted until 1930. Vols 1-3 of the set list the surviving records of the Unions county by county - the first time there has been a national survey of such records. In order to help family historians the listings are divided, so that those records which contain large numbers of names of the public are separated from other administrative records. The holdings of local record offices are shown.

followed by those of the PRO. The introductory matter, which includes a brief outline of the Poor Laws and a bibliography, appears in each of the first three volumes. Vol 4 consists of a gazetteer of the poor law unions taken from the Royal Historical Society's *Guide to the local administrative units of England*, and a separate facsimile of an early list for Wales.

While this is an FFHS publication, poor law records can also be of use to local and social historians generally, so these volumes usefully fill a gap in information provision.

Marshall L, compiler. *Kentish Town: its past in pictures*. London Borough of Camden Leisure Services Dept. 1993. pp. £4.95. ISBN 0 901389 76 5. Carpenter, Bob. *The village on the island: a heritage trail around Chalk Farm and Primrose Hill*. 10.p. £1.50. ISBN 0 901389 78 1.

Two well-produced items from Camden. The first presents a picture of old Kentish Town in drawings, prints and photographs, the dates of the illustrations running from 1734 to 1993, with some directly comparable pairs of 'then and now' photographs. There is a short informative historical introduction and reading list, and the illustrations have informative captions about the history and development of the area which add to the work's value. The reproduction quality is excellent, and the differing sizes of the illustrations adds variety. *The village on the island* is typical of its kind, with a map indicating the trail to follow - the suggested time is about two hours, and 23 areas are covered in this time. The information, even to an outsider, is interesting, and the booklet is nicely designed, with a thick card cover. The print is in green on yellow paper, but it does work reasonably well.

Robertson DM. *Longniddry*. East Lothian District Library, 1993. 64pp. £6.05 + 31.00 p&p. ISBN 1 897857 02 0.

A 'popular' history of Longniddry, which, though of ancient origin, has in recent years become, as the author says, little more than a residential suburb of Edinburgh. In this work he is trying to encourage an awareness of the community's roots. Individual chapters, arranged roughly chronologically, deal with specific topics such as education, the Church, witches and battles. The final chapter covers 'the past seventy years', though other sections also deal with this period where relevant. In keeping with his purpose of producing a work of general interest, the author, rather than provide an extensive bibliography, lists the main kinds of sources which might be used by local historians, with an indication of where they may be found - in the Scottish Record Office, for example. The work is attractively produced, with good quality illustrations.

Old Ordnance Survey maps. Yeovil (East), 1901. Alan Godfrey Maps, 1993. £1.75. ISBN 0 85054 590 0.

This is by way of a reminder that the Godfrey series of maps continues to expand, in co-operation with local librarians. As usual the sheet is a reproduction of the OS 25 inch map reduced to a scale of approximately 15 ins. to the mile, which allows for more ease of use but still shows all the detail clearly. The historical introduction to this sheet is by Robin Ansell, reference librarian at Yeovil.

Dyas, E. Variant editions of the national press. British Library Newspaper Library Newsletter, 14, Autumn 1992, p6-8; 15, Spring 1992, p3-5.

Provides a brief history of the development of variant, including regional, editions of national newspapers. The important warning is given that, since BLNL only retains the London edition, there is the danger that the microfilming programme will have the effect of creating a product which is synonymous with the London edition and ends up displacing those regional editions which have survived in the larger public reference libraries. With the gradual disposal of regional early editions from local libraries, a good deal of information has been lost, as these editions often showed quite significant differences from the London edition.

Retention of UK newspapers after microfilming. British Library Newspaper Library Newsletter, 15, Spring 1993, p 9-10.

A brief statement of the policy of BLNL on the retention of UK newspapers in hardcopy, including points on variant editions of local newspapers and the need for discussion with NEWSPLAN on a national strategy for retention arrangements.

Le Gear, R.F. The Bexley Deneholes. Bexley Libraries and Museums, 1992. 35pp ISBN 0 902451 29 3

An account of these artificial underground caves in this area of Kent. Drawing on both documentary sources and fieldwork, the author shows them to have been examples of early extractive industry, being chalk diggings to provide materials for fertilisers and road building and repairs, in use from Roman times to the nineteenth century. Including drawings, photographs and plans, this short work is a good example of the kind of original work which can be brought to the public's attention by library publication.

Blizzard, A. *A sense of place: local studies and the school library*. School Library Association, 1991. 20pp. £4.50 (£3.50 to SLA members) plus £1.00 p&p. ISBN 0 900641 58 4.

Intended for those setting up or expanding a local studies section in a school library. After an introduction on the various ways in which local studies appears in the modern school curriculum, the author discusses the establishment of a local studies policy, and goes on to deal with the collection of resources, the management and organisation of the collection and the promotion of local studies throughout the school. There is a short reading list and a list of useful contact addresses, including LSG.

Eagle, S. & Hamilton, G.D. *Preserving the perishing paper: NEWSPLAN and your local newspaper*. *Local History Magazine*, 37, Jan/Feb 1993, p8-11.

Information about the historical importance, physical characteristics, conservation and preservation of newspapers, and the place of NEWSPLAN and the British Library in relation to these.

Clark, S. *The local history scene in Scotland*.
Local History Magazine, 37, Jan/Feb 1993, p13-16.

A general outline of the activities of Scottish local historians and local history societies, and the types of work they undertake, together with some notes on the availability of source material.

Watkin, A. *Welsh publisher that's sewn up its local market*.
LAR, 95(3), Mar 1993, p170-71.

Description of the Clwyd Library reprint series, which reproduces important local studies material. This is a subscription-based scheme, with print decisions not undertaken until the publication is known to be viable, and, as in earlier days, a list of subscribers is given. Advantages and problems are discussed.



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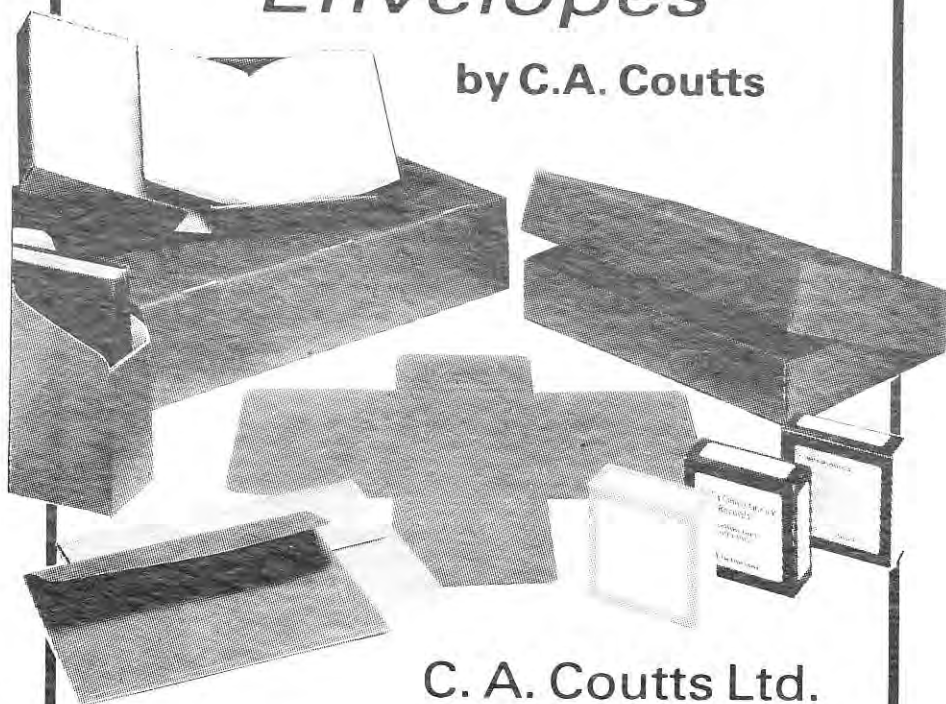
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