

The Local Studies Librarian



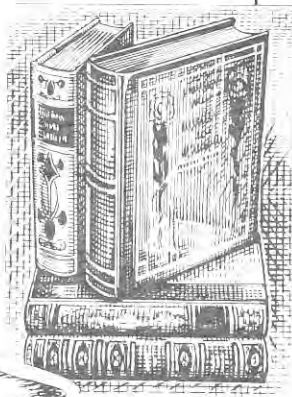
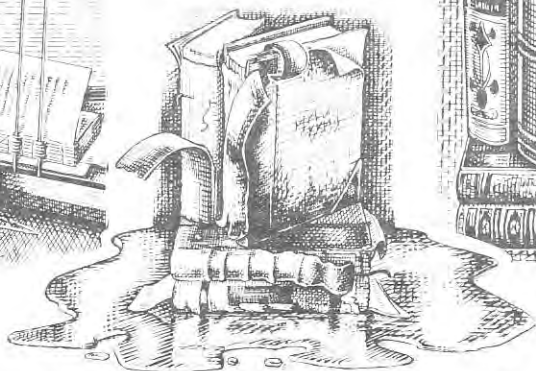
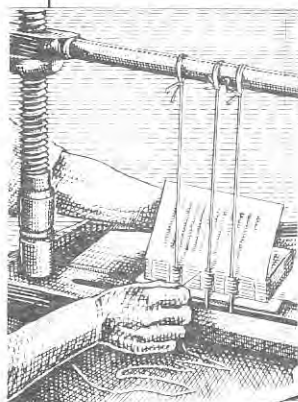
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Editorial Matters; Advertising; Distribution:

Ian Jamieson, FLA
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Mr. Philip Thomas
Hon. Treasurer, LSG
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Edgbaston,
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Cover Illustration

Merthyr Tydfil, 1820. Courtesy Merthyr Tydfil Public Library

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The Library Association

Editorial

Following the success of UmbrellA 3, UmbrellA 4 is coming! As on the last occasion, this will be at UMIST, Manchester. The venue is one of the few which can accommodate our number of delegates, is convenient for visitors, being in central Manchester and close to Piccadilly Station, and we are promised improved catering and some updated accommodation. The dates are June 27 - June 29, 1997 and LSG will be presenting a full programme of events under the general title of "The Graphic Image". Full details have not yet been worked out, but we hope to include sessions on photographs, maps and videos, including joint sessions with the Audiovisual Group and the Rare Books Group. We also hope, as we have done previously, to have a joint reception with the Library Services Trust at which the Dorothy McCulla Memorial Award and the Alan Ball Awards for library local studies publications will be presented. More details in the next issue, but put this event firmly in your diaries NOW and start lobbying your employer for permission to attend this excellent training opportunity - or start saving up! As well as being an educational weekend, with a chance to hear first rate speakers of national importance, UmbrellA is an excellent chance to renew old friendships and meet old acquaintances at the social events, and to share experiences with those with similar professional interests -as the advertisement in this issue shows, a total of 1452 people were present at least some of the time in 1995. Because of the wide range of Group programmes, too, you can "mix and match" the Group sessions you attend - though naturally we hope that you will give priority to ours! You can come to the whole weekend, or to part of it: We hope to see you there.

A further educational opportunity occurs at LIBTECH 96, when LSG will once again be presenting a seminar. This will be on Wednesday September 4th, when Peter Kelly will talk about Community information on the Internet. Enquiries to Patrick Baird.

Some of you may have realised that 1997 will be the twentieth anniversary of the foundation of LSG as an independent Group of the LA. Anyone who has been a member from the beginning is invited to let us know, as is anyone who has any ideas for an anniversary celebration for the Committee to consider.

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After several years of rising costs the Group has been forced to raise some of its rates for LSL. The subscription rate for 1997 will therefore be £6.00 p.a. (2 issues) in the UK and £7.50 + £1.00 for overseas subscribers. As at present, the overseas service charge will not apply if payment is made in sterling.

Advertising rates will also rise slightly after being held for four years. The rise in subscription rates will not, of course, affect members of LSG, who will continue to receive LSL as part of their membership benefits.



## NETWORKING LOCAL STUDIES

Mike Petty

Today's meeting celebrates two noteworthy events - the centenary of the AAL and the presentation of certificates to newly chartered librarians. By the time the AAL was founded public libraries had already accepted the role of collectors of material, both historic and current, about their own localities, and prided themselves that their collections were as complete as possible. With reorganisation and mergers the place of such local collections can easily be overlooked. Today the demand for such material has never been greater, and increasingly libraries, museums, archives and archaeology are being brought together: what we need to look at is how we can all work together to serve the needs of today's local communities.

By 1895 Cambridge was already offering a library service, but what kind of service was it in those bygone days? A juvenile department and a lending library were comparatively newly established additions to what we should now call the core service - the provision of a place where people could come to consult materials and gather information. This was the Reference Library and Reading Room where newspapers were a principal source of information before TV and radio, and before people could generally afford to buy newspapers for themselves. Libraries kept people up to date with what was happening in the Victorian world - for example they displayed telegrams recording important events, which could be said to be the electronic media of the day. Today there are information points with leaflets, computer links and fax machines, to take information directly into the heart of local communities, and staff who can point readers in the right direction for all council and other public services.

But we kept residents up to date with local services a century ago and more, for one of the earliest aspects of the Free Library Service was a collection of contemporary material relating to Cambridge and its county - for instance the latest report from Addenbrooke's Hospital, from the Society for the prevention of vice in young girls, or from the Borough Treasurer. Even in those days, however, we not only collected modern material but also sought the older items which had been produced before the library opened in 1855, or had missed in the intervening years, and because today's news is tomorrow's history we kept them once their initial currency had passed.

Cambridge was not alone in this, of course. Speaking at a Library Association conference, Mr. Minto, the librarian of Perth, urged the role of the Free Library as a receptacle for local material and an editorial in the *Cambridge Graphic* enthused that here could be no better example of this than Cambridge where so much care had been taken in this regard that the historian of the future would find collected there everything he would need. That was in 1901. We have, therefore, a role today which has been established for over a century and still continues: as our Head of Libraries commented in the County Council's 1994 review "We've noticed an increasing interest in local history. More and more people are coming to find out about Cambridgeshire's heritage, their families, their villages, their homes and the countryside - and we are working to give people better access to the information we hold".

Our Cambridgeshire Collection was established through the enthusiasm of the first librarian, John Pink, and supported by the leading figures of the town and of

the university, with a large number of local items being donated by the sons of a former Master of Jesus College, Arthur Gray. The person who gave us our first book however - on June 28th 1855 - was Charles Henry Cooper, the Town Clerk of Cambridge, and that work is still on the shelves ready for use. Today we still enjoy such patronage - I attended a funeral recently when a former Mayor promised a file of reports on the city's traffic problems and we receive regular batches of material from a University don who has been one of those citizens concerned with many proposed changes over the last several years and made representations at Official Inquiries. As a consequence she has received the Inspector's reports which summarise the case for and against the proposals in question and are therefore an invaluable source to our users.

County Libraries are comparatively recent innovations - county councils themselves are just over a century old; they developed as part of the Education service and specialised in providing books to people in their own homes. Local material was always a most popular part of the service and Cambridgeshire and the Isle of Ely county libraries both issued catalogues of their local collection and acquired multiple copies of rare and valuable items which could still be used at home, provided they were returned by registered post. In 1974 county and city combined to provide the present service, giving the best of both worlds. As already mentioned, collections are there to be used, so let me give some examples from Cambridgeshire of who our users are and how they are served. Our users can be anyone - MA and mechanic, undergraduate and schoolboy, old men in broadcloth and young boys in jeans-and all share in the resources provided for them. Grandchildren share the table with someone else's grandfather, and the schoolboy historian sits opposite the professional from the Institute of Historical Research writing the next volume of the Victoria County History.

What do they ask for? Many of them seem to be doing family history. However, much of the material genealogists need - parish registers, census returns etc. - are housed in the County Record Office not the library, and so very few of the 1200 enquirers we deal with every month are doing family history. They are seeking information on the proposed new town of Cambourne or the Arbury Park shopping precinct, for which the library will have acquired the detailed planning reports and surveys, or they are wanting something about the company with which they've got an interview and will need to look at our cuttings collection built up over the last twenty years. Trainee nursery nurses are looking at the background to their communities or Regional college students are studying the current problems in their city ward, using ward newsletters issued by the three political parties. People may be researching the history of their house, using street directories to see when it was built, pictures, cuttings, unpublished dissertations on the area (difficult to find out about), or indeed many of the small publications sold in village shops - almost ephemeral material except that if the authors have used our collection and remembered to give (or sell) us one, we can notify the East Anglian Bibliography and it then gets into the national bibliography: thus local efforts add to the national record.

The next step is to identify gaps in the literature and to try to arrange for them to be filled: I am currently reading a manuscript on University lodging houses, which might be issued by a local publisher, and a book of pictures on the Rivers Cam and Ouse published by Cambridgeshire Libraries. We have also recently published *Cherry Hinton Chronicle*, based on stories we had indexed from the

Cambridge Chronicle newspaper, thus adding to the sources available for the study of this suburb of Cambridge, once a separate village.

How do we answer enquiries? Let us take a typical example, that of one relating to a particular village. There is a vast range of sources requiring selection - books, cuttings, the news index, illustrations, maps, sales particulars, tapes and so on which can be used. Do you start a eight year old ( or his teacher) with the VCH, the village history written by the Victorian vicar, Kelly's Directories or the newspaper cuttings?: and what about the A level historian, the degree student, or the elderly person compiling his memories?

We give our readers an enquirers guide on which we indicate the catalogues and indexes to help them find what they are looking for most easily - perhaps an illustration, an early OS map, or a sale catalogue may be useful, or we may have indexed something in the local newspapers between 1770 and 1899 - and then we suggest a "starter book". We need to be careful not to try to be historians or geographers (unless we are!) but remain librarians who collect and organise and advise.

Our old fashioned card catalogues, microfilmed by Chadwyck-Healey, and compiled by word processor now, are supplemented by computerised indexes to other people's material: we can use the listed buildings record for instance to find the timber-framed buildings in a parish or the County Record Office accessions register and locate thousands of entries for one place. Our guidance here may be to structure the enquiry, or even to read the books first. The time may soon come when I can access the archaeologists' database too. In addition, there are now the local area networks and the world wide web, with its Ofsted reports for County schools which we are always getting asked for (and which of course should be deposited with local libraries anyway). Another example of the way in which things are going is the County waste disposal plan - two volumes of print supplemented by three computer discs.

These are all tools which local studies librarians now have to use while at the same time we have to keep up our knowledge of 17th century maps. Our primary school children are learning to use computers from their earliest days at school. They are also being taught local history from the earliest years, and in future they will be more proficient than some of us in the use of electronic technology and be more aware of its potential. We have recently invested in an Acorn PC Risc computer so that we can produce material in a form that schools can use and so that we in turn can use some of the work being produced by secondary schools. But remember how quickly systems can become superseded (remember the Domesday project or videodiscs): future problems in retrieval for local studies collections.

There also the new developments - the idea that you can call up any information you need via the magic box on the top of your television - which might seem to undermine many of our library roles. But where does the information come from? In many cases it is not the public library which supplies it, but there are some things which we can do. For instance, the *Cambridge Evening News* issues a Citizens Guide to local information which is based on the files at Cambridge Reference Library, and the On-line Media Company have visited the Cambridgeshire Collection for illustrations to back their information panels, the items being scanned on to disc using our departmental scanner.



Illustrations, indeed, are potentially a very lucrative part of the local collection stock. Television companies pay 60 p per flash plus repeat fees; if you supply ten pictures you can see how that adds up. There are also book publishers and picture agencies. We also hope with our scanner to supply illustrations on demand instead of the present weeklong turn round. We can advertise this sort of service to the public via posters in our libraries to reach thousands of people.

But what of the people who do not come into our libraries - how do we serve them? We have for many years supplied programmes or information to local radio and reached a wide audience with, for instance, our reminiscence interviews. We have also been involved with local newspapers, either contributing special features or by providing regular columns. Both of these activities are tremendously valuable ways of promoting what we are doing and encouraging people to help us in the work we have been undertaking for nearly 150 years.

Neither of these activities have direct interface with people, but travelling round the county talking to groups, as we do each week, does do so. We can get to know communities and their resources - the private museum, the local expert - so that we can offer our readers much more than just library materials or access to archives or museums: we can put people in touch with people.

But the challenge is how to share this information with our colleagues, whether they be in the county, the area, or in other parts of the country - here the LA Local Studies Group has an important role to play. In this area the East Anglia Libraries Consultative Committee is crucial with day schools such as this one, and staff training schemes can be productive, but nothing beats face-to-face meetings with others experiencing similar problems. Thus in Cambridgeshire the Heritage Officers Group brings together archivists, librarians, museum officer, building conservation and education adviser, who discuss specific topics and share a great deal more information over lunchtime: we all come away invigorated and much more able to guide the researchers and others who turn to each of us for advice.

Together with the County Folk Museum the Heritage Officers Group has established a Heritage Showcase in the Central Library, recycling displays that each department had produced and inviting other organisations to join in to provide a rolling programme of exhibitions. This venture produced much publicity in local newspapers, Radio Cambridgeshire and attracted two television crews. It showed the county officers working together and anticipated a joint department of Libraries and Heritage which is shortly to link with Education "to promote and enable life-long learning opportunities to all the citizens of Cambridgeshire".

Such developments provide the opportunity for even greater exchange of information, contacts and experience for professional and social purposes - which is how my dictionary defines "networking" and is why we are here today.

*Mike Petty is Librarian, the Cambridgeshire Collection, Cambridgeshire Libraries.*

This paper was originally presented at an EALCC joint meeting in October 1995, at which members were invited to meet Melvyn Barnes, President of the LA and Christine Wise, President of the AAL. Elizabeth Melrose, Chairman of LSG, was also present.

## CIVIC PRIDE AND POSTERITY

*Diana Dixon*

The early history of local collections in public libraries is inextricably linked to that of the public library service in Britain. The Public Libraries Act of 1850 (Scotland 1853)<sup>1</sup> empowered municipal authorities with a population of 10,000 or more to spend a half penny rate on the provision of accommodation for a museum and/or library and for maintenance of the same but it did not permit any expenditure on books or specimens. It is significant that the Act did not allow funds for acquiring stock, as it left libraries solely dependent on raising money by subscription or by appealing for donations of books. Local studies was particularly dependent on the beneficence of local donors.

By 1868 only 27 libraries had been founded, including those in Manchester, Liverpool, and Birmingham, all of which boasted fine local collections from the start. The years 1868-1886 saw a much more rapid expansion with Leicester (1871), Bristol (1876) and Newcastle upon Tyne (1880) all opening libraries. Frequently the adoption of the Public Libraries Act met with considerable local opposition, as for example, in Cheltenham which only gained its library on the fourth attempt.

Many of its strongest advocates regarded the public library as a place likely to counter the pernicious influence of alcohol, or as a place for the self-improvement and education of the labouring classes. The result was that, in the early years, the emphasis was on the lending of books, rather than on the reference collection which included local studies material. Nevertheless, from the start, it was recognised that libraries should be repositories for material of local nature. William Ewart spoke eloquently on the virtue of libraries having local studies collections in his introductory debate to the Public Libraries Bill, claiming

It was that their contents would be illustrative of the local and natural history of the places in which they were established. They would be most valuable to the future historian, as furnishing not only works illustrative of the locality in libraries...<sup>2</sup>

Fine words, but without resources, the solid foundations of a strong collection were unlikely to materialise.

Collections were solely dependent on chance or the philanthropy of the local worthies. Unfortunately, a wealth of pressing and deserving causes competed for handouts from the pockets of the wealthy. Public health, education, the police, and the fire brigade all had precedence over libraries. In some cases, such as Macclesfield, the infirmary took prior claim over the library. Even Passmore Edwards funded hospitals and convalescent homes as well as libraries.

The new library committees recognised the need to encourage wealthy citizens to donate books. In many cases they did, and cities such as Manchester and Liverpool soon had fine local studies collections. Donations allowed Liverpool to purchase the Binns collection which in its turn attracted others to donate maps, prints and engravings. Councillor Thomason in Bolton remarked that

inasmuch as no provision has been made by Act of Parliament for the purchase of books and as the moneys contributed from the Borough rate

cannot be so appropriated, a public subscription is necessary for raising the requisite funds.<sup>3</sup>

Those who campaigned so vigorously to adopt public libraries were often prepared to offer support with a donation of books or money, as for example, in Blackburn, where the M.P. James Pilkington donated a collection of books. Dr. Highet in Workington optimistically hoped that

some citizen of large heart would come forward with a substantial cheque and thus enable the committee to make the selection of books worthy of the town, as expensive books cannot be obtained without voluntary financial assistance<sup>4</sup>

Civic pride often manifested itself in judicious purchasing of material for the local studies collections. At the same time local historical, literary and scientific societies, and local organisations were flourishing and the literary output from local councils was increasing. The newly established reference libraries sought to purchase suitable material. For instance, the first annual report from the Gloucester Library indicated its intention

to accumulate such a collection of books and pamphlets relevant to the City and County of Gloucester. They believe a collection of this kind will be of great and permanent value as material for local history.<sup>5</sup>

Most of the money raised was by subscription, in many cases from individuals pledging a relatively modest sum.

Often the opening of a public library hastened the demise of moribund subscription libraries in a town. It was not uncommon for such libraries to be acquired either by gift or purchase, as for example in York and in Bath. Sometimes important local material came into local collections by this route. As wealthy merchants private libraries were dispersed, local libraries were often the grateful recipients. In most towns, funds were so tight that donations were the only way that the collection could be enhanced. Derby's library committee stated that

it was their intention to make the topography and literature of the county one of the specialities of the library service and they hoped that further contributions might be forthcoming so as to render it as complete as possible.<sup>6</sup>

Who were these philanthropists and why did they turn their attention to public libraries? It is possible to divide them into various groups. Many were very wealthy indeed. The 7th Duke of Devonshire enriched the collection in Derby with a substantial gift of 1125 books and 1255 pamphlets and his generosity encouraged other aristocrats to follow suit. In neighbouring Nottingham, the Sheriff, Martin Inett Preston, presented the nucleus of the local studies collection. The Gloucestershire collection benefited from donations from numerous local worthies, especially Judge Powell. Rapid accumulation of wealth by industrialists encouraged philanthropy. At the same time they built houses of substance including a well stocked library, often of considerable local interest. Those of James Hanson of Bradford and Mr. Holden of Bolton are notable because they were later acquired by their local libraries. All kinds of local

enterprise was represented from textiles to biscuits. While donations of the magnitude of those of Stephen Mitchell in Glasgow or Edward Pease in Darlington, or the maltster William Gilstrap of Newark who gave not only the building but also the complete bookstock of the library, are legendary, others came from small businessmen such as Arthur Hucklesby, the richest hatter in Luton, or the eccentric draper, James Dunn of Blackburn, who gave his collection of books to the library.

Many donors were nonconformist and espoused the temperance cause. Alderman Norton of Poole claimed that,

the amount of money he was prepared to give represented what he and his family and servants had saved by abstaining from drink.<sup>7</sup>

The professional classes, predictably, gave generously. Eastbourne benefited from books given by the Rev. Walter Budgen and in Maidstone Dr. Thomas Charles gave his house and its contents of books to enhance the local studies collection. In Camborne the library, containing many Cornish books, of the Rev. J. Sims Carah was presented to the library by his daughter.<sup>8</sup> On its jubilee the library in Torquay was able to claim that the Devon collection of 3,000 books owed its existence to gifts and donations.<sup>9</sup> A number of librarians were outstandingly generous as benefactors, as for example J.D. Mullins who gave over 1000 books, many of which were rare and valuable, after the disastrous fire which destroyed the library in Birmingham, or Mr. Corns of Lincoln who not only gave material but also produced a printed catalogue.

Not surprisingly, local and national politicians wished to make their mark by fulsome gifts to the libraries, whose cause they had so eloquently supported. Many of the most generous MPs were Liberals, such as Sir John Brunner of Northwich or David Chadwick of Macclesfield. The radical MP Peter Taylor regularly sent substantial donations to the Leicester reference library. In Lincoln, too, the library benefited from donations from the MPs Colonel Charles Seeley and William Crosfield. Prominent town councillors, too, gave books and other material. Councillor Moser in Bradford was instrumental in acquiring the collection of James Hanson for the library, and Edwin Lee in Gloucester furnished the Gloucestershire collection with many rare and interesting books. In Leicester, too, a number of prominent aldermen, including Councillors Stevenson, Gimson and Nevinson regularly donated. More recently the Bedford local collection received the collection of Councillor Hensman, who was a leading authority on Bedfordshire history, on his death.

The City of Leicester makes an interesting case study. Leicester Corporation was slow to establish a free library, preferring to uphold the halfpenny rate, thus ensuring that the library suffered severe financial difficulty, with no money at all for books. From the start local worthies responded warmly to appeals for donations and the annual reports reveal the extent of their generosity. Most were local businessmen and civic dignitaries, but former residents and exiles remembered the city of their birth. Most notable was a Mr. Charles Clifton from Massachusetts who gave £250 to the defunct Mechanics Institute Library (which had been absorbed into the public library), and the Rev J. Read of Ipswich who gave valuable Leicestershire sermons. The Leicester Literary and Philosophical Society presented a copy of Nichols *History of Leicester and Leicestershire* in 1873. By 1878 the Leicestershire collection was sufficiently extensive and well

organised to be commended by William Henry Kearley Wright<sup>10</sup> and this was entirely due to the generosity of the people of Leicester. The diversity, value and range of these donations were listed in the Annual report and covered every topic from civil war tracts to *Tebbutts Gulde and Companion to the Midland railway*. Although the collection maintained a steady growth, donations tailed off slightly after 1880.

The Annual report regularly contained appeals for donations:

The value of this collection would be greatly increased by contribution from those who possess publications, maps and pedigrees, illustrating local and family history.<sup>11</sup>

In 1889-90 a form of bequest was printed in the Annual Report to encourage potential donors. Local newspaper proprietors presented copies of their papers, and the Borough Accounts department started to deposit copies of their abstracts in the collection. In common with most other cities, the catalogue of the Leicestershire collection was printed and available for sale and the collection continued to grow steadily.

The Leicestershire collection continues to be enriched by recent works of local authors of repute. This collection should prove of great value to those interested in the history of the county.<sup>12</sup>

Donations continued through the lean years of World War 1 and afterwards, but the city of Leicester continued to adopt a penny pinching attitude to expenditure on its library service, so much so that in 1927 it was singled out for criticism: "it is clear that Leicester spends considerably less than average on provision and administration of its library service"<sup>13</sup>.

Despite this Leicester still had a local studies collection to be proud of, and it continued to grow steadily, attracting donations of publications from the Corporation and its departments and numerous small gifts from its citizens, and in 1928 an illustrations collection was started. Treasures continued to flow in steadily so that It required the services of a full time local studies librarian.

In Leicestershire with its rich past, there is a great demand for local historical information and it must not be thought that a collection of this kind is static: it's one of the libraries most active departments and if the collection continues its natural growth the full time services of a specialist librarian will be required.<sup>14</sup>

This post was finally confirmed in 1963.

When the library was absorbed into Leicestershire in 1974 the final report stated

The Library was immediately seen as a natural target for gifts of all kinds from public spirited citizens who had a genuine vision of the potential of this kind of service...Leicester library service had in full measure the loyal support and help of those it has served.<sup>15</sup>



Unlike many other cities and towns, Leicester's fine local studies collection owed its superiority not to munificence from the Corporation but to the civic pride of many of its citizens who had the foresight to preserve Leicestershire's rich heritage for posterity through their personal generosity.

*Diana Dixon is a lecturer in the Department of Information and Library Studies, Loughborough University.*

This article was originally presented as a paper at UmbrellA 3, Manchester, June 1995

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## **LOCAL MAPS IN WEST SUSSEX: The reorganisation of the County Library collection**

*Martin Hayes*

West Sussex is a predominantly rural county with a population of 728,500, most of whom live on the densely populated coastal strip from Shoreham and Worthing to Bognor Regis, and in railway commuter towns such as Crawley, Burgess Hill, Horsham, Haywards Heath, and East Grinstead. The County Library Service has 35 public libraries with 402,718 regular borrowers representing over 55% of the population. An average of 22,000 people visit West Sussex libraries each day asking a total of over 1 million (1,011,933 in 1994-5) subject enquiries per year. A survey of Worthing Local Studies Library in 1988 showed that of material specifically requested by enquirers, maps featured in 23.5% of enquiries. An increasing number of library users across the County are asking for information in map form.

The sort of map enquiries we receive include copies of large scale sheets for planning permission, school children and students studying the development of urban facilities (shops, parks, sports grounds etc.) and environmental topics (rivers, landscape, Chichester & Pagham harbours etc.) the history of houses, and local and family historians studying towns and villages over several centuries.

I have been Principal Librarian - Local Studies since 1986: I manage and promote the Local Studies collection in the 35 libraries across the County. My responsibilities include acquiring all formats of local material, including current and historical maps, ensuring that this material is organised and exploited effectively, and promoting it to the public via talks, interviews, meetings and exhibitions etc.

Large-scale map collections are held at the eleven largest libraries: Bognor Regis, Burgess Hill, Chichester, Crawley, East Grinstead, Haywards Heath, Horsham, Lancing, Littlehampton, Shoreham-by-Sea and Worthing. They consist largely of 20th century Ordnance Survey maps, County Series and National Grid, with scales including 1:1250, 1:2500, 25", 1:10,000, 6" and 1:25,000. Thematic maps also make up an important element, including geological, soil survey, land use, archaeological finds, Goad shopping centre plans, and administrative maps showing political boundaries, routes for new roads etc. In total these larger libraries hold around 8500 sheets, based primarily on their own catchment area. Worthing Library has the largest collection in the County, with 3,300 sheets, including more specialised sources such as marine charts, building plans, copies of estate and farm plans and microfiche editions (O.S. County Series 25" 1st edition and Ordnance Survey Drawings 1789-1840).

Up to 1990 the collections were housed in old push-pull cabinets, causing damage and gradual deterioration in their condition. Most had never been listed or indexed systematically. Staff had difficulty identifying and locating maps, and were unclear about the various scales and types available. Maps were organised in a variety of ways across the County and were often found to be out of order. No systematic method was in place of updating current sheets nor of improving the patchy coverage of current and historical series. It was therefore decided that it was necessary for the collection to be reorganised and improved in order to provide a better service for the public.

## The reorganisation

To date 16 'Elite' suspended plan filing cabinets have been bought for the 11 libraries. Most sheets then had suspension tape attached and were hung. Any maps in a delicate physical condition and any rare examples were copied, and the originals transferred to Worthing for flat storage in a map chest. Repairs were made with archival document repair tape. Most damage consisted of small tears from the sheet edge, caused by several decades of heavy use and storage in the old cabinets.

In order to improve the service, a method of organising the maps was devised which it was hoped would be suitable for most collections. The principles are as follows:

- i) division into current (generally post 1945) and historical (pre-1945)
- ii) each scale or type of map was given a letter
- iii) sheets of the same scale (whether current or historical) were given the same coloured spot
- iv) the sequence always begins with the largest scale getting progressively smaller scale and ends with thematic maps

A slight adaptation to this scheme has been tried at Worthing and Crawley libraries given the particularly large size of these collections and large number of scales and types. Here there is no division between current and historical scales, eg. Section B National Grid 1:2500 is next to Section C County Series 25". Both systems seem to work adequately, and the latter does seem to suit larger libraries.

To help in accessing information, an A3 sized display book is used to present the catalogue and indexes in each library. Every large scale map held is listed, and described by O.S. scale or type, plan number, year of publication, area of coverage and, if appropriate, further details such as publisher. The O.S. sheet number is used for order within each section wherever possible, but for thematic sections sheets are given the appropriate letter and a number. Lists have been word-processed to enable easy updating. Each of the 11 libraries has been supplied with a list of all current and historical large-scale maps held at other libraries.

In order to keep up to date with current mapping the library uses the services of the Surveyors Department. West Sussex County Council County Surveyors Department holds current copies of all O.S. maps, supplied under the local authority licensing agreement with O.S. From 1990 until 1994 the library bought copies of O.S. SUSI 1:1250 & 1:2500 from the County Surveyor at less than one-third of the usual cost. Many of the library collections had not been updated for 10 years and some did not previously hold any 1:1250 sheets. In addition between 1990 and 1994 the County Surveyors department passed all superseded large-scale sheets, often only 2 or 3 years old, to libraries free of charge. Total savings from the above two initiatives are estimated at £35,150. Since the County Council switched from SUSI mapping to a CD based system in 1994, the Library Service pays only one - tenth of the price of a Superplan sheet.

The service has also improved considerably, with the Surveyors Department able to supply a map to Chichester Library the same day and within a couple of days to all other libraries.

Nineteenth century mapping was a particularly weak area for us and in order to improve the collection a joint scheme was organised with the County Record Office. Collections of O S County Series 25" 1st edition sheets from the Record Office, museums and libraries were pooled and a microfiche edition was published in 1994. A programme is continuing to produce paper prints from these for libraries.

The next stage in the programme is to improve mapping information in rural and suburban libraries. To this end in May 1994 I began to create portfolios of large-scale maps in twenty two smaller libraries. The portfolio consists of current 1:1250 or 1:2500 (as appropriate) sheets covering the urban area of the village or suburb and 1:10,000 sheets covering the rest of the library catchment area up to about 8 miles radius. Each sheet number is listed, together with publication date and area of coverage. A "visual index", i.e. maps with the sheet edges and numbers marked, enables easy identification of particular sheets. Finally a copyright sheet warns staff and public of restrictions covering the copying of current maps.

### **Training and promotion**

Twenty eight staff training sessions were held to explain the reorganisation, how to use the new cabinets and new catalogues together with basic information on O.S. scales, editions and thematic maps. As a follow-up, I organised two full-day training courses for Information specialists in December 1993 and November 1994. Four papers were given covering manuscript and other archival maps available at the County Record Office; Ordnance Survey historical maps; Ordnance survey National Grid scales and thematic maps such as Goad and British Geological Survey; and present and future developments in mapping, particularly Superplan and GIS.

Promotion is seen to be vital, and two talks on 'the Sussex Map Story' were given to the public at Hurstpierpoint and Worthing libraries recently, using research undertaken for the staff training sessions. A new Local Studies Factsheet (No. 7) was published to describe the map collections.

### **Conclusion**

From a situation 5 years ago of deteriorating, disorganised map collections administered largely by untrained staff, considerable improvements have been made thanks to the hard work of many colleagues. All map collections have been updated, historical coverage improved, new suspension cabinets introduced, repairs to sheets made, a new organisational scheme brought in, maps catalogued and indexed, staff trained, and public informed. The next stage of development will bring detailed mapping within the reach of everyone in West Sussex, even those in relatively isolated rural communities.

*Martin Hayes is Principal Librarian - Local Studies,  
West Sussex County Council Library Service*

## **COPYRIGHT: THE EFFECTS OF THE EXTENDED TERM OF PROTECTION**

*Sandy Norman*

Since 1st January 1996 the law on copyright protection has changed. *The EC Directive 93/98/EEC on the Duration of Copyright* directed Member States to extend the term of protection for copyright literary, dramatic, musical and artistic works and films from 50 to 70 years after the end of the year of the death of the author. This was implemented in the UK with the *Duration of Copyright and Rights in Performances Regulations 1995*, S.I.3297. Like all legal documents they take some understanding. This article covers the effects it will have on material handled by local studies librarians, particularly photographs and other audiovisual material. It also covers the potential problems of holding unpublished works. For general details about the implications, please refer to my item *What the new law means* in the LAR March 1996 p157.

### **Photographs**

As artistic works photographs, whether published or unpublished, will have their copyright term extended until 70 years from the end of the year in which they were taken. If the photographer is unknown, the copyright term is 70 years from the end of the calendar year in which the work was made, or made available to the public. If, however, during that period the photographer becomes known, copyright expires 70 years from his or her death.

If a photograph is out of copyright but is still protected in an EEA Member State on 1st July 1995 then the work will have its copyright revived. So, a photograph taken in 1945 which went out of copyright in 1995 but is still protected in Germany (which protects for 70 years anyway) will be brought back into copyright for another 20 years. The revised right will belong to the original rights owner who is likely to be the owner of the film at the time it was taken. However, it is likely that for the majority of photographs in local studies collections, revived copyright will not be relevant.

### **Sound recordings (including oral history recordings)**

There is no change to UK law: copyright expires 50 years after the end of the year in which they were made, or if they are released during that time, 50 years after they were released. (The definition of a sound recording release is: when it is first published, played in public, broadcast or included in a cable programme service).

### **Unpublished works**

The controversial Article 4 of the EC Directive, which gave a 25 year copyright term for previously unpublished works, was not implemented by the S.I. The LA was concerned that the Directive appeared to give a 25 year term of protection to the first person to "publish" a previously unpublished work. An unpublished work was defined as not having been 'lawfully communicated to the public'. In the consultation process to implement the Directive, The LA suggested that,



because this wording was ambiguous, a precise definition of 'lawfully communicated to the public' was necessary, as any publicly deposited record is automatically 'communicated' by the very fact of its deposit, and subsequent availability, to the public.

We also pointed out that libraries own collections of unpublished photographs which could be affected by this Article. A "publisher" could therefore acquire rights in these photographs and the library - and subsequently, the public - would be subject to these rights. When the draft S.I. was published, it was clear that our point had been taken, as a definition of "making available to the public" addressed our fears about the potential commercial exploitation of unpublished works made available in libraries open to the public. However, when the S.I. finally appeared, this section had been removed. We have been informed that this is likely to be included in a future S.I. to implement the EU Directive on Rental and Lending.

To be on the safe side, the conditions of use of unpublished photographs in libraries should be reviewed. In order to avoid possible problems with publishers, it is advised that when unpublished photographs are used it is made clear to the user that any publication right is assigned to the library. Publication right, like copyright, can be assigned. Those libraries worried about this, or any other aspect of compliance with this change in the law, should seek legal advice.

*Sandy Norman is Information Manager (Legal and Parliamentary) at The Library Association*

### **THE DOROTHY McCULLA AWARD, 1996**

The 1996 Dorothy McCulla Memorial Award has been awarded to Caroline Jacob, the Reference and Local Studies Librarian at Merthyr Tydfil Libraries. Mrs. Jacob formerly worked in Brighton library and has an MA in Regional History from Sussex University. The award was made in recognition of her work for the local studies collection in Merthyr, which serves a population of 60,000 and is Britain's smallest public library system. Her activities have included the provision of a high quality reader service, exhibitions, publications and successful promotion and publicity - and local studies is only part of her duties! Caroline was presented with the award on July 2, at a meeting in Dowlais.

For those unfamiliar with the background to this award, it was established in 1981 in memory of the late Dorothy McCulla, who, until her sudden death, had been for many years local studies librarian in Birmingham Public Library. She was also the instigator of the setting up of LSG, initially as a sub-group of the Reference Special and Information Section (now Information Services Group) and then as an independent Group of the Library Association, and was the Group's first chairman. She was a great believer in the importance of local studies and had presented papers to LA Conferences. She was also a passionate believer in the importance of cooperation between local studies information providers such as libraries, museums and archives.

Nominations for the 1997 McCulla Award will be called for later in the year.

## THE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION LOCAL STUDIES GROUP Annual report 1995

The Group continues to maintain a steady membership of just under 1800 and its five branches throughout the United Kingdom remain active by organising seminars, courses and conferences.

The Group took part in two national conferences during the year with a well received programme UmbrellA 3 in Manchester, including a speaker from Sweden, and a well attended session at Libtech which dealt with the presentation of two multi media programmes - *Gateshead 1900* and *The Durham Record*.

Your representatives have also been very much concerned with the ongoing discussions over the copying of Goad shopping and insurance plans and questions of acquisition and archiving for libraries in the future caused by the Ordnance Survey's new computerised mapping systems.

During 1995 a Mission Statement was submitted to the Library Association detailing the structure and aims and objectives of the Group.

We continue to extend and maintain our international links in Eastern Europe and during this year the Chairman accepted an invitation to visit local studies groups in both Hungary and Romania. Following her visit to the latter the Group agreed to sponsor the publication of the first volume of *Bibliografi Muresne*, a bibliography of the periodicals published in Mures County from 1989 to 1994.

Another member of the Group's committee, Ian Maxted, represented LSG by speaking at the second conference held by the Local Studies Section of the Hungarian Library Association which took place at Sopron near the Austrian border.

*The Local Studies Librarian* continues to be published twice a year as does its Scottish counterpart *LocScot* with a succession of most diverse and interesting articles.

The Dorothy McCulla Prize continues to be the goal that most Local Studies Librarians aspire to and this year attracted more nominations than ever before. The 1995 award went to Ken Hinshalwood, the recently retired Local History Librarian for Renfrew District Library Services, who had been responsible, amongst other duties, for setting up and organising a large and well-regarded collection.

Thanks must be given to our new Chairman, Elizabeth Melrose, who continues to show her steadfast commitment to the Group in all its activities.

Amongst the Group's major plans in 1996 is to update its *Guidelines for Local Studies Libraries* previously published in 1990.

Patrick Baird

## THE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION LOCAL STUDIES GROUP Treasurers report 1995

We've had a good year. While it is pleasant to show a surplus on our financial activities, which this year we have achieved, the success of any year has to be measured by what we have achieved for our membership.

The highlight was our Hungarian visitor's Study Tour in the summer. We acknowledge with gratitude the generous contributions towards the cost of this tour from the Library Services Trust and the Yorkshire and Humberside Branch, totalling £400. Our visitor (János Kappel) was also able to attend Umbrella 3, sponsored by the International Group (IGLA).

Our significant full programme at Umbrella 3 was well supported and the substantial financial benefit can be seen.

Our Seminar at LIBTECH '95 was also very successful, although necessary expenses were much higher than anticipated.

The Local Studies Librarian, under Ian Jamieson's continued able editorship, necessarily takes up a substantial part of our income, but it is a very good journal and is the only contact that much of our growing and widely-dispersed membership has with our Group.

A substantial proportion of our reserve funds has been allocated to our Bibliography project, whose Working Party has already started to meet.

You will see that there is a note regarding an outstanding bill, precise amount not yet known, which is still awaited. I dislike entering estimated figures into published financial accounts, as these always cause administrative problems afterwards.

The audited accounts are presented below

*Philip Thomas, Hon. Treasurer, LSG*

### BALANCE SHEET as at 31st December 1995

#### Liabilities

| CREDITORS:                                   | £                | £              |
|----------------------------------------------|------------------|----------------|
| The L.A. (Nett V.A.T. due)                   | 6.93             |                |
| Imprint Services (Printing LSL, Vol.14 (2))  | <u>1265.00</u>   | 1271.93        |
| Accumulated Surplus as at 31st December 1994 | 4947.81          |                |
| <u>Add</u> Excess of Income over             |                  |                |
| Expenditure for 1995 (SURPLUS)               | <u>(*)667.61</u> | 5615.42        |
|                                              |                  | <u>6887.65</u> |

#### Assets

|                                                          |                |                 |
|----------------------------------------------------------|----------------|-----------------|
| Sundry DEBTORS for LSL Subscriptions and Libtech Seminar |                | 550.66          |
| Cash at Bank and Invested:                               |                |                 |
| Bank Current Account                                     | 281.03         |                 |
| COIF Charities Deposit Fund                              | <u>6055.66</u> | 6336.65         |
|                                                          |                | <u>£6887.65</u> |

NOTE: Please see Income & Expenditure Sheet for explanation of the (\*) by the SURPLUS

# INCOME and EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT for the year ended 31st December 1995

| EXPENDITURE                       | £                 | INCOME                               |                |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------|
| Nett V.A.T. on Goods and Services | 1.97              | Capitation                           | 4266.00        |
| Postages/Phone/Fax                | 41.24             |                                      |                |
| Stationery & Photocopying         | 336.63            | Book Sales                           | 12.00          |
| Committee Expenses:               |                   |                                      |                |
| Committee Mtgs (3)                | 1218.00           |                                      |                |
| Officers' Expenses                | 53.40             |                                      |                |
| Sundry Expenses                   | <u>19.59</u>      |                                      |                |
|                                   | 1290.99           |                                      |                |
| Bibliography Working Party        | 32.00             |                                      |                |
| LOCAL STUDIES LIBRARIAN:          |                   | LOCAL STUDIES LIBRARIAN:             |                |
| Vol.14(1)-Printing                | 1079.19           | Vol.14 (Subscriptions)               | 37.00          |
| Distribution                      | 444.57            | Vol.9 (1990) Sales                   | <u>2.50</u>    |
| 14(2)-Printing                    | 1265.00           |                                      | 39.50          |
| Part Distrib.                     | 44.42             |                                      |                |
| Main Distrib.                     | (*)               |                                      |                |
| Subscribers: Invoicing/Mailing    | <u>10.69</u>      |                                      |                |
|                                   | 2843.87           |                                      |                |
| International Visits:             |                   | UmbrellA Three - Surplus             | 1124.37        |
| Hungary to U.K.                   | 257.04            |                                      |                |
| U.K. to Hungary                   | <u>1.43</u>       | Libtech '95 Seminar - Surplus        | 163.32         |
| Support for Bibliography Project  |                   |                                      |                |
| in Romania                        | 25.00             |                                      |                |
| McCulla Award & Expenses          | 151.14            |                                      |                |
| A.G.M. Expenses                   | 49.50             | Bank Current Account interest        | 6.65           |
| L.A.Mailing for Sub-Groups        | 90.27             |                                      |                |
| Repayment of 1982 Loan by         |                   | COIF Charities Deposit fund interest | 276.85         |
| N.W. Sub-Group to them            | <u>100.00</u>     |                                      |                |
|                                   | 5221.08           |                                      |                |
| Excess of Income over Expenditure |                   |                                      |                |
| for year (SURPLUS), c/f to the    |                   |                                      |                |
| Balance Sheet                     | (*) <u>667.61</u> |                                      |                |
|                                   | <u>5888.69</u>    |                                      | <u>5888.69</u> |

Please Note: (\*) The bill for the main distribution of LSL, Vol. 14(2) is still awaited, and will reduce the Surplus for the year, by not more than £400.

## **LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION AND LOCAL STUDIES**

In the light of boundary changes caused by local government reorganisation, LSG has issued a guidance statement about local studies collections. It has been deliberately kept short, and is intended to remind authorities of the importance to the community of these collections. It is hoped that it will be used as a basis for policy decisions by individual services. The statement reads as follows:

Local Studies collections reflect the culture of communities to which they belong.

Emerging local authorities must be aware of the significance of traditional loyalties and boundaries, and respect the integrity of existing collections.

Sensible collecting policies will ensure a balanced coverage of material in places where fragmentation occurs, but such policies must be underpinned by adequate funding.

Modern communication networks should be installed to ensure the free flow of information and the efficient use of resources.

## **A BIBLIOGRAPHY OF LOCAL STUDIES LIBRARIANSHIP**

LSG is to sponsor a bibliography of local studies librarianship. At present there is no bibliography serving the needs of those librarians whose work, or interests, lie with local studies collections. The librarianship of local studies was pioneered in nineteenth century English libraries (there was a paper on the subject at the first LA conference in 1878) and several substantial texts have been produced. In addition to these texts many other books, pamphlets and articles have been produced in this country, and a significant quantity of material has been published elsewhere, particularly in the United States. Britain, however, is still the world leader in this specialisation.

The literature covers the whole range of technical literature related to local studies libraries (management, acquisition, cataloguing, publicity etc.), but local studies librarians also make extensive use of literature other than this: for instance portions of the literature on archives, museums and conservation are also highly relevant. In addition, materials on the techniques of local studies itself (historical sources, fieldwork, photographic and audio collection etc.) are important to those running local studies collections. Given the success of the most recent text edited by Dewe, it is anticipated that a bibliography attempting to be comprehensive worldwide on local studies librarianship would be of a viable size for publication and would have a substantial market.

The aim is to be international in scope and cover current and retrospective material, with a cut off date of the end of 1995. Material in English and major European languages will be included with additional input from other languages (e.g. Scandinavian) where there is a strong local studies tradition.

Committee member Diana Dixon, who is a lecturer in the Department of Information and Library Studies at Loughborough University, has offered to undertake the compilation of the Bibliography and work has already started. The Group is actively seeking grants to help with the expenses of preparation.



## LOCAL STUDIES GROUP COMMITTEE, 1997-98

This is an advance notice that the term of office of the present LSG committee expires on 31 December. Nominations will therefore be invited later in the year for officers and committee members of the Group to serve from January 1997 to December 1998. A notice will appear in the LA Record later in the year, so please watch for it. The closing date for nominations will probably be 30 September.

## LOCSCOT'S DISPLAY BOARDS

In 1993, LOCSCOT received a £700 grant from the Local Studies Group for the purchase of display boards to emphasise corporate identity at its own meetings and visitor presence at events held by other organisations. A demonstration of 3 Nimlok systems was then given at committee meeting. Subsequently, a 6-panel double-deck unit in a striking royal blue colour with a LOCSCOT header panel in black and buff house colours and leaflet dispensers was bought. The complete unit can be quickly split into 3 parts - header panel, top deck and bottom deck - for storage in 2 carry bags which make portability an easy matter. Its top level carries an information sheet detailing LOCSCOT's activities, leaflets showing the range of topics covered at LOCSCOT meetings accompanied by a photograph of a day school in progress and sample title pages from LOCSCOT magazine. These items have been laminated for an attractive finish. The bottom deck has some full colour local history posters on various subjects and the leaflet dispensers containing LOCSCOT membership application forms. So far, this display board unit has been at every LOCSCOT meeting since its acquisition, but has only been at one external function - an oral history conference in Fife.



## HELP WANTED

John Titford, Yew Tree Farm, Hallfieldgate, Higham, Derbyshire, DE55 6AG, writes:

I am writing in the hope that budding authors among your readership might be tempted to help the Society of Genealogists in its search for new titles in the "My ancestors were..." series of books, of which I am general editor. This series, now well established, attempts to provide family historians and others with a user-friendly, easily portable and fairly basic guide to archive material relevant to the topic in question. Titles so far published cover manorial tenants, Jews, Baptists, Methodists and Quakers, together with "My ancestors moved in England and Wales" and "My ancestors came with the Conqueror".

Each guide takes a close look at available sources, giving references wherever possible, and I do hope that we may be able to recruit potential authors from among your readership who have an in-depth knowledge of various collections

which may be of specific interest to the ever-growing army of family historians. Titles in the series may be of any length, within reason, and each sells within the price range £3.00 to £5.00. A 10% royalty is paid to authors on sales, with a typical print run of 2000.

I should be delighted to hear from any of your readers who feel they may be able to contribute to this series, however rudimentary the idea may be at present. Sometimes we can use family historians from among our own membership, but increasingly we are keen to avail ourselves of the services of experienced librarians and archivists whose knowledge puts them in a unique position to be able to contribute in this field.

## **ALAN BALL LOCAL HISTORY AWARDS 1996**

The winners of the Alan Ball Awards for 1996 have recently been announced. Established to encourage local history publishing by public libraries and local authorities, this is the twelfth year they have been awarded and the judges comment that the standard continues to improve each year.

This year there were 42 entries from 33 local authorities, and the judges were impressed by the high quality of the entries submitted, in terms of both research and physical design and production. The final decision on the winners was difficult to reach, and it was eventually decided to make three Awards, the maximum permitted, and in addition to Commend four other entries.

The Award winners for 1996 are:

Birmingham City Council for *Contrasts in a Victorian city: Sources and Notes for a study of Victorian Birmingham*, an education pack compiled by Richard Allbutt, Martin Flynn and Philippa Bassett of Birmingham Central Library and Jackie Inman of the Schools Library Service.

Lancashire County Council for *Working Children in Nineteenth Century Lancashire*, edited by Michael Winstanley. Most of the work for this high quality and well-illustrated book was carried out by undergraduates in the History Department at Lancaster University;

London Borough of Merton for *William Morris at Merton*, by David Saxby. This booklet was compiled by the Museum of London Archaeology Service on behalf of the London Borough of Merton, drawing upon the excavations on the site of Morris and Co's works at Merton Abbey.

The following were Commended:

Rotherham Borough Council for *Rotherham's Woodland Heritage*, by Melvyn Jones;

Hereford & Worcester County Council for *The Civil War in Worcestershire* by Malcolm Atkin;

Hampshire County Council for *Jane Austen and Hampshire*, by Audrey Hawkrigde, and

Durham County Council for *The Faithful Sixth*, by Harry Moses.

Congratulations to all these authorities and authors.

## NOTES AND NEWS

The final NEWSPLAN report, for London and the South East Region, has just been published by the British Library (ISBN 0 7123 0487 8, £30.00). A feasibility study in 1989 suggested that there would be at least a thousand newspaper titles to be recorded: in fact, 2454 titles were located, held in the British Library Newspaper Library at Colindale and in libraries, archives and Record Offices throughout the London Boroughs, the City of London and the nine counties surrounding the capital.

The first, pilot, NEWSPLAN project investigated the situation in the South West and was published in 1986. In the intervening ten years the whole of the British Isles has been covered. The ten reports in the series provide a comprehensive listing of the main files of United Kingdom and Irish newspapers which remain in existence, with information on extent, gaps and condition of titles, together with details of conservation microfilming which has already been done. Priorities for further work needing to be carried out are also recommended. In addition to the reports, as part of its function to communicate the importance of newspaper preservation and to discuss the problems involved, implementation groups have been set up in all regions, two prestigious national conferences have been held, and a twice-yearly newsletter is published.

Tameside Libraries are continuing their Family History Award, first made in 1994.. The focus of the 1996 competition is the changing role of women in the past and the organisers hope that the research done by family historians will highlight the importance of ordinary women in Tameside's history. Entrants may concentrate on one person or present evidence from several generations of a family study. As in previous years all entries will be added to the stock of the local studies library to be available to future researchers.

Devon Library Services held a Local History Week in February. The six days of activities were based in Exeter Central Library, but events were held in several other places as well. Most of the events were arranged in conjunction with other local organisations - for instance, there was a wide range of presentations by local and regional groups and many of these also mounted small displays featuring their activities. Talks ranged from one on tracing your ancestors to tributes to W.G. Hoskins and to Sabine Baring-Gould the folksong collector, and a description of recent fieldwork in Devon by the Royal Commission for Historical Monuments. There were also local quizzes in various parts of the county and, at Great Torrington, a commemoration of the Battle of Torrington, 1646. Something for everyone, in fact.

The Librarians' Christian Fellowship is celebrating its twentieth anniversary this year. The Fellowship is interdenominational and includes members from all branches of the library profession, public, academic and special, as well as from the wider information world. The official aims of LCF are to provide librarians with opportunities for considering their work from the point of view of the Christian faith; to encourage fellowship and unity between Christians in library work; to communicate the Christian faith to the wider library world; and to make

the skills and training of librarians available to the wider church and Christian community. For example, LCF members have been working on a project to upgrade and reorganise the library of the Northumbria Bible College and a special working week has been arranged in the library in September. The Fellowship holds an annual conference and other meetings and publishes a newsletter and a journal. For further details about LCF contact the Secretary, Graham Hedges, ALA, 34 Thurlestone Ave, Seven Kings, Ilford, Essex, IG3 9DU.

The LA wishes to draw attention to its Continuing Professional Development programme. A large number of workshops are to be held throughout the year and, while many of these are specifically related to management there are some on IT and on communication. Full details of this year's programme may be obtained from Liora Stubbs, Professional Development, LA Enterprises, at Ridgmount Street.

In March 1996 BBC2 presented a series of programmes under the title '*Under Exposed*' with the aim of uncovering the wealth of photographs kept and collected by both individuals and institutions. A range of collections, ranging from the Public Record Office to those kept by firms of photographers and by private collectors were described and discussed. At the end of each programme an appeal was made for viewers to send in lists of photographs to the programme to help assess the range and number of photographs in existence. As a result of the appeal the BBC have so far received two large sacks of mail and over 100 000 people have looked at the relevant page on the Internet. It has not yet been decided whether there will be a follow-up series although the appeal in the programmes said that there would be. One disappointment is that local studies libraries did not get a mention, though one programme dealt with the collection in Birmingham and its wish both to open up its collection of 2 million prints and also to extend it.

One of the aims of LOCSCOT, LSG's Scottish Branch, is to act as a centre for the redistribution of local studies materials to appropriate local studies libraries in Scotland. One of its major efforts has been the dispersal of a large number of older OS 25" maps, gathered from various sources, and the latest issue of LOCSCOT, the Branch journal, reports that the number of map sheets distributed has now reached over 25 000. Masterminded by Don Martin, the maps were largely sorted and distributed by Anthony McNeill. The editor comments that her library's collection has benefited greatly from the donation of sheets which it could never have afforded to buy.

Local studies collections continue to have to cope with cuts, of bookfunds or of staff. It has recently been reported that in the latest round of redundancies at the Museum of London, the post of Librarian has been abolished and Joanna Clark, who was the LSG London and Home Counties Branch representative on the national committee for some years, has left the Museum's employ.

The Public services staff at the Public Record Office are intending to establish a Public Services Quality Group as a forum to discuss quality issues in archival and local studies public services. The aim of the Group will be to create an

informal environment for the exchange of ideas and practical information on the delivery of quality public services: preliminary soundings indicate that there is a strong demand for this kind of forum in the archival community. It is intended to launch the Group at a one day workshop at the PRO at Kew on 13 November, when people with special expertise from record offices and the library world will give short presentations. Topics will include the example of the library Quality Forum, customer care, how to gain (and keep) a Chartermark award, planning a new searchroom, and the impact of automated finding aids. There will also be a chance to tour the new PRO building and to hear about the PRO's own 'Readers First' programme. This is planned as the first of a series of informal meetings, and ideas on how the Group might develop in future will be welcome. It is intended that the papers given at the meeting will be circulated afterwards and that a register of interest/expertise will be compiled for distribution. If you are interested in this new Group and/or attending the inaugural meeting, please write to Alec Mulinder, Information Officer in the Archive Inspection Services Department, Public Record Office, Ruskin Avenue, Kew, Richmond, TW9 4DU, or telephone him on 0181-876-3444 ext 2354.

### **HAVE YOU SEEN...?**

*Recent items of interest to local study librarians*

*Copyright in public libraries. 3rd ed, revised and updated by Sandy Norman. LAPL, 1996. 36pp. £8.95. ISBN 1 85604 194 8.*

Since the publication of the second edition of this work in 1990, there have been many changes in copyright law and practice, including the recent EU legislation, and this new edition fully reflects this. While the description of the main provisions of the Copyright Act and exceptions such as the fair dealing clauses is the same as in Edition 2, it has been reorganised in the interests of clarity. In view of the many developments in technology the section on electronic and audiovisual copyright has been completely rewritten to take into account the amendments to the Copyright Act, EU Directives and issues related to electrocopying. There is a new section on moral rights and also new is an interesting selection of case law showing a wide range of cases in which action has been taken by rights owners.

Local studies librarians in public libraries will welcome the clear way in which this new edition is laid out. As well as literary works, emphasis is placed on artistic works and licensing schemes, for instance for OS maps. Information on copying limits, for example for Goad maps, is given, and the section of 'Miscellaneous notes and guidance' covers a wide range of material including items such as electoral registers, photographs and newspaper copying which are particularly relevant to local studies.

*Owen, J.S. Coal mining at Brora, 1529-1974. Highland libraries, 1995. viii, 48pp. £5.95, ISBN 1 874253 005.*

The first publication from Highland Libraries, this work details the history of a small colliery area on the eastern coast of northern Scotland. Far remote from the main Scottish coalfields, while in operation it served local people and such local industry as there was. Its business history was largely of repeated failure



due to poor coal quality and ultimately geological problems. Mining eventually ceased in 1974 and a large sports field now overlies the mine site. This booklet is a useful contribution to the industrial history of a remote area and appears to have been well researched. Readable and nicely produced, though some of the illustrations are rather grey, it contains a useful list of references and a wide range of acknowledgements. A good example of a local library publication which is of interest to a wider audience, for instance of industrial archaeologists and historians.

*Scottish Libraries, 10(2), Issue 56, March/April 1969.*

The main focus of this issue is local studies, and articles include: Don Martin, *Getting the Guidelines right*, p17 - an introduction to LOCSCOT and what it does, and the need for guidelines to 'best practice'; Janet Klak, *Picture the scene*, pp 18-19 - a description of the way in which Kirkcaldy District Libraries uses Photofile to manage its photographic collection; and Alan Reid, *Publish and be damned*, pp 20-21 - the trials and tribulations of publishing local interest material; includes useful brief checklists of points for consideration and action.

Sue Broughton, Secretary of the LA's Subcommittee on Preservation, Conservation, Security and Heritage has drawn our attention to two items which may be of interest to local studies librarians who may be involved with the management of records, and has provided the following reviews:

*A Standard for Record Repositories. Royal Commission on Historical Manuscripts, HMSO, 1990. Available free from the Secretary, RCHM*

This set of recommendations is intended to provide guidance to anybody holding records available to the public for research, and to complement areas of records management omitted from BS5454: 1989, *Recommendations for storage and exhibition of archival documents*. It is written in clear, accessible language, setting out a brief, well defined set of recommendations under different headings, and an Appendix of Guidelines for Record Repositories, which covers in brief such other useful areas as fire protection and environment and storage for different media. Although brief, this document would provide invaluable initial guidance to anyone coming into the field of archive work, or faced with the task of reorganising or initiating an archive collection.

*Shaw, S. Beyond the PRO: Public Record in Places of Deposit. Public Record Office, 1994. Available free from the PRO.*

This guidance leaflet is intended to assist those organisations which make public records available to the public in places other than the PRO. Essentially it is a 'best practice' guide from the viewpoint of the PRO. It includes a useful section defining the relevant Public Records Acts, drawing attention to the most relevant sections. The life cycle of public records, a clear flowchart diagram showing the progression of any record within the preservation system, would be useful both as a teaching aid and also for any organisation setting out its regulations for managing the records it held. The chart listing the core functions of an archive collection would be useful guidance in setting up a collection and the more specialised information on administration, loans and extended closure of records is very clear. There is a brief but useful bibliography.

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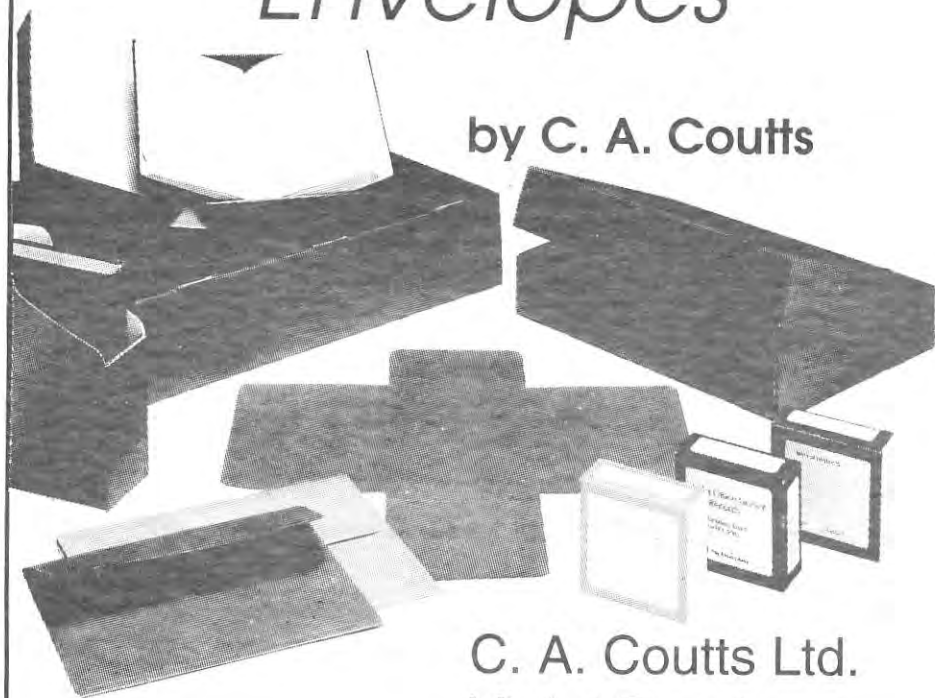
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