



THE UNIVERSITY
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Issue 9

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LIVERPOOL UNIVERSITY

LUCAS

CENTRE *for* ARCHIVE STUDIES

That, to quote its aims, LUCAS is 'a forum for the discussion and promotion of matters relating to archives and records management practice, research and education for both professionals and users' was well demonstrated at its fifth annual general meeting, attended by over fifty members and their guests and held at the Glaxo Neurological Centre, Liverpool on 19 February.

Appropriately for a Centre based in a university, which has a regional as well as national and international role, LUCAS has over the past year further developed its fruitful relationship with Resource and the national archives, while running courses for its members locally, including a well-supported Using Computers for Family History Day held in Liverpool last October and a joint NW Regional Archives Council/LUCAS records management awareness-raising day attended by seventy delegates in Manchester last November, and now completing the arrangements for its first international conference, on Political Pressure and the Archival Record, to be held in Liverpool on 22 – 25 July (see page 3). A well-earned tribute was paid by Caroline Williams, LUCAS's Director, to David Stoker (Manager of Liverpool and Merseyside Record Office) and Helen Ford (Archivist in charge of the National Gas Archive) who retired from the Executive Committee after four years' sterling service, including the organisation of successful day schools for members.

Following the AGM, whose business was quickly and efficiently dispatched, George Mackenzie, Keeper of the Records of Scotland and a member of the Archives Task Force recently established by Resource 'to map out new ways of identifying and exploiting the UK's rich legacy in public and private archives', delivered a thoughtful and encouraging address on 'Archives in the UK in the 21st century', commencing with a telling quotation from James Hogg's *The Private Memoirs and Confessions of a Justified Sinner* (1824), a book dwelling on the duality of character. While it might be argued that that archivists have split personalities, the division between the archivist as 'scholar researcher' and the archivist as the expert in the administration of archives was nowadays less pronounced, it being recognised that the archivist has a dual value, as both a source of information and a source of evidence. The heritage / evidence split was a false one, a holistic approach now being required. Interoperability was nowadays required, libraries and museums, as well as archives, holding material of interest to the researcher, who increasingly expected not just a catalogue entry but also an image of the archive. In France, we were told, a single course for the training of librarians, archivists and museum curators (Ecole du Patrimoine) has been established.

In the wake of the reception accorded by Resource to the report of its Regional Museums Task Force, *Renaissance in the Regions* (2001), George Mackenzie felt that Resource's Archives Task Force's key task was indeed to reposition archives in the national consciousness. The Task Force was asking such key questions as who keeps archives and in enquiring about the uses of archives was seeking to improve ways in which archives provide a service. The Task Force was aware of concepts in the allied professions, for instance that of centres of excellence in the museums world. He believed that the Task Force's report (to be submitted later this year to the Department of Culture, Media and Sport and probably also to the devolved governments in Scotland and Wales) would not recommend radical changes and that any resultant legislation would relate to the forthcoming merger of the Public Record Office and the Historical Manuscripts Commission to form the National Archives and to the status of electronic records.

Following a lively discussion, Elizabeth Oxborrow-Cowan moved a vote of thanks to George Mackenzie, with a ringing endorsement that archivists do believe in themselves and their role. As at previous AGMs, members and their guests then enjoyed a buffet and the opportunity to meet one another socially. *Fiat Lux* is the University of Liverpool's motto ; *Fiat LUCAS* is ours !

Adrian Allan

LUCAS was recently represented at

THE INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR ON ARCHIVES OF THE IBERIAN TRADITION

This international seminar was held in Rio de Janeiro 18-22 November 2002. It was an impressive and important gathering, with – we were told – 600 delegates (however no attendance list was issued). Present were representatives of all the national archives services of Latin America, plus Spain and Portugal; but there were also representatives from a selection of countries that recalled the former Portuguese empire: Angola, Mozambique, Cabo Verde, East Timor (it was particularly pleasant to welcome the East Timorese into the international professional circle); only Goa and Macau were missing. The seminar was hosted, of course, by the world's largest Portuguese-speaking country.

The business meetings of the Iberian archivists were paralleled by the international seminar itself, which was conducted by an array of international experts, and was on the subject of electronic records. Expert speakers included John McDonald and Lucia Duranti from Canada, Maria Luisa Conde Villaverde and Blanca Desantes from Spain, Francisco Barbedo from Portugal, Daryll Prescott, Jeff Rothenberg and Charles Dollar from the USA, Adrian Cunningham from Australia, Stefano Vitali from Italy, Dick Sargent and Michael Cook from the UK. Overall they gave a series of reports which effectively brought Latin American

colleagues up to date with the problem of e-records and permanence. Most papers were given in English, and will be posted on the Brazilian National Archives website www.arquivonacional.gov.br

Concurrently, the ICA's Commission on Archival Description held its annual working session, delivering a report to the assembly on the final day. During the week they produced the latest revision of the standards ISAAR(CPF), carrying forward the basis for the separation of contextual and content information in archival description, and also reinforcing the concept of authority control in that field. The document has not yet been released for general comment, as it has to be submitted to a second meeting to be held in Canberra next year, but a progress report can be seen on the ICA website. This is a most important development for the international archival community. The seminar also received a description of the progress made by IRMT on the evidence-based governance project, and there was discussion of this from the floor of the seminar following John McDonald's and Michael Cook's presentations.

Midway through the proceedings, there was the formal opening of the new building of the National Archives of Brazil, carried out by the retiring President of the Republic, and following a blessing by Cardinal Arns. The building is one of the most spectacular architectural monuments of Rio de Janeiro. It was formerly the building constructed for the national mint, the *Palacio de Moeda*. It therefore has

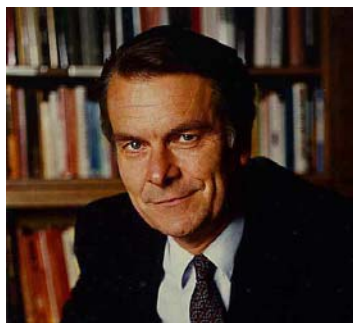
both spacious marble-columned halls but also side buildings constructed to industrial standards. The opening of the building may be said to crown the professional achievement of the current director of the national archives, Jaime Antunes.

The annual meeting of the archivists of Iberian tradition in many ways parallels those of the British Commonwealth. These two international groupings comprise vast areas of the world and allow consultation between colleagues based on a shared administrative and legal tradition (and language).

Michael Cook

Political pressure and the archival record

Since the last issue of the Newsletter the full programme for the conference has been put together. The organizing committee is also delighted to announce that the speaker at the Conference Dinner (24 July) will be **Lord Owen**, Co-Chairman of the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia (1992 – 1995), and Chancellor of the University of Liverpool

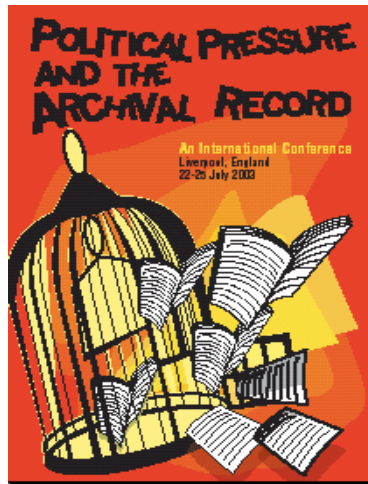


David Owen

Keynote speakers are
22 July

Trudy Peterson formerly
Director of the Open

Society Archives: *Secret police and secret archives*



23 July

Professor Friedrich Kahlenberg, former Director of the Federal Archives of Germany: *Governmental rule and archivists: the historical experience of the 20th Century in Central Europe*

Tom Blanton Director of the National Security Archive, Washington DC: *From the Stasi files to the White House email: freedom of information and its challenge to power*

Chris Hurley, Manager, Archives, Commonwealth Bank of Australia: *The role of the archives in protecting the record from political pressure*

24 July

George MacKenzie Keeper of the Records of Scotland *From Solferino to Sarajevo: armed conflict, international law, and archives*

Verne Harris Director of the South African History Archive; *The archive in politics: truths, powers, records and contestation in South Africa*

Rick Barry, freelance records manager: *Ethics and social issues for*

creators and users of records

A brief summary of speakers provides an indication of the professional - and geographical - range of the conference:

22 July

Dr Paul Maddrell, University of Wales Aberystwyth *'What we have discovered about the Cold War is what we already knew': using East German state security records to examine the truthfulness of Cold War Communist propaganda*

Rachel Lilburn, Victoria University, New Zealand *The state of security intelligence archives in New Zealand*

23 July

Astrid Eckert, German Historical Institute, Washington DC: *Archival access in West Germany during the Cold War*

Agnes Jonker, Archiefschool, Amsterdam *The Dutch experience at Srebrenica in July, 1995*
or

Clive Emsley and **Chris Williams**, European Centre for the Study of Policing, Open University: *'Beware of the leopard?': police archives in Great Britain*

Godfried Kwanten, Archives Department, KADOC-Catholic University Leuven, Belgium: *The role of private archives in preserving, safeguarding and making available political records in Belgium*

Thomas Connors, National Public Broadcasting Archives, University of Maryland: *The Bush administration and information lockdown*

Jacqueline R. Esposito: *The Impact of the USA*

Patriot Act on University Records
or Tywanna Whorley, University of Pittsburgh: *The Tuskegee Syphilis Study: access and control over controversial records*
Maureen Spencer, Centre for Legal Research, Middlesex University Business School: *Government secrecy and the right to a fair trial – the case of the Thetis (1942)*

24 July

Claire Johnson, University of Glasgow *The relevance of archival practice within 'e-democracy'*

Malcolm Todd, Public Records Office *Some implications of Electronic records management*

John Halstead *The Public Records Administration Campaign of the Society for the Study of Labour History, 1960 – 1998*

Shadrack Katuu, Department of Library and Information Studies, University of Botswana

Dwayne Cox, Auburn University, USA *Public interest v. private gain: a case study in open records litigation, 1877 – 1920*

Barbara Towell, Rapid Transit Project, Vancouver, Canada *The debate of protection of privacy versus the guarantee of equality as outlined in the Canadian*

Constitution

Dr Jelka Melik and Alexandra Serse, Archives of the Republic of Slovenia *Hidden truth – destroyed and inaccessible archives: problems of Slovene administrative and jurisdictional archives during Socialism and after it*

Masahito Ando, Department of Historical Documents, National Institute of Japanese Literature *The Asian-Pacific War and the fate of archives*

Jeanette Bastian, Simmons College, Boston, USA *Whispers in the archives: accessing the history of the colonised from the records of the colonisers*

More details are available from the conference website <http://www.liv.ac.uk/lucas/events.htm>

The cost for the four day, fully residential conference is £350 with reductions for existing LUCAS members

**Would you like to join LUCAS? If so, please complete this form and send to:
Margaret Procter, Associate Director and Secretary,
LUCAS, 9 Abercromby Square, Liverpool, L69 7WZ**

I wish to join LUCAS and enclose cheque/postal order for £10 payable to the 'University of Liverpool'

Name (Block capitals):

Address (Block capitals):

If you would like information on institutional membership, contact Margaret Procter on 0151 794 2411