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Issue 16

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LIVERPOOL UNIVERSITY

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The December issue of the Newsletter looks back at a packed few months and forward to a very special new year. 2007 is the 60th anniversary of postgraduate education in archives and records management at Liverpool University, and to celebrate we'll be holding a special alumni event in July. We hope that as many old students as possible – from those who graduated in 1948 to those on the programme this year – will be able to revisit Liverpool and catch up with friends and colleagues. More details on inside pages.

SEX IN THE ARCHIVES

Following the success of "Death in the Archives", another in the series of "...in the archives" events took place on Saturday 30 September, with "Sex in the Archives". The well-attended occasion was held in the atmospheric lecture theatre of the Liverpool Medical Institution, and aimed to provide insight into the kinds of materials relating to sex and gender issues which can be found in a the archives. But the event also generated international media interest writes MARM student Sarah Pymer.

Dr Jenny Daggers of Liverpool Hope University discussed the life and work of Josephine Butler. This nineteenth-century campaigner became particularly interested in the welfare of prostitutes in Liverpool, and for more than 15 years led a movement for the repeal of the Contagious Diseases Act. Mrs Butler's strong and forceful personality came across to the audience clearly, and her story was cruelly left on a cliff-hanger, trapped with a group of followers in a burning building...

Dorothy Sheridan (University of Sussex) spoke about the Mass Observation project, which was a pioneering social research organisation founded in 1937 to survey the everyday lives of people in Britain – including the first survey of the sex lives of ordinary people. Dorothy's subject was illuminated with anecdotes from the surveys held in the Mass Observation Archives, including reports of the behaviour of holidaymakers on Blackpool beach, which the audience greatly enjoyed!

"Coming Out in the Archives: records of Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgendered (LGBT) activists in the Hall-Carpenter Archives" followed, with an enlightening presentation from Sue Donnelly, Archivist at the London School of Economics. The Hall-Carpenter Archives hold records relating to gay activism in the UK, and Sue highlighted some of the problems encountered in collecting in this area, describing how the records of campaigns and individual campaigners can be fragmented, and the way in which more radical campaigners can view the archive as part of the social structure against which they are protesting.

The final speaker of the afternoon was Dr Alan Crosby, well known local historian, who spoke entertainingly about how common local record office sources such as Quarter Sessions records can shed light on the sexual mores of people in past centuries. He also touched on more serious matters, questioning how realistic is it to extrapolate general social opinion from the entries in such local records. The afternoon was greatly enjoyed by those in the audience, but the event had a wider public too: with the event being picked up by foreign media in India, Canada, Australia and the US.

Successful D/CPS: RIM students

Presentation in Newcastle, October 2006

October sees the annual 'Records Management in Government conference' organized by The National Archives. From LUCAS's point of view the highlight is presentation alwavs the made to successful students on the Diploma/Certificate in Professional Studies: Records and Information Management. The D/CPS: RIM is a distance learning programme for individuals already working government (and the wider public sector) recordkeeping the Conference and appropriate provides an occasion on which to recognize all their hard work.

Our congratulations go to all the successful students, some of whom are pictured here with new TNA Chief Executive with Nathalie Ceeney (4th right) and Programme Director Margaret Procter (centre).



Successful D/CPS: RIM students

Nathalie Ceeney will be the guest speaker at the LUCAS AGM in February when delegates will have the opportunity to hear about developments at TNA since the retirement of former Chief Executive Sarah Tyacke and plans for TNA in the future (see back page).

Joint DCC and LUCAS Workshop (30 November -1 December 2006)

MARM student Courtney Brucato describes a successful joint event

The Digital Curation Centre (DCC) brings together experts from across the UK academic community "to provide a national focus for research and development into curation issues and to promote expertise and good practice, both national and international, for the management of all research outputs in digital format."

With digital preservation issues coming increasingly to the fore of archival practice, LUCAS was delighted to host a joint conference with the DCC in Liverpool on 30 November/1 December. The issues explored include pre-ingest strategy, ingest procedure, and archival preservation of digital records. As a first joint venture between the this unique two Centres. workshop aimed to open discussion among professionals in archives, records management, and fields and explore possible solutions through an examination of theory, case studies and group exercises.

Attendees viewed presentations from eleven distinguished professionals from variety organizations involved in tackling the issues surrounding the successful preservation of digital obiects. The event was divided into two days of lecture and group activity with day one addressing pre-ingest acquisition or strategy of digital records and day two discussing ingest and archival preservation of such

materials. Seamus Ross from DCC and Caroline Williams from LUCAS chaired the sessions.

Among the speakers at the afternoon session on day one were Steve Bailey from the Joint Information Systems Committee (JISC) who stressed the importance of archivists and records managers becoming actively involved in the digital environment especially at the software development level; Zoe Smyth from the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland (PRONI) who discussed the preingest strategy for digital records and what steps PRONI is taking to further develop their strategy; Susan Thomas from the **PARADIGM** Project supported pro-active а stance in acquiring links with potential depositors electronic material to help combat early obsolescence; and Sarah Higgins from DCC who explored the various standards and the importance of standards to be applied to metadata collected on digital records. two welcomed speakers Jeremy John (British Library) who discussed the challenges in accepting manuscripts which now include electronic media components and how the British Library is facing such issues. James Insell from the BBC offered a case study of how the BBC was fighting media obsolescence by transferring over 100,000 original tapes to a new storage format while Jim Jamieson from NDAD who demonstrated his organization's procedure for acquiring and preserving datasets in forms which will remain accessible to users. Stephen Abrams from Harvard University Library explained his organization's software program JHOVE which was developed to help identify errors in and migrated objects Michael Nelson (Old Dominion University) explored how to evaluate ingest success among a preservation collection. Seamus Ross from DCC emphasized the importance of building trusted digital repositories through audit systems; and finally Paul Watrv (University of Liverpool) demonstrated for group the NARA software prototype being developed for the National Archives in Washington preserve D.C. tο its electronic records without having to migrate them.

The program was a resounding success. It is hoped that the conference will encourage further discussion of these issues among professionals in the archives and records management fields and facilitate ideas into action.

The DCC website is at http://www.dcc.ac.uk/

Business archives in Heidelberg: Conference for the Association of German Business Archivists

LUCAS Director Caroline Williams was invited to present a keynote paper to an educational conference for the Association German Business Archivists in Heidelberg in November. Heidelberg, a beautiful city south of Frankfurt with a magnificent castle, already gearing itself up for Christmas, and the shops were full of exciting things. The conference, which ran between 6 and 8 November. was organised by Dr Peter

Blum Director of the Heidelberg Municipal Archives. The purpose of the conference, which was one of a regular series organised by Dr Blum, was to supplement the existing knowledge of working business archivists through series of practical sessions and visits to archives and museums, interspersed with much eating and some drinking.



Heidelberg Castle

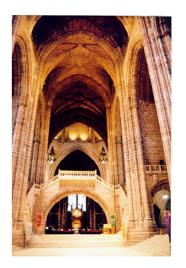
Archival education in Germany tends to the traditional: programmes at Marburg, Potsdam and in Bavaria cater for the needs of archivists and specialise the management of historical archives, but there is very little education and training in current records management or in business archives. 30 archivists from range of business environments attended this event.

Caroline's session took place in the evening after yet another magnificent German pub meal. She spoke about the infrastructure of archives in the UK, concentrating on the framework of business archives and describing some of the outstanding collections held both in the public and private sector. She also showed how the use of business archives in the UK had been enhanced through successful applications for lottery and funding, other and concluded by suggesting ways in which German business archivists might

access international support networks and standards, particularly through the International Council on Archives.

Society of Archivists North West Region hosts new students' reception

Liverpool's Anglican provided Cathedral the venue for a joint event between the SoA North West and the 2006 cohort of Masters of Archives and Records Management students. Current and future professionals were joined by volunteers from the archival domain for an afternoon of discussions about the role of volunteers in archives. It became clear that volunteers are valuable - and valued - contributors archives, with skills ranging from cataloguing and indexing, preservation and promotion. This event provided a new method of welcoming new MARM students to Liverpool - first the training session, then а SoA business meeting, followed by eagerly consumed wine and nibbles. and all in the impressive surroundinas of the Cathedral's Western Rooms.



Inside Liverpool Cathedral

Michael Cook attended the

North West Annual Conference on Archive Resources

This conference is held at Edge Hill University College and aims to bring users together with providers in the archive world. LUCAS was once again represented at it.

The main business this year was to discuss possibilities in setting up collaborative partnerships. Professor Simon Roodhouse of the Bolton Institute for Historical Research was the lead speaker, on bringing scholarship and material culture together. His paper mainly dealt with ways in which members of the public could use the higher education system to acquire knowledge and usable qualifications. and undertake research. There are many ways today in Higher Education which Institutions can recognise prior learning and work experience. and can and stimulate support research by people who have not come up through traditional academic routes. There are also ways in which HEIs can find money and expertise to encourage people to develop themselves and enter the world of learning and research.

The second theme was the development of easier and wider means of

access to primary research materials, in the archives, museum and library context. The Museums, Library and Archives Council (MLA) is supporting the Archives Gateway (part of the People's Network). MLA is also developing e-learning packages in collaboration with the Department for Education and Skills, and they are also seeking to widen access to careers in libraries archives, and museums through its workforce development scheme. A programme for this will be published soon.

The conference also had a short exposition on the recently activated legislation on Freedom of Information. This is expected to attract a lot of interest in the user public.

We hope this annual conference will continue in future years, as it is an excellent bridge between the archive (who professionals can sometimes seem to inhabit a world of their own) and the users of their materials.

Forthcoming events

Wednesday 7 Feb 2007

LUCAS AGM with guest speaker Natalie Ceeney, Chief Executive of The National Archives, to be held at the Sherrington Building. Refreshments will be available. Admission free but is registration required. Contact Margaret Procter to register mprocter@liv.ac.uk

12/13 July 2007 Diamond Jubilee alumni reunion

Since 1947 600 students have taken their undertaken the professional archives/ records management programme at Liverpool То celebrate the 60^{tr} anniversary of that first student cohort there'll be a reunion event in Liverpool on 12/13 July 2007 (at the Hill Mossley Halls We'll Residence). be contacting former students where we have current details early in 2007 but in the meantime (and in any case, whether or not you're able to attend the reunion) we'd be delighted to hear from you with your up-todate details, including name changes and current post or status.

In the first instance, please contact Margaret Procter, to pass on contact details, to register for the reunion or to indicate that you'd like to receive more information. We look forward to seeing as many former students as possible.

September 2007

Planning is underway for 'Rock and roll in the archives'. Further details to be announced.

Stop press

LUCAS is delighted to announce the appointment of Michelle Alexander as Programme Development Officer. Michelle will join LUCAS from the beginning of 2007.

Would you like to join LUCAS? If so, please complete this form and send to	o:
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