

December 2008

Issue 20

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CENTRE *for* ARCHIVE STUDIES

Adrian Allan – University Archivist Retires



Adrian Allan, the Liverpool University Archivist has been a stalwart of Executive Committee since the founding of LUCAS. Now, after 38 years working in the Department of Archives and Special Collections, Adrian has retired from the University and hence from his *ex-officio* place on the committee.

Building upon a childhood passion for history, Adrian read Modern History at the University of Durham.

Following Durham, Adrian gained a postgraduate Diploma in the Study of Records and the Administration of Archives (the predecessor of the MARM programme) at the University of Liverpool. After several years working at the West Suffolk Record Office, he returned to the institution as Assistant Archivist and, in 1994, became University Archivist.

Adrian said: "It has been an honour to work at this University and it has been wonderful to witness the development of the institution over the years. There have been many major changes, in particular the University's Art and Heritage Collection, which is now displayed in the Victoria Gallery and Museum – a fitting home for this beautiful collection of exhibits."

Since he started, the holdings of the University's archives have grown considerably, not only through the deposit of University-related papers, records and publications, but also through the acquisition of archives from outside bodies such as Barnardo's and NHC-Action for Children.

During this time, Adrian was active in promoting the exploitation of the archives particularly by providing educational opportunities for schoolchildren as well as students. He has found working in the archives so rewarding that, over the years, he spent part of his annual leave on a 'busman's holiday', providing assistance to the Records Manager at his *alma mater*, the University of Durham.

Although officially retired, Adrian doesn't plan to stop working. He will be involved with a number of voluntary projects in Durham and at Cumbria County Archives' Carlisle branch. He also plans to visit the University regularly to complete a bibliography of the institution's history. We are very grateful to Adrian for all the support he has given to LUCAS and MARM over the years.

'Archives and Education'
LUCAS/NW Region of the
Society of Archivists joint
meeting (8 October 2008)

The North West Region of the Society of Archivists came to LUCAS on Wednesday 8 October for an afternoon of talks on Archives and Education. Though all covering the same area, the invited speakers contributed on a broad range of interesting topics.

Sarah Chapman of the Scottish Borders Heritage Hub was up first and spoke about the practical aspects of her job as Education and Outreach Assistant. She explained her role and the challenges of getting involved with schools and other social groups in order to promote the archive.

She was followed by the author and Manchester Metropolitan University lecturer Sherry Ashworth who spoke enthusiastically about her involvement in a project with Manchester High School for Girls and the Manchester City Archives. The project, which involved stimulating the girls' imagination with a selection of archives relating to poverty and then asking them to produce creative writing pieces, was clearly a great success for both the girls and the archive.

Joanna Oldham and Heather Lomas from the MLA North West then spoke about the Learning Links project for assisting education and outreach projects within archives. They offered some very practical advice on what the projects entailed and their talk was endorsed by the large number of attendees

who were previously or were currently involved in a Learning Links project. It was encouraging to know, as future professionals, that the practical support for such projects is available and out there for us.

After coffee, Paul Smith gave a presentation on the MLA Schools Participation Database. This, again, provided a great deal of practical advice. The database has been designed so that institutions can search for lists of schools within a certain area or "drive time" from the archive, using variable criteria to target a specific type of visitor. This extremely powerful tool provides a wealth of new outreach opportunities to involve school children in educational projects and visits.

The final talk showed the group just how an archive can run successful outreach projects. Giving us an overview of their past, present and future projects, Gillian Longergan presented on the wide range of areas she has been involved in at the Co-operative Archive, ranging from 'women' to logo development to teacher training. She also discussed the current Rochdale Pioneers project which is working for the development of the service in the education, and developing in-house digitisation facilities.

To round off the afternoon an informal reception was held and the MARM students got an opportunity to meet people from the profession. We discussed the day's talks, professional issues, our experiences so far and sought tips from ex-

students on our course. Everyone seemed to enjoy the day and it certainly helped in preparing us for some of the topical challenges and opportunities we are likely to face in our forthcoming career.

Gillian Butler
MARM student

**'Preserving records into
the digital age'**

LUCAS was represented at a working meeting of the InterPARES3 team during the Society of Archivists conference at York University in August. This project, based in Canada and led by Professor Luciana Duranti (the Speaker at the LUCAS AGM in February 2008), aims to provide systems to permit the long-term preservation of record series (large and small) which are presenting problems to recordkeepers now. The project team have been working for some years and have by this stage published a set of guidelines (available in print and also at www.interpares.org).

The third stage of development is now available to help practising recordkeepers solve specific problems in digital storage. Anyone who is now faced with a problem of this kind may approach the InterPARES3 team, who will put them into contact with workers in any part of the world who are dealing with similar problems. The resulting workshop, using the infrastructure already developed, will set about solving the problem by collaborative means. Every member of the workshop

gets involved in the problems of the others. Workshop members also join in the main InterPARES team worldwide.

There are already a number of other guidelines and standards available from various sources to help people preserve digital records. The InterPARES approach has the special character that it is collaborative and international. Anyone who joins in may expect to have their own problem solved, but also to offer experience and help to others; and will become accustomed to join in international discussions on the theme. This approach is to some extent foreign to what have been British traditions in the past, but potentially has rich rewards to offer to anyone who opts to join in.

Michael Cook

**Business Archives
National Strategy
NW Forum
(10 June 2008)**

LUCAS was delighted to host a North West regional forum for the National Business Archives Strategy currently in preparation by Katey Logan (a past Liverpool graduate) on behalf of TNA. Delegates were invited to participate in the consultation process and share their views on how business records can be better protected, managed and promoted.

**Freedom of Information -
Three Years On
(19 June 2008)**

A joint LUCAS/Society of Archivists NW event, the afternoon aimed to provide

an update on the legislation in practice including lessons learnt, problems that have arisen and possible future developments.

Presentations by the four speakers, Dawn Monaghan, Teresa Bastow, Duncan Simpson and Jonathan Pepler are available to download from the LUCAS website

[http://www.liv.ac.uk/lucas/Archived News and Events.htm](http://www.liv.ac.uk/lucas/Archived%20News%20and%20Events.htm)

LUCAS Seminar Series

The LUCAS Seminar series for 2008 aimed to explore the topic of 'Art and Evidence'. An increased interest in visual evidence by practitioners in all cultural fields was first identified as a 'pictorial turn' in the 1990s; this has been assisted by the availability of digital images, classified by subject and easily located via the Internet, and by the ease of publication of illustrated texts. However, classification tends to reduce the image to its textual description and its use as illustration reinforces its secondary status. The series was designed to promote discussion of the status of visual material as evidence in its own right, by bringing together archivists, historians, art historians and those with art curatorial experience.

The first speaker, Prof. Richard Marks of the University of Cambridge gave a paper entitled, 'In a perpetual state of becoming: the Icon of the Mother of God of Vladimir'. He spoke of an icon which is both a masterpiece of Byzantine painting and the symbol of the Russian state, with a

continuous 'active' existence since the 12th century. The icon itself is both remarkably well-documented and a seminal historical document in its own right - comparable in status with the 'Domesday Book' or 'Magna Carta', it has been both witness to and participant in historical events up to the present day. In addition, as the speaker showed, its various records and associated artefacts and display contexts raise fascinating issues of relevance to custodians of all relics of the past.

Alex Buchanan spoke on the subject of 'Road Trip', a 2004 installation by the Canadian artists Janet Cardiff and George Bures Miller. The work focuses around a series of slides, taken by Miller's grandfather, which the artists wanted to use as the basis of an artwork: perhaps the very installation on display. Yet as the narrative of the piece unfolds, the impossibility of their project becomes increasingly apparent. The work explores the nature of photographs as records and as repositories of memories: it is also suggestive of the layers of meaning added to an archive through its use and subsequent re-use.

The following week's speaker, Matthew Cragoe was ill: it is hoped his paper can be rescheduled.

The next seminar was a double bill devoted to the subject of maps. Kasia Murawska-Muthesius from Birkbeck College, University of London spoke on maps which represent or create identities not matched to national boundaries, focussing on a map of the

Slavic lands published by Pavel Josef Šafařík in 1842. Next, Jonathan Pepler, County Archivist at Chester and Cheshire Archives shared the problems of a map of the Township of Hatherton, published under the auspices of John Twemlow, self-proclaimed Lord of the Manor, showing his house, Hatherton Lodge, which never existed, on a site he did not own, surrounded by armorial bearings supporting a probably spurious lineage, for purposes which remain a mystery!

The series was concluded by Anne McLaren of the University of Liverpool with a paper entitled "Inhabiting the Absolute: The Politics of the Banqueting House Ceiling, Palace of Whitehall", on a cycle of paintings by Rubens for James I and Charles I.

MARM Open Day

38 potential MARM students attended a well-received open day on 12 November 2008.

'On Holiday in the Archives' 15 November 2008, Southport in association with Sefton MBC

Following on from our other "in the archives" events, a (rather unseasonable) holiday-themed event, which was also linked to the national Archives Awareness week, took place on 15 November in Southport Arts Centre.

A 65-strong audience enjoyed a range of talks from experts in the area of holidays, tourism and local history. The mood was set

by a range of short films from the North West Film Archive with footage from Blackpool, Morecambe, Southport and Wakes weeks. Prof John Walton of Leeds Met University looked at 'Holiday and resort history from English archives: the nineteenth and twentieth centuries'; Dr Chris Lewis, Victoria County History discussed 'Seaside House Names', and Allan Brodie of English Heritage considered whether Liverpool could lay claim to the title of 'first seaside resort?'

For more details on all events keep an eye on <http://www.liv.ac.uk/lucas/>

LUCAS Executive Committee Membership

During 2008, LUCAS has acquired two new committee members, following the resignation of Matt Houlbrook and the retirement of Adrian Allan. May we therefore introduce to our readers:

Roy Lumb

Roy read Archaeology at the University of Liverpool graduating in 1999, and went on to the Masters in Archives and Records Management in 2001-2002. After qualifying, Roy's first professional job was working at the Labour History Archive and Study Centre then under the auspices of the University of Manchester. In 2003 Roy joined the University's Special Collections and Archives, where he had previously worked as a graduate library assistant. Roy is responsible for editing and creating SCA's on-line lists and has been responsible for training the Departments' Graduate Library Assistants in the use

of Encoded Archival Description. He is currently working on the University Archive.

Tinho Da Cruz



Tinho is the Map Curator in the Geography Department at the University of Liverpool. He started working with map collections in 1989 at what was then Portsmouth Polytechnic.

After moving to his current post in 1996 he became involved with the British Cartographic Society, firstly as one of the list owners for <lis-maps>, the e-mail discussion group for those caring for maps, and later as editor of *Cartographiti*, the newsletter for map curators, archivists and librarians. He is one of the creators of the *Map Curator's Toolbox*, a listing of online resources for all those who have maps in their collections. In his capacity as editor of *Cartographiti* he sits on the British and Irish Committee on Map Information and Cataloguing Systems (BRICMICS).

His favourite aspect of his work is dealing with the enquiries the users bring and seeing their delight at what they can find in the maps that they examine.