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CENTRE *for* ARCHIVE STUDIES

11th LUCAS AGM Roy Clare

The 11th LUCAS AGM was held on 11th February 2009 and was well attended by over 40 students and professionals from the worlds of archives, libraries and museums.

Our guest speaker was Roy Clare, Chief Executive of the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council, who gave an informal talk on the subject of 'Archives – At the Heart of Recession-busting?'

He spoke with enthusiasm about his time at the National Maritime Museum and of the many exciting projects, especially those involving joint services, which he has visited during his time at the MLA. However he also suggested that some professionals needed to be more open to new ideas and new ways of working, in particular during the present economic climate.

The invisible presence in the room was, of course, the forthcoming (now out for consultation) document 'Archives for the 21st century', which was touched upon during the post-talk discussion. Roy Clare suggested that the continued existence of the MLA was not fundamental to the future development of the sector.

After formal questions, Roy Clare had a long and animated discussion with MARM students, through which he became aware of the considerable sacrifices they had made to pursue their chosen career and their enormous enthusiasm for working in the record-keeping sector. He later wrote of how impressed he had been by the enthusiasm and commitment of these future professionals.



Roy Clare

Whilst in Liverpool, Roy Clare also visited the University's new Victoria Gallery and Museum and took a late night tour of the 24-hour opening (and recently-refurbished) Sydney Jones Library.

'Archives for the 21st Century' is available at
<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/archivesconsultation/>

Prof Sir Charles Reilly

The LUCAS AGM was held in the School of Architecture's Charles Reilly Room. Roy Lumb (Archivist in the University Library's Department of Special Collections and Archives) tells us more about this important figure.

Sir Charles Reilly was born on March 4 1874 son of Anne and Charles Reilly, architect and surveyor to the Worshipful Company of Drapers. He was educated at Merchant Taylors School and Queens' College Cambridge where he read Mechanical Sciences. After graduating in 1895 with a first in mechanical science Reilly went on to work in his father's office for two years as an unpaid draftsman before starting work as an 'improver' in the office of John Belcher. In 1898 he became an Associate of the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA). His first academic appointment soon followed, as in 1900 he was appointed as part-time lecturer in architectural design at King's College, London. Apart from the academic work, Reilly also became a partner in the firm Stanley Peach and worked on designs of electricity generating stations.

1904 was an important year for Charles Reilly: in that year he married Dorothy Gladys Pratt and was appointed Roscoe Professor of Architecture at the University of Liverpool, a position he would remain in until 1933 - effectively in charge of the School of Architecture. Reilly championed the idea of university training for architects and would showcase his beliefs at the

University of Liverpool. Indeed Reilly was largely responsible for determining the future shape of architectural education in Britain, with considerable consequences in the practice of architecture itself. Although Reilly had been in practice since 1900, he was not a well known practising architect, and at the time a teaching post in architecture was not considered a good career move.

Liverpool, the first place in Britain where town planning and architecture were taught as inter-related subjects. Outside the University, Reilly had a great interest in theatre, being involved in the campaign to establish Liverpool Repertory Theatre, of which he became a board member. Reilly retired from the University of Liverpool in 1933 and moved to Brighton, where he continued to write



*Professor Sir Charles Reilly with his students
(Photo: Dept of Special Collections and Archives, University of Liverpool)*

His position as a pioneer in architectural education was further strengthened in 1906 when he was appointed as the first Chairman of the Royal Institute of British Architects board of architectural education. Another of his initiatives was the establishment of the Department of Civic Design at the University of

extensively on architecture and to design new buildings and was knighted in 1944.

Charles Reilly's pioneering approach to the teaching of architecture transformed Liverpool into one of the most famous Architecture schools in the world. He died on 2 February 1948.

LUCAS EVENTS

Parks and Gardens in the Archives (23 May 2009)



The newly-renovated Birkenhead Park, and specifically the Birkenhead Park Pavilion, provided the venue for one of our popular “... in the Archives” events, co-hosted on this occasion by Wirral Archives Service. The event aimed to highlight the way in which archives could inform research into the history of parks and gardens and the history of botanic collecting and collectors.

First of our ‘bunch’ of speakers was Paul Cook, Curator at the University of Liverpool’s Ness Gardens, who described the genesis of the gardens and their donation to the University by their creator Arthur Bulley. Professor Robert Lee, already known to local members of the audience as Chairman of the Friends of Birkenhead Park led a short workshop aimed at disabusing us of the notion that early parks (Birkenhead is, of course, the oldest public park in Britain) was purely an expression of public philanthropy. He demonstrated, for example, that local landowners speculated on desirable residential building around the new park, and that many of the ‘public’ recreational activities may have been public, but certainly weren’t free.

A feature of recent ‘.. in the archives’ events has been the welcome contribution of

the North West Film Archive, and once again Marion Hewitt presented a selection of amateur and commercial film relating to parks and gardens in the North West of England. The afternoon concluded with a history of botanic collectors and their collections in Liverpool and the Wirral. Dr John Edmondson, formerly Head of Science at National Museums Liverpool, and currently vice-chair of Cheshire Gardens Trust spoke about his fascination with these early collectors, described how to grow a pineapple, and urged us all to look out for a very peculiar model of flowerpot, only to be found in Lancashire

Ness Gardens

<http://www.liv.ac.uk/nessgardens/>

Birkenhead Park

<http://www.wirral.gov.uk/>

North West Film Archive

<http://www.nwfa.mmu.ac.uk/>

Know your Rights! (8 June 2009)

It has long been a LUCAS ambition to hold a training event on the use of archives to investigate and protect rights, in particular public rights of access and the rights of the historic environment to protection for public benefit. This finally came to fruition in a fascinating afternoon of talks, attended by a variety of professionals from both public and private sectors, including a large number of archivists to private estates.

The event opened with a talk by Kevin Ward, Head of Countryside Access and Archives at Central Bedfordshire Council, who

talked about his work as an expert witness. He revealed his past as a militant walker and explained the benefits to Bedfordshire Council of his expertise in the area, as well as the personal satisfaction he achieved from his work.

Sarah-Jane Farr, Merseyside Archaeological Officer then spoke of the Historic Environmental Record and its role in helping planners to understand and protect aspects of the historic environment. This is particularly important in a city like Liverpool, with its current regeneration, in which important elements of its industrial past may easily be overlooked.

Sylvia Seeliger, Rights of Way Officer with Hampshire County Council spoke of her use of archives in definitive map work and made some important points about how archivists can assist such research, through speedy provision of accurate copies and appropriately detailed cataloguing.

The event concluded with a talk by local historian, Alan Crosby, on his research for the Lonsdale Landed Settlement, in establishing manorial interests in mineral rights in order to register them prior to the deadline of October 2013 imposed by recent legislation.

Forthcoming LUCAS Events

October 2009: Joint Training Event with Society of Archivists NW Region: ‘Archives and Sustainability’

19 November 2009: ‘Shopping in the Archives’

Details to be announced: see www.liv.ac.uk/lucas/events

MARM News

We are delighted to announce that Angela Haighton, a 2008-09 MARM student, has won the FARMER prize for best master's dissertation by a student studying archives or records management in the UK and Ireland. The title of her dissertation was "Roman Methods of Authentication in the First Two Centuries AD". This represents Liverpool's fourth win in this competition in the past five years.

Another successful MARM Open Day was held on 13 May 2009 when around 30 potential applicants welcomed the opportunity to meet staff teaching on the programme, and past and present students.

The taught element of the MARM programme now complete, this year's students have taken the opportunity to raise over £1200 for Cancer Research via the 5K Race for Life on 31 May in Sefton Park. Well done to all who took part!

WE ALSO ATTENDED: 'Between the Lines' (2 Dec 2008)

The British Records Association held its annual conference at the British Library, on the subject of literary archives and their uses. The method chosen was to illustrate how some of the more newsworthy deposits of writers' papers have been used, and also to demonstrate innovative ways of presenting them to the public.

The most notable literary archive was that of the famous publishing house of

John Murray, acquired by the National Library of Scotland. The Murray publishers had dealings with more or less every famous writer in English since 1820, including Byron, Jane Austen, Coleridge, Darwin and hundreds of others. The archive is held up to 1920 and there is an arrangement to augment it as time passes. Much ingenuity (and expense) has been put into displaying the papers. The exhibition room has a series of electronic consoles where the public can leaf over selected documents electronically, and there are computer-driven games and worksheets. A visit to the Library in Edinburgh, is a vivid experience.

National Life Stories is a specialised kind of repository in Newcastle on Tyne. It collects the archives of children's authors, and bases an educational experience on them. There is an active oral history collection, and much outreach, particularly to children, based on storytelling. The project is supported by many children's writers.

The specialised Group for Literary Archives and Manuscripts offered a discussion of its work, especially the programmes at the universities of Leeds, Reading, Exeter and the John Rylands Library at Manchester. The British Library spoke about its recent acquisitions, especially Harold Pinter's papers, and about its archive blogs initiative (www.bl.co.uk/blogs).

The day was completed by the Maurice Bond Memorial Lecture, given this year by the well-known television

broadcaster Bamber Gascoigne, who gave an exposition of his work on internet web design, incorporating literary and historical materials.

Sometimes users of local archives, and the professionals who organise them, feel that literary papers are a different and somewhat rarefied group of materials. This conference showed clearly how widely interesting they are in fact, and how work on them is in some ways leading to new methods of access and display.

Michael Cook

'Map Cataloguing for the Terrified', (23-24 April 2009)



Practising map cataloguing



Event coordinator, Tinho da Cruz

The Map Curators' Group of the British Cartographic Society ran this training day at the Geographical Information Centre at the University of Liverpool. A special rate was offered for MARM students and 4 bursaries were provided. A total of 6 MARM students attended the event.