

LIVERPOOL RECORD OFFICE

NEWSPAPERS

INFORMATION LEAFLET - 16

INTRODUCTION

Newspapers can be used for detailed descriptions of events and personalities which cannot be found elsewhere. They are a day to day record of local happenings. We have a rich holding of local papers from the first continuous newspaper starting in 1756 called Williamson's Liverpool Advertiser.

Most newspapers have been microfilmed and can only be viewed in this format because the originals are too fragile. The main disadvantage of newspapers is that they are not usually indexed.

18th century newspapers

The two main newspapers are Williamson's Liverpool Advertiser starting in 1756, later Billinge's Liverpool Advertiser and then the Liverpool Times (lasted until 1856) and the Liverpool General Advertiser which started in 1765 and lasted until 1875. Both were mainly shipping papers and listed some Liverpool happenings but concentrated on London news. They focused mainly on the shipping activities of the Port of Liverpool. Both were weekly newspapers.

19th century newspapers

Newspapers really came into their own after Stamp Duty was abolished in June 1855. Before this newspapers were expensive and usually only published on a weekly rather than a daily basis. In 1827 a copy of the Liverpool Mercury cost seven pence. The new Daily Post which started on June 11th 1855 was the first penny daily newspaper. These are the main 19th century newspapers in Liverpool:

Daily Post 1855 to date; merged with the Liverpool Mercury in 1904.

Evening Express 1870 to 1958

Liverpool Daily Courier 1863 to 1929 (name changed to just Daily Courier and then back again)

Liverpool Echo started 1879 to date.

Liverpool Mercury started 1811 to 1904 (merged with the Daily Post above)
Indexed half yearly to 1824/5.

The Post, Courier and Mercury were "quality" papers and the Echo and Evening Express more "popular" papers. There is also a specific shipping paper on microfilm:

Liverpool Telegraph Shipping Gazette May 1846 to 1887

20th century newspapers

By 1940 there were only three main Liverpool newspapers left:

Daily Post still published, a morning paper with national, regional, and some local news. A Welsh edition is also published.

Liverpool Echo still published, an afternoon paper with more local items covering Merseyside as a whole

Evening Express a popular evening paper like the Echo. This ceased publication in October 1958.

Journal of Commerce: this was a shipping paper which started in October 1861. Liverpool Record Office only has a microfilm set from June 1939 to 1974 when it ceased publication and bound copies from 1914 to 1974 (incomplete)

Liverpool Catholic Herald 1899-1934

SUBURBAN NEWSPAPERS:

The Record Office holds a number of more localised papers on microfilm:

Prescot & Huyton Reporter 1961 to June 1979

Walton Times 1953-1955, 1962-3, 1972-76, 1978 (July-Dec), 1979-June 1980

West Derby Reporter 1961 to April 1965

Garston & Woolton Reporter 1888-1920 is hard copy only

GUIDES TO NEWSPAPER HOLDINGS:

Cowley, Ruth - Newsplan: report of the NEWSPLAN project in the NW Region (Sept.1986-Jan.1990) (1990) H686.43 COW

Gibson, J S W - Local newspapers 1750-1920: a select location list (1987) H015.42035 GIB (kept at Enquiry Desk)

Liverpool Record Office - List of Liverpool newspapers 1756 to date (1989) (kept at Enquiry Desk)

NEWSPAPERS ELSEWHERE

The main repository of newspapers relating to Liverpool not held here is the British Newspaper Library, Colindale Avenue, London NW9 5HE (tel. 0207412 7353; e-mail: newspaper@bl.uk). It has a website and its holdings are online at <http://prodigi.bl.uk/nlcat>.

NEWSPAPER CUTTINGS

Liverpool Libraries has a large collection of newspaper cuttings. Some of these are bound and are listed in the catalogue under their subject, for example, Housing. Others have been microfilmed and these include Biographical Notices and Obituaries of Liverpool Worthies 1879-1923 (Eq 330). More recent cuttings, including a separate series of biographical cuttings, are filed by subject and should be requested at the Enquiry Desk in the Search Room.

July 2003