

# Editorial

Welcome to the April edition of ARC and Happy Easter! This month is a special issue brought to you from the Archives for Education and Learning Group (AfELG). This Group have been excellent in providing us with a mixture of fascinating articles, news and updates from across the country, and, the ARC editorial team would especially like to thank Jan Pimblett for all her hard work in coordinating the editorial.

Other articles this month include a very interesting piece on the intended Kurdish History Archives and Heritage Centre, an absorbing article on the history of the Irish Film Archive, and, an update on progress towards new National Occupational Standards and vocational qualification frameworks for the libraries, archives and information services workforce. Also, we would like to congratulate Malcolm Holmes, Senior Archivist for the London Borough of Camden, on his MBE award.

Natalie Zara, Clara Anderson, Heather Boyns, Jane de Gruchy

All submissions to ARC should be sent to the Editorial Co-ordinator via e-mail to <arceditor@dpmedia.co.uk>

## Editorial Team

Editorial Co-ordinator: Michelle Swain  
E-mail: arceditor@dpmedia.co.uk

Joint Editor:  
**Jane de Gruchy** Tel: 01823 278805

Joint Editor:  
**Clara Anderson** Tel: 020 7451 2556

Joint Editor:  
**Natalie Zara** Tel: 020 7911 5568

Joint Editor:  
**Heather Boyns** Tel: 01590 614759

General Editor:  
**Pat Cleary** Tel & Fax: 0115 9626499,  
E-mail: pat.cleary@archives.org.uk

Copy Editor:  
**Grainne Doran** Tel: 00353 53 24922

## Group Editors

Archives for Education and Learning:  
**Jan Pimblett** (*London Metropolitan Archives*), Tel: 020 7332 3893

Business Records: **Ellen Parton**  
(*Archivist, Imperial War Museum*)  
Tel: 020 7416 5222.

Film, Sound & Photographs: **David Lee**  
(*Norfolk*),  
Tel: 01962 847742

Information and Communication  
Technology Sub-committee: **Simon Wilson**  
Tel: 0151 648 5932

Records Management: **Eluned Jones**  
Tel: 01970 610237

Specialist Repositories: **Susan Scott**  
(*Savoy Group*), Tel: 020 7420 2344

Preservation and Conservation Group:  
**David Kerr**  
Tel: 0131 6233859

Data Standards Group: **James Peters**  
(*John Rylands University Library*)  
Tel: 0161 2755306,  
E-mail: james.peters@manchester.ac.uk

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DP Media, Suite 102, QC30, 30 Queen Charlotte Street, Bristol BS1 4HJ. Tel: 0117 904 1283

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## Society of Archivists

Prioryfield House, 20 Canon Street, Taunton,  
Somerset TA1 1SW. Tel: 01823 327030, Fax: 01823 271719



The Society's Web site can be found at:

<http://www.archives.org.uk>

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Primary school artwork produced during the Taunton Market Project. Image courtesy of the Somerset Record Office.

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The Society of Archivists cannot accept responsibility for views expressed by individual contributors to ARC Magazine. It is a medium for informing members of news, information and ideas relevant to the profession, including archive conservation. It is not an official guide to procedures, concepts, materials or products.

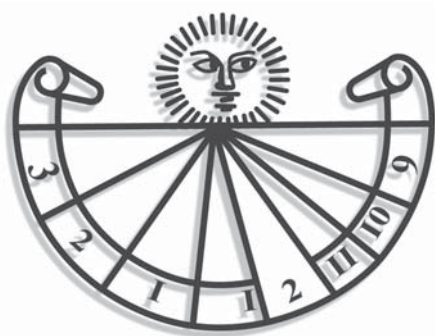
# Society News

## Malcolm Holmes

Malcolm Holmes, Senior Archivist for the London Borough of Camden, was awarded an MBE in the New Year's Honours list. Malcolm retired in February after working in local government for 45 years.

Malcolm started working for the then Metropolitan Borough of Holborn in 1963. His interest in local history was first kindled in the 1960s, and, in 1974, he became Camden's Local History Librarian.

Originally qualified as a chartered librarian, Malcolm also became a registered archivist, becoming Borough Archivist in 1994.



# Archives for Education & Learning Group

## Learning at Cornwall Record Office (CRO)

Learning (education/outreach) was high on the agenda at Cornwall Record Office last year. A change in staffing gave us the impetus to re-write our learning policy and develop a new learning programme in line with Inspiring Learning for All (ILFA) and our commitment to becoming a 'learning organisation'. As part of this process we encouraged our staff to get involved with learning through individual and group training sessions on a variety of aspects of our service. We also spent a day at a local eco-building to learn about ILFA and the concept of a 'learning organisation' with trainer, Virginia Havergal. The day was a great success and we came away with a clear understanding of what we want to achieve in terms of learning, what we believe about learning and archives and how we might implement and facilitate a better use of our collections and resources to 'inform, inspire and entertain'.

Although during 2006 we focused primarily on developing the policy and programme, and training our staff, we also managed to raise our profile within Cornwall County Council and the wider community, and actively engaged with over 1000 new people through our learning programme. Despite limited resources we provided a significant number of outreach and learning events such as, talks and visits to community groups, radio and television interviews, day schools, exhibitions and drop-in advice sessions in public libraries on house and family history. We also held an open day, which proved very popular, and was attended by over one hundred visitors. Over the year the service contributed to various archive and history journals, and created a new multi-media volunteer/training space, which is used frequently by groups and individuals from our expanding volunteer programme.

For the first time in a number of years we worked with students in compulsory education. The activity sessions that we provided for primary schools were a learning experience for everyone involved, as we wanted to determine how the office and staff would manage an influx of 65 children, and whether our

activities were exciting enough for them. We learnt some lessons about what the children liked: the thrill of the mobile shelving possibly squashing them in the strong rooms, and writing with quills – or more precisely, covering themselves in ink. Less popular were the historic maps and the walk across town to reach us.

With the invaluable help of an education consultant, the Education Department of the Royal Cornwall Museum and Strategic Commissioning funding via SWMLAC (now Museums, Libraries and Archives South West (MLA SW)), we also created a Brunel resource pack for primary school teachers. The pack focuses on Brunel's work in Cornwall and consists of text, photographs, copies of original documents, activities and a game. Schools can also complete a Brunel trail through Truro and arrange a visit to the Record Office and/or museum. The packs and games were fully booked in the autumn term and we gained positive feedback, including ideas for further development of the resources for use with groups of different ages and abilities.

A further round of Strategic Commissioning funding from MLA SW made available through the 'Learning Links' project in early 2007, has enabled us to participate in a reciprocal placement with a local secondary school, and produce a resource pack to support teachers delivering the new OCR GCSE History Pilot. The 'Medieval Kingship' resource pack, which will be ready to pilot with pupils in March 2007, contains copies of original documents from the period, replica medieval seals and associated activities. Teachers from Liskeard School and Community College have had the opportunity to gain hands-on experience of using 600 year-old documents as an inspiration for learning, whilst staff from the Record Office have spent time in the classroom finding out what interests and motivates students to learn about history.

Following the recent appointment of a new learning officer, who is now responsible for the development, delivery and evaluation of the learning programme, we are looking forward to building upon the successes and lessons of 2006. We have a range of events and activities planned for 2007, with the aim of attracting and developing new

audiences for archives. Our next open day takes place in May and to celebrate our designated collection of hard rock mining documents it will focus on the history of mining in Cornwall. For those who prefer outdoor activities we will also be organising guided walks and a cycling treasure hunt based on Record Office sources. As part of our commitment to national events such as this year's Bicentennial of the Abolition of the Transatlantic Slave Trade we will be running poetry workshops in September, with local poet Caroline Carver, who will draw on sources from our collections as an inspiration for creative writing on the theme of freedom and liberty.

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**Tamsin Mallett**

*Principal Archivist, Cornwall Record Office*

**Niamh Downing**

*Learning Officer*

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## Education News from Nottinghamshire Archives

### **The Afro-Caribbean Heritage in Nottinghamshire 'Slavery, Abolition & Citizenship'**

Nottinghamshire Archives is working, in association with Museums, Libraries and Archives (MLA) (East Midlands) to produce a Web site on the theme of the Afro-Caribbean Heritage (Slavery, Abolition & Citizenship) in Nottinghamshire.

The site will be 'for teachers and learners' and will be available at <<http://www.emsource.org.uk>>. It is being researched and produced with the help of grant funding from the Department for Education and Skills (DfES) and the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) – under the Strategic Commissioning initiative. The site will include images, mostly from documents held at Nottinghamshire Archives, based on the life of George Africanus, a former slave from Sierra Leone who settled in

Nottingham in the late 18th century, and on the theme of abolition. It is also hoped to include contemporary images from the 20th century. The images will be linked to the history and citizenship curricula of key stage 3 & 4. Currently the draft Web site is being piloted in several Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire Schools, and, archives staff are undertaking a series of presentations to teachers based on the site's provisional content to feed into lesson planning.

Nottinghamshire Archives (part of Nottinghamshire County Council) is at County House, Castle Meadow Road, Nottingham NG2 1AG. Telephone 0115 958 1634 or 0115 950 4524 or e-mail us at <[archives@nottscc.gov.uk](mailto:archives@nottscc.gov.uk)>.

### **Conference Paper**

At the Society of Archivists' Conference, at Belfast, Chris Weir, Senior Archivist (Public Services) will present a paper titled 'Back To School!' that will focus on how Nottinghamshire Archives has been developing links with a variety of schools and community partners to meet new curriculum needs. The paper will be presented as part of the Information Marketplace on Wednesday 29 August at the Waterfront Hall.

### **'Youth' Display**

Nottinghamshire Archives has been awarded a grant under the MLA (East Midlands) Positive Action Initiative which aims to 'raise awareness of Archives to young people'. The grant is to fund a project to research and create a series of 5 display panels on the theme of 'Youth'. The exhibition content will include material that highlights issues of 'growing-up', views of local communities and the national/international world, work, schooldays and leisure activities. Wherever possible it will incorporate archives produced by young people themselves. The content will be produced in liaison with a group of school pupils and work experience students. Research will also include identifying suitable venues for the display panels that will target younger audiences.

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**Chris Weir**

*Senior Archivist (Public Services)*

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## Learning News from Norfolk

Since May 2006 Norfolk Record Office has been very busy delivering a number of exciting activities.

### Children

#### Half term activities

Oct 06 - Halloween and Fantasy Maps

Feb 07 - Paper Making (2 sessions at Thetford Ancient House Museum), WW2 and Illuminated Manuscripts



Images Courtesy of Norfolk Record Office

Sept 06-Summer 07 - Learning Links Project - working with 2 teachers to produce a web resource on WW2 (using funding for supply teaching from Museums, Libraries and Archives (MLA) East of England)



Images Courtesy of Norfolk Record Office

January 07-Summer 07 - Learning Links Project - working with 1 teacher to produce an online gallery on Victorian childhood

Since May 06 we have been doing workshops for schools, both in school



Images Courtesy of Norfolk Record Office

and at the Archive Centre on WWII or local history, or a topic of their choice (for one school this was family history)

We have had several sixth form groups in to see documents and learn how to use the building.



Images Courtesy of Norfolk Record Office

In addition, some home educated children have visited in October 2006 to learn about science and will be back to learn about maps in February 2007.

We took part in a family day for an extended schools project which gave the children a chance to do additional work beyond the curriculum. Other support work for schools included the museum-run Rush Re-Trail which was a summer school for gifted and talented children.



Images Courtesy of Norfolk Record Office

### Adults

We have given talks to, and had visits from numerous groups including local history groups and members of the Women's Institute. We have also run Family History Sessions.

We were present at the County Show in June 2006 and will be back there in June 2007. It's a great opportunity to promote the record office and meet potential new users.

### Vicki Horth

Norfolk Record Office

## Learning in Oldham

As with many archive institutions, Oldham Local Studies and Archives was keen to introduce archives to schools across the Metropolitan Oldham area. In addition, the Heritage, Libraries and Arts service plan for 2006-2007 identified the introduction of archives to schools as a significant target for Oldham Local Studies and Archives.

The major problem in hosting school visits is the lack of space for large groups of visitors when the Oldham Local Studies and Archives open to the public. This means that school visits have to be undertaken on Tuesday afternoons when the building is closed to the public and the majority of staff are unavailable. One or 2 such visits had occurred each year but it was felt something more co-ordinated and directed needed to be undertaken.

Oldham Local Studies and Archives is fortunate in having Gallery Oldham on its doorstep. Since its opening the Gallery has undertaken educational work with visiting classes and has recently appointed an education officer to oversee workshops in association with its exhibitions. This seemed an ideal opportunity for Oldham Local Studies and Archives to become involved in delivering

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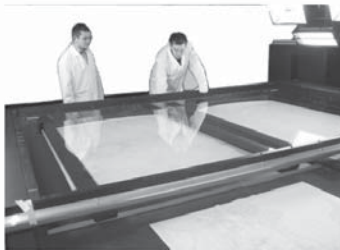
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workshops in co-operation with Gallery Oldham and thus introducing archives to schools.

Oldham Local Studies and Archives was fortunate in having amongst its staff a qualified teacher who also had previous experience of delivering workshops.

Using her experience a workshop was devised based around the life of a half-time mill worker in the 1850s to run in conjunction with a Gallery exhibition on Victorian childhood. The workshop used original sources such as a census entry, photographs, a half-time register and an ordnance survey map, as well as artefacts such as clogs and slates, and was aimed at key stage 2. Classes would first undertake a workshop based around the Gallery exhibitions and then move on to an education room for the half-timer workshop.

Over 35 workshops were undertaken between October and February 2006-2007. Response from school groups attending the workshops was very positive and it is planned to continue offering workshops in conjunction with Gallery Oldham.

The experience of researching and delivering the workshops has revealed how much time needs to be devoted to preparing educational sessions. However the outcomes have been well worth the investment as many schools and teachers now know of our existence, realise what we can offer, and are aware of our collections. Furthermore, Oldham Local Studies and Archives has developed a new source for partnership working, engaged in a sharing of expertise, and gained invaluable experience that can be used for developing new workshops in the future.

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**Roger Ivens**

*Local Studies Officer*

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## Around the World - Adult Learners Week and Cultural Diversity Day, Warrington Library and Museum, May 2006

An event to celebrate Museum & Galleries Month, Local History Month, Adult Learners Week and Cultural Diversity Day was held at Warrington Library and Museum in May 2006. Almost 900 people visited the building as a whole on the day. Of those 900, a total of 91 people visited the searchroom, which was very pleasing, particularly as they were all previous non-users!



Hilary Chambers and children and adults in the searchroom at Warrington. Image courtesy of Warrington Library & Museum.

It was especially great to get children in. In the searchroom we provided jigsaws, word searches, a map quiz, and a display showing several quirky 'Around the World' connections. (Did you know, for example, that in 1599 a Thomas Dallam of Warrington delivered an organ from Queen Elizabeth I to the Sultan of Turkey - "A great and curious present is going to the Grand Turk which will scandalise other nations, especially the Germans"?)

This activity is a prime example of the excellent cross-domain work that we achieve here at Warrington Library, Museum & Archives.

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**Hilary Chambers**

*Archivist*

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## Education Work in Cumbria 2006-2007

### Introduction

Cumbria Archive Service carries out a varied and innovative range of education work. There are 3 key themes to our work; providing a service to all age groups; developing partnerships and being innovative in the way we reach out to different sections of the community. Despite the diversity of our activities, an underlying inspiration for our work has been the *Inspiring Learning For All* agenda.

Cumbria Archive Service is one of the largest archive services outside London and includes 4 public record offices, a conservation unit, and a records management unit. The 4 offices are located in Carlisle, Kendal, Barrow and Whitehaven. A joint archives and local studies service is provided at Barrow and Whitehaven. Whilst there is no dedicated education outreach officer, an archivist in each office, with an interest in education, specialises in providing an education service to schools and colleges in their catchment areas. The Education Promotion Group, a working party made up of these archivists, coordinates the wider education work of the Archive Service.

This paper highlights some of the projects that have enabled us to develop our education work in the last year.

### Moving Minds 4

*Moving Minds 4* is an innovative intergenerational learning project, which has brought together a diverse range of partners to work with the Imperial War Museum North in Manchester. The project has 2 principal aims, firstly to commemorate the sacrifices made by civilian and military veterans in the Second World War and, secondly, to bring together young people and veterans from very different communities to record the experiences of the veterans and their own thoughts in a series of pod casts. These are then mounted on Radio Waves, an Internet based radio service to schools created by Synergy TV. The partners include Millom School, Blackburn Youth Action, Trafford Grammar School, Blackburn Museum and Art Gallery, who are working with Asian veterans, Age Concern, Barrow, who work with local war veterans through their Building Bridges initiative, and Cumbria Archive Service.

The highlight of the project so far has been to bring all the parties together at the Imperial War Museum on Remembrance Day, 11 November. 'Respect and Remembrance' enabled the young people and the veterans to take part in a moving remembrance ceremony at 11.00a.m., to see the work of the museum and, in particular, to understand how war shapes people's lives. In the afternoon the parties were split up into groups for a series of question and answer sessions, which were recorded using Radio Waves technology.

Moving Minds is an ongoing project with two further objectives. Firstly we want to build on the success of 'Respect and Remembrance' by encouraging the young people to create their own pod casts based on further work with the veterans and other classroom work. Another objective is to create a legacy from the Moving Minds project in terms of updating and publishing learning resources about the Second World War in Cumbria and at the Imperial War Museum. These could be made available in a variety of formats including the Internet, CD ROM and paper format.

### Slavery

Cumbria Archive Service has, along with other partners, collaborated with Cumbria Cultural Partnership on an exciting project to commemorate the bicentenary of the abolition of the Transatlantic Slave Trade in 1807 and support teaching about the history of slavery and related issues of diversity and multi-culturalism today.

It has been a key player contributing to and developing a resource pack of archive materials entitled 'the abominable traffic', published as a teachers' resource pack with a CD Rom dominated by digital images of original documents deposited with Cumbria Archive Service. A teachers' pack accompanies the CD and includes background information about the slave trade and the wide range of historical documents and artefacts relating to the slave trade in and around Cumbria.

Copies of the packs have been supplied to all primary and secondary schools in Cumbria. There are also copies for each record office and the local studies libraries. A programme of associated creative residencies and cultural events has been planned by Cumbria Cultural Partnerships for 2007, starting in late

March, to compliment 'the abominable traffic' archive pack. The Arts and Archives programme will involve artists working in schools using the archive material as the basis for creative work whilst the 'Not from round here Festival' will offer a much broader series of events and activities tackling some of the issues around diversity that young people in Cumbria face today.

A formal launch of these events will be in Whitehaven, Cumbria's port with links to the slave trade, on 26 March 2007 with the town's record office hosting archive material from elsewhere in Cumbria for the week of the arts and archives activities and offering hands-on opportunities for children and teachers to work with these fascinating documents. It was also participate in a series of interactive sessions, involving an historical re-enactor, where children will explore the triangular trade through reference to the archival evidence of the past and brought alive by an abolitionist from the 19th century who explains the transatlantic slave trade, recalls life before the Abolition Act in 1807 and explores what happened afterwards because slavery did not vanish overnight.

An excellent display has been prepared from sources held by all Cumbria Record Offices for circulation to secondary schools through the school librarians.

### Counting on History

This resource allows key stage 2 primary school pupils to practice numeracy skills in the context of their own local history. It comprises a range of worksheets on census, parish registers, workhouse, police and quarter sessions records, many of which were designed for easy modification for use remotely in any school around Cumbria. These worksheets could also be used elsewhere in the Country and a sample of one of countrywide relevance is attached. The resource was funded through North West Museum and Gallery Education Programme and was produced with the assistance of Cumbria LEA leading maths teachers. The project included workshops for teachers and visits by schools.

### Tudor Week for Schools

For the past 6 years, the Record Office at Carlisle has worked in partnership with Tullie House Museum and Art Gallery in Carlisle to run a week of activities for Key Stage 2 pupils on the theme of The Tudors. Primary schools

from across the county each spend a day in Carlisle visiting the Record Office, Tullie House Museum, the Cathedral and the Guildhall to discover what life was like in Tudor times.

At the Record Office the children get the chance see and touch original 16<sup>th</sup> century documents including the very first street map of Carlisle which was drawn in 1560, the leather-bound 'Dormont Book' containing all the laws of the city written in 1562 and the will of a 16<sup>th</sup> century merchant. The children use the original documents to answer worksheets on 3 topics: 'Life in the City', 'The Plague of 1598' and 'What People Owned'. As part of the plague activity the children read about the weird and wonderful potions that were given to the sick by the Elizabethan doctors and then they have a go at recreating some of these themselves using the same herbs and spices!

At the end of the session the children will hopefully go back to school knowing a little bit more about what life was like in Tudor times. They will have seen how Elizabethan handwriting was very different to modern handwriting, learnt about parchment and where it comes from, discovered what kind of possessions people owned, what their houses looked like, what rules people had to obey and how they reacted to the spread of the plague.

The teachers get to take away a full set of worksheets and copies of all the documents that the children have used so that further work can be done back in the classroom. Tudor Week 2007 takes place from Monday 21 to Friday 25 May.

### Learning Links

The Cumbria Record Office at Carlisle is taking part in a Learning Links project sponsored by Museums, Libraries and Archives (MLA) North West to produce a resource pack for use by secondary schools that are teaching the GCSE history module 'Medicine and Public Health Through Time'. The Senior Archivist has been working with the education officer from Tullie House Museum and a history teacher from St Aidan's County High School in Carlisle, to identify and photograph relevant archival documents and museum artefacts for inclusion in the resource pack.

The pack is designed in 2 parts; the first section (the archives) is a series of maps, photographs and documents that relate to

different aspects of public health and sanitation in and around Carlisle in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The pupils are required to play the part of local 'Sanitary Inspectors', identifying what is being shown in each example, what potential health risks were present and how things could have been improved.

The second part of the project involves various medical artefacts that are grouped together under particular headings such as 'Medicines', 'Surgical Instruments', 'Epidemics' and they have to apply their knowledge of developments in medicine over time to identify the objects and explain something about the relevance of each one.

The pack will be piloted with classes of Year 10 pupils at St Aidan's School during March 2007 and eventually rolled-out to other secondary schools in Cumbria later in the year.

#### **FOCAS Travel Grants**

Cumbria is a large, sparsely populated county with a high percentage of the population living in very small towns and villages. Distances between some of these communities and their nearest local record office can be considerable and this presents difficulties to small rural schools in organising visits to the record offices.

Since 2004 Friends of Cumbria Archive Service (FOCAS) have kindly granted £600 a year to assist schools located some distance from the 4 Record Offices to arrange visits to these offices. Expenditure of this money has been coordinated by the Education and Promotion Group, who have allocated £150 for each office to offer to schools to help cover travel costs such as coach/minibus hire. The archivist in each office writes to rural schools in his or her catchment area offering up to 3 grants of £50. The project continues to be very successful with a number of rural schools taking up the grant to use our education service for the first time. A total of 17 schools have benefited from the grant and visited the Record Offices for the first time.

#### **Work with Secondary Schools**

Whilst a number of primary schools visit the four record offices each year, it has been very difficult to forge links with secondary schools. The principal reason for this stems from the pressures of the National Curriculum, which makes it very difficult for secondary school teachers to organise visits outside the

classroom. However, in the last year significant progress has been made in 2 areas.

#### *Life on the Edge*

Life on the Edge is an interactive education project funded by the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council as part of the *Inspiring Learning for All* agenda. A consultant, former Head of History, was hired to create an interactive education resource pack about Kendal citizens living on the margins of society. Sources included a police criminal photograph album recording details of felons tried by Kendal Petty Sessions, workhouse records and census returns. These sources are used to tell the story of individuals living on the edge and who eventually came to the attention of the police and the courts. Images from these sources have been brought together in a CD Rom with audio, text and ideas for lessons that can be used in conjunction with interactive whiteboards. Life on the Edge has been tested with Secondary School history teachers through a series of INSETs.

#### *Secondary School Librarians*

Cumbria Archive Service has managed to build a close working relationship with Secondary School Librarians with the help of the Young Peoples' Library Service. Archivists attend meetings with the Secondary School librarians about twice a year and this has enabled us to better understand the potential demand for our service in secondary schools.

The Education Promotion Group has been able to assist the Secondary School Librarians producing 2 small displays on the First World War and Slavery and these are being circulated to secondary schools throughout Cumbria.

---

#### **Peter J Eyre**

*Cumbria Record Office, Kendal*

#### **Margaret Owen**

*Cumbria Record Office, Kendal*

#### **Catherine Clark**

*Cumbria Record Office and Local Studies Library, Whitehaven*

#### **Tom Robson**

*Cumbria Record Office, Carlisle*

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## **Learning Events at Somerset Record Office (SRO) May 2006-2007**

### **Introduction Days**

Somerset Record Office has held 'Introduction to Sources' days since a trial period in 2005. We offer an Introduction day on Sources for Family History at SRO and Sources for House History. Both day courses consist of a talk on the sources available, tours behind the scenes, and a chance for people to familiarise themselves with how to use the searchrooms and the variety of services we offer. People on the family history day can then spend the afternoon beginning or furthering their own research, whilst the afternoon of the house history day gives people the chance to work on projects to further their understanding of the sources and how to use them. Demand outstripped planned days in 2005 to an extent that we are still operating from waiting lists, despite fitting in an extra day in 2006 that wasn't on the programme. The 2007 programme includes:

Introduction to Somerset Family History  
Monday 21 May 2007  
Monday 10 September 2007

Introduction to Somerset House History  
Monday 12 March 2007  
Monday 9 July 2007  
Monday 12 November 2007

### **Palaeography and Common Phrases**

A full day course in *How to Read Old Handwriting* is available on set days through the year. In 2006 this course was held around the County, in Wells, Yeovil and in Taunton, at the Somerset Record Office. In 2007 the class is again being offered around the County in Minehead and Radstock as well as at the SRO. The first class of 2007 was held on 17 February and was very successful and enjoyable for all concerned. The class focuses on common forms of documents found in SRO and uses different examples to lead the students through common letter forms in secretary hand between 1550 and 1750. The programme for 2007 is:





# A conference hosted by PRONI and The Society of Archivists

*Working for Archives, Archive Conservation and Records Management*

## **Conference 2007** **Differing Directions: Challenging Communities**

**28 - 31 August 2007**

Conference Venue: Queen's University Belfast, Northern Ireland.

Dedicated Information MarketPlace on the afternoon of the 29th August to be held at the city centre venue of the Waterfront Hall – this exciting event will also be open free to members of the public as well as for the conference delegates.

Conference Keynote Speaker: Eric Ketelaar is Professor of Archivistis (Archival Science) at the University of Amsterdam, Netherlands.

### **Exciting conference format**

Joint plenary sessions to open and close, and three parallel sessions:

- Archives and Community
- Records Management
- Preservation

### **Topics of Interest:**

- EDRMS and digital records
- Dead Sea Scrolls
- Community Archives
- Declaration of American Independence
- RM Mock Court
- Legal admissability of electronic records
- Diamond Sutra
- Archives and the media
- New accommodation
- Book of Kells

- Exhibitions
- Digital preservation and long term access
- Copyright and information access rights
- Presenting Northern Ireland -
- Practical presentation: Photographic surgeries
- Digitisation

### **Other confirmed keynote speakers are:**

- Brien Brothman, Rhode Island State Archives USA
- Pnina Shor, Israel Antiquities Authority
- Michael Kennedy, Royal Irish Academy, Dublin
- Margaret Hedstrom, University of Michigan, USA
- Catherine Zongora, Public Works and Government Services, Canada
- Howard Quenault, Victoria Public Record Office, Australia
- Mary Lynn Ritzenthaler, National Archives and Records Administration, USA
- Nick Barratt, National Memory Bank UK

Optional visits will also be available and partner programmes for accompanying guests.

Conference booking forms will be available soon - prepare to attend the best conference next year for you.

*How To read old handwriting: a Palaeography day course*

Saturday 17 February 2007 (Record Office) (fully booked)

Tuesday 26 June 2007 (Coles Garden Meeting Room, Kilmersdon)

Tuesday 9 October 2007 (Avenue Methodist Church, Minehead)

Saturday 1 December 2007 (Record Office)

A new course in 2006 called Common Phrases in Latin and English teaches students about dating documents, and understanding deeds, parish registers and wills. This 3-hour course will be held on:

Tuesday 17 April 2007 (Tatworth Memorial Hall)

Tuesday 3 July 2007 (Record Office)



Studying a tithe appointment at one of the house history days. Image courtesy of the Somerset Record Office.

### Talks, Fairs and Other Events

Members of staff give talks to groups who request them on a variety of topics. In 2006 around 40 such talks were given in and out of the office. In 2006 as part of the Programme of Events additional talks were held at SRO for members of the public. Subjects included Army Records and the Somerset Light Infantry, Sources for Rural History, Sources for the History of Transport and Crime and Punishment in Somerset. Members of staff also give talks during events such as National Archaeology Week as part of the Somerset County Council Heritage Service. Staff have also contributed to a series of talks hosted by the Somerset Archaeological and Natural History



Primary school artwork produced during the Taunton Market Project. Image courtesy of the Somerset Record Office.

Society highlighting Somerset's cultural and heritage treasures.

Local History and Family History Fairs are often attended by a member of staff with an exhibition and stand. In 2007 this includes the Avon Local History Day and the large West Country Family History Fair at Weston super Mare.

Exhibitions are on display at the Record Office in the entrance hall and a new display board in the refreshment area highlights a Document of the Month. Touring exhibitions are also undertaken; in 2007 this will include an exhibition during the Archive Awareness Campaign, and one highlighting the Somerset Voices oral history project, in which a collection of 480 recordings about 20th century Somerset life are being digitised.

In May 2006, Somerset Record Office held an Open Day with a Significant Treasures Exhibition, tours of conservation and the strongrooms, exhibitions including a Friends of Somerset Archives stand, and interactive activities in the searchrooms. These included: a chance for children to



Learning how to write on a slate - one of the 2006 Open Day activities. Image courtesy of the Somerset Record Office.

sign themselves up to an apprenticeship and seal their indenture; a spot the famous historical character quiz; a palaeography exhibition, computer palaeography test, and games; Victorian classroom; and a prize Somerset places quiz.

### Education Service

The education service continues to help schools, further and higher education institutions by providing copies of documents on request, visits to schools, school visits to SRO, and set packs of documents on specific subjects such as Taunton Market, Somerset People at War, and Cholera. A project has also been underway during 2006 to provide educational material about Somerset markets for use in primary schools. The existing Somerset and Slavery pack is being re-launched in early 2007 and being produced in electronic form on CD. An education resource using oral history recordings relating to the Second World War is also being piloted with schools as part of the Somerset Voices project. Workshops are undertaken at teachers' conferences through the year and teachers are welcome to visit SRO for advice.

For more information, please contact Esther Ormerod on 01823 278805 or email <archives@somerset.gov.uk>.

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**Esther Ormerod**  
*Somerset Record Office*

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## Reaching New Communities Through Archives

### Black History at London Metropolitan Archives (LMA)

On Saturday 17 February London Metropolitan Archives hosted the second Huntley Black History Conference. Eric and Jessica Huntley founded Bogle - L'Ouverture Publications and the Walter Rodney Bookshop in London in the 1960s, and for half a century have been linked with the Black community's concerns, triumphs, protests and

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Linton Kwesi Johnson, poet asks a question of the panel. Photograph courtesy of the LMA.

struggles. To mark the depositing of their archive collections with London Metropolitan Archives, a launch event took place in February 2006 and a Huntley Conference is to be held annually. The conference is organised by a committee drawn from the Afro-Caribbean community, facilitated by staff at LMA.

The first conference was called, **'The Groundings With My Brothers'** and was very much a celebration of Eric and Jessica's achievements over the last 50-60 years. This year's conference, **'Writing The Wrongs - 50 Years of Black Radical Publishing in Britain'** explored the influence of writers and the changes that they helped bring about. It also engaged powerfully with the influence that writing and publishing could bring to bear on 21st Century Britain.

At the beginning of the day Eric Huntley was asked why the word radical had been included in the title and what did it actually mean. He replied that the very act of writing was radical. Communicating was radical. Publishing was a radical act because it opened up debate. This certainly set the tone for the day and was reflected in some of the passionate and sometimes heated debates which took place.

The keynote speaker Margaret Busby OBE, gave an inspired and inspiring speech on the history of Black literature and writers going back centuries. Her overview of

stories, histories, biographies, oral record and traditional folk tale and poetry was illuminating. Most importantly her comments demonstrated the power of shared culture and stories as powerful links in communities and a force for change. In terms of archive collections, that cultural base can and does include the documents which reveal the lives and experiences of our ancestral communities and which help to make sense of the world and our own identities.

Over 150 people came to share groundings or discussion sessions with writers and publishers covering topics from Vastiana Belfon's session on 'How to get Published' to



Jessica Huntley, Publisher and Activist. Photograph courtesy of the LMA.

Verna Allette Wilkins on 'Writing for Children'. Many different types of publication were explored from erotic material, through political analysis, radical poetry and prose through to Patrick Vernon presenting on 'Web sites as a Tool for Publishers'. The session which provoked most debate was that on 'Africa's Past and the African Diaspora'. It was a session which was intended to explore in a detached way the scattering of African peoples around the world. For many this history never can be distanced or detached, but is wholly present, continuing to impact on lives today. The powerful and emotional response reinforced the fact that the stuff of raw history is not remote, dull, dusty, irrelevant, or made cold by the passage of time.

The day also included a children's workshop with Grace Akuba who told wonderful Ghanaian stories for children. The adults also had a treat at the end of the day with more traditional stories and music. This was so popular the storytellers had to deliver 2 extra stories by demand.

The building of special events around the Huntley Collection has brought many new visitors to the archives. The archives have become a welcoming and relevant place for some who either did not realise such places existed or who felt our apparently formal institution had nothing in common with them. Margaret Busby commented that the day had been a wonderful experience and that the people who had come genuinely felt the archive belonged to them. One of our



Grace Akuba Storyteller. Photograph courtesy of the LMA.



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Youth Aid volunteers, who had never been to us before, said, as she looked round, 'I could never have imagined this was here.'

Importantly it has also raised awareness of the need to preserve collections within communities and ultimately to find safe places for them to be kept for future generations. The work around the collections includes work with schools through creative writing, citizenship and contemporary history.

If you would like to know more about the work around the Huntley Collection please contact Maureen Roberts or Jan Pimblett at LMA on 020 7332 3820 or e-mail <ask.lma@cityoflondon.gov.uk>.

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### Jan Pimblett

*Principal Interpretation Officer, London Metropolitan Archives*

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## Spitfire Summer

The Royal Air Force (RAF) Museum's Department of Research and Information Services has decided to raise the profile of its Archive and Library collections. These efforts have led to a greater collaboration with our Access and Learning colleagues and as a result, a number of pilot schemes were undertaken last summer.

2 document study sessions were held. The first involved a group of gifted/ talented students from a local secondary school on the subject of the Battle of Britain. A talk on the themes of the Battle introduced the children to the concepts they would look at in the documents. After this, working in groups, they moved around various 'themed' tables examining primary sources and discussing them with the individual curators. Facsimiles were also supplied so the documents could be looked at in more depth and used to answer questions set by the teachers. Several themes caught the imagination of the children, such as the role of women in support of the war effort and the idea that people from ethnic backgrounds could serve in important posts. One Muslim girl was particularly fascinated by a



Engaging some of the younger members of our audience. Copyright: RAF Museum.

photograph of Noor Inayat Khan - an Indian woman who served in the Women's Auxiliary Air Force and Special Operations Executive as an intelligence agent. Period uniforms were also available for the children to try on. At the end of the session the students really impressed us by discussing quite complex issues without prompting from their teachers or staff.

Building on this experience a more focused 'classroom' based approach was taken for a second document study session looking at the Second World War. The school party, consisting of 12 11-year-olds, was split into 3 groups. Each group worked through a series of questions whilst studying a small number of documents. The facsimiles were chosen to reflect the experience of a fighter pilot, a member of the Women's Auxiliary Air Force (WAAF) and a member of a bomber crew. During the general discussion which followed, the groups contributed their answers to the set questions but also took the opportunity to raise further questions of their own. To complete the session, the children were shown an original photograph album by a curator which they really enjoyed.

Both sessions generated very positive feedback from the children and teachers. The workshops were a good

learning experience for staff too. We were able to observe how the children responded to the material and were given fresh ideas on how to improve future sessions.

Other 'Spitfire Summer' activities included a weekend of talks on the history of the Spitfire utilising material from our collections. The talks were designed to engage visitors on a personal level and were given in a public area of the Museum. People were able to come and go as they wished. Curators used primary sources from the Museum's collections to illustrate the talks so the educational value and potential of our resources was conveyed to the public and other staff. In the Museum grounds there were activities for children and re-enactors discussed their displays. Our education staff created a Women's Auxiliary Air Force recruiting stand so children could enlist in the air force and dress up in authentic uniforms. Re-enactors, grouped around a real Spitfire, recreated a forward airstrip in France after D-Day. Visitors were shown around the aircraft and could have their pictures taken close to it as a memento of the day. We were also fortunate in having fine weather and a fly past by a Spitfire, courtesy of the RAF's Battle of Britain Memorial Flight.

Overall the themed weekend led to many complimentary comments and

increased visitor numbers. As a result we've decided to hold a similar 'living history' event this year. Curatorial staff will be involved with the Museum's 'Hendon Pageant' weekend in June. The successful approach undertaken during 'Spitfire Summer' will be repeated, with talks and displays complementing activities and re-enactors.

In May, our focus will be on "Identity". Using documents and images, we'll be providing visitors with 'trails' in the exhibition galleries. The concept is to enable the public to learn more about the individuals involved with the aircraft and artefacts on display. We hope to highlight the work undertaken by the different trades within the RAF and WAAF too. In October, an exhibition of archive material is planned to tie-in with the Archive Awareness Campaign theme of 'Freedom and Liberty'. In addition, the collections will be promoted through a series of talks, activities and workshops.

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**Daniel Scott-Davies and Nina Burls**

*Department of Research and Information Services, RAF Museum*

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## Virtual Waterways - A Review of the Education and Research Pages

Source: <[http://www.virtualwaterways.co.uk/Education\\_and\\_research.html](http://www.virtualwaterways.co.uk/Education_and_research.html)>.

The Virtual Waterways database contains catalogues describing waterway-related archives held throughout England, Scotland and Wales, and dates from the 17th century to the near present day.

The educational section is an area of the Web site designed to make learning on British Waterways fun. It provides a free online teaching and learning resource, structured to tie in with the National Curriculum for history, English, art &

design, and design & technology from key stages 2 to 3.

It boasts 17 activity sheets covering various topics and 2 outreach pack 'Work and Transport in the Victorian Age' and 'World War II The Home Front'. These include background information to the British Waterways and a varied range of original sources including documents and photographs. All of which are clear and easy to download and the outreach packs should save teaches a fair amount of time with regards to lesson plans. The range of sources is good although I would personally like to see the inclusion of reference numbers for archival material and the Archive/Record Office that holds them identified. Although, I assume they may all come from the British Waterways Archive, Gloucester.

The education section also includes a very helpful key word search which allows you to search related collections at other archives (useful for teachers when incorporating local relevance to the topic) as well as the British Waterways Archive.

I was a bit surprised to find a link to a current canal boating holiday firm included in the 'educational links' section but I presume it is show the present day relevance of canals. The site is more teacher than child friendly but as a teacher resource is very clear and well researched.

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**Laura Taylor**

*Archivist, London Metropolitan Archives*

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## Stuck in a lift with the Chief Executive?

Ok - so this is really a plug for our forthcoming annual general meeting (AGM) and training event in June. The focus will be on engaging hard to reach groups from stropky teenagers to bored Chief Executive Officers (CEOs) and will cover everything from snappy one liners to long term projects (well, perhaps not everything!).

The day will be based around community archives although we are taking a very broad definition of 'community' - yours might be an organisation, a particular



Peter Gould, CEO of Northamptonshire County Council writing with a quill pen. He did not appear bored and this did not take place in a lift! Photograph by Juliette Baxter, Northamptonshire Record Office.

group of people or a whole geographical area. We are all familiar with cutbacks, cut corners and the need to add value, generate income and justify our value but reaching the people who matter can be an uphill task. A focus on the old records might make us look like an arcane luxury that can no longer be afforded, yet concentrating on legislation and statutory responsibilities may give the impression that we do not need to keep historical information. Which way is best?

We aim to give some answers to these questions with a mixture of papers, case studies and practical workshops. Whether you work in a business, university, specialist repository or local record office this day will have something for you. We promise that should you ever be stuck in a lift with your Chief Executive that you will not be lost for words. Further details and booking will be available shortly.

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**Jenny Moran**

*Public Services Manager,  
Northamptonshire Record Office*

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# In Conversation with Gerry Slater, Chief Executive of the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland PRONI



Gerry Slater, Chief Executive and Deputy Keeper of the Records. PRONI

This month Gerry Slater talks about updating the PRONI Web site.

## What is PRONI doing with its Web site?

Going back to the drawing-board. PRONI has maintained a Web site since the mid-1990s. It was the first or second in the Northern Ireland Civil Service. Much of the content is good, but the presentation is very dated. It is sometimes downright confusing and mirrors the internal organisation of the services and information creators. In short, from the user perspective, it is not fit for its purpose.

## What do you see as the purpose of a Web site?

To state the obvious, it is to communicate with those who access it. It is an extension of the archive service intended to reflect changes in archival usage and to bring down barriers to access. In order to achieve that objective, it is essential to work within a structure that is logical and clear and to ensure that what the site promises is delivered. Delivery can be anything from ensuring that hypertext links or links to other sites actually work to having site maintenance procedures that guarantee - as necessary - regular content updating. I know how I feel when I press on the 'New' button on a Web site only to find that it tells me about a conference that occurred 1 or 2 years ago.

## So the big issues are a clear structure and updating the information?

I have not a doubt that they are vital foundations in constructing and

maintaining an attractive and truly informative Web site. However, I do not feel that they are of themselves sufficient. I think that creating an accessible Web site requires the use of language that is simple, jargon free and therefore easily understood.

## What do you see as simple and jargon-free?

That is a question easy to answer at a theoretical level but by no means easy in practice. There is an immense issue lurking in the undergrowth for archives; the ability to maintain what I shall call 'the language of precision' while developing another, almost a parallel, language that conveys archive-related information in simple and direct terms.

## Are you saying that archives are beset with jargon?

I suppose I am. I wish I had in my pocket a list of terms that allowed non-practitioners to understand its principles and practices with ease. Then there is the complicating factor of dealing with historical material shot through with the language and context of the past. Users have to cope with something of the specialist language of archives and also the language of the past. That sounds to me rather like a barrier - almost 2 trenches that must be negotiated by the 'ordinary person' who comes into contact with archives.

## Have you proof of this barrier?

I am sure that pretty well everyone has experienced the blank look that

follows utterance of the (to us) simple words, 'I'm an archivist' or 'I work with archives'. The polite smile, and the response 'That must be interesting', mark the lack of comprehension. Librarians do not appear to have the same problem.

## Can you give an example of avoiding jargon?

In common with other archives, PRONI is eager that its extensive holdings should be much more widely used. The issue is particularly important in the context of a Northern Ireland government policy seeking to build on 'A Shared Future' that breaks down barriers and misunderstandings. If you are working with a community group in a deprived area, the use of specialist language reinforces the sense of being an outsider and creates the very barrier you are eager to bring down. For example, 'archives' as a term is not readily understood. We can confuse further by referring to catalogues, to calendars and to lists. On-line ordering and mail order means that 'catalogue' is readily enough understood, but the other terms only confuse. If archives are to be ever more widely used, we need to think about our professional language and how we present basic information in as few words as possible. That is not something limited to tackling a Web site, but rather should pervade our every contact with users, actual or potential. Say something simple or risk our words falling on deaf ears.

# Features

## The Kurdish History Archives and Heritage Centre

### About the Centre

In West London there will soon be a centre dedicated to the Kurdish culture and heritage in the United Kingdom.

The Western Kurdistan Association (WKA) based in Palingswick House in King Street, Hammersmith, is in the process of establishing the Kurdish History Archives and Heritage Centre, which will house exhibits and documents regarding the past and present achievements and activities of the Kurdish community in the United Kingdom.

At the same time, refugees will be able to contribute to the project by sending any documentary evidence or artefacts to be exhibited on a permanent basis in the centre. Hammersmith and Fulham Archives and Local History Centre will lend support with help and advice.

The project will also serve to increase job opportunities for Kurdish and other refugees in the area. It will improve social and economic integration, disseminate information and guidance, and increase understanding of current affairs and human rights issues. The

project also aims at improving links with other communities in West London, to reflect the cultural diversity of the area.

We are asking all members of the Kurdish community throughout the UK, who have in their possession any material suitable for exhibitions, such as books, written documents, music, painting, sculptures, maps and any other material regarding social, cultural and scientific activities of the Kurds in the UK, to send them to us.

We are also asking all members of the Kurdish community e.g. doctors, engineers, writers, poets, artists, painters, musician, singers, footballers, businessmen and businesswomen throughout the UK to provide the Centre with information about their qualifications and work experiences, in order to record the life of the Kurdish community in the UK, and, to keep it safe for the next generation.

Any such material should be sent to The Western Kurdistan Association, Palingswick House, 241, King Street W6 9LP. Tel 0208748 7874 or by E-mail: <wka@knc.org.uk>.

### A Brief History of the Kurds

Kurdistan was dissolved in 1923 when borders in the Middle East were redrawn by the Allied victors of the First World War in the Treaty of Lausanne. The Kurds found themselves split among Turkey, Iraq, Iran, Syria and, ex-Soviet block countries, the Republics of Armenia and Azerbaijan. There are estimated to be more than 40 million Kurds in the world, making them the largest nation in the world without a state. The boundary changes were seemingly so arbitrary, with the borders jutting off at strange angles, that people joke that Churchill drew them up when he was drunk - each hiccup sending his pen off in another direction!

Today, there are an estimated 300,000 Kurds living in the United Kingdom.

The Kurds are an ancient people with a past full of political, scientific, literary and artistic activities. However, centuries of persecution and ignorance towards this race have led to a dearth of archival material and diminishing recognition. For example, despite the fact that the BBC broadcasts in 33 languages, it



Mrs Lynette Lindfield Soane, wife of the first British Governor in Kurdistan (Major E.B. Soane), in Kurdish Dress. 1914. Photography courtesy of Jawad Mella.

does not broadcast in Kurdish. Moreover, in Kurdistan the Kurdish language is forbidden and documentation connected with the Kurdish culture, history and heritage is often destroyed.

All refugee communities in the UK have Embassies of their countries to take care of their culture, history and heritage but the Kurdish community in the UK has no such Kurdish Embassy.

### About the Author

Jawad Mella was born in 1946 in Damascus to an activist family deported from Northern Kurdistan (Kurdistan of Turkey) to Syria after the World War I. His grandfather Mella Muhammad was a religious Muslim and a patriot. He built a mosque in his village Bedwan in the Diarbaker area that is still standing. His father Ibrahim Mella was an activist in the Kurdish Khoiboon Party with Prince Jaladat Baderkhan that led the Kurdish revolution in the Aghri mountains in the years 1927 - 1930. After the failure of the Aghri revolution, Prince Jaladat Baderkhan and the author's father together with others tried twice to declare a Kurdish state in the Western Kurdistan (Syrian Kurdistan). The first time during the French mandate times and the second time during the coup by General Husni Al-Za'eem in 1949. These attempts failed and they participated in establishing cultural clubs and publishing Kurdish newspapers in Damascus such as Hawar and Runahi.

Jawad Mella grew up surrounded by the Kurdish books and writings of his father.

These inspired him to become active in the strive for an independent Kurdistan. In his youth, his political activities led to his arrest by the Syrian Intelligence. As a result he suffered great torture.

Jawad Mella has PhD in Political Science. He has written several books and hundreds of reports and articles. He continues to strive for the liberty of the Kurds and the independence of Kurdistan.

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**Dr. Jawad Mella**

*Chairman, Western Kurdistan Association*

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## **Lifelong Learning UK – the sector skills council for the libraries, archives and information services workforce February 2007**

Update on progress towards new National Occupational Standards and vocational qualification frameworks for the libraries, archives and information services workforce

Lifelong Learning UK have contracted Angela Abell, Liz MacLachlan and Sandra Ward of newly-formed SAL Associates to work with staff at Lifelong Learning UK (LLUK) on the development of new National Occupational Standards (NOS) for the libraries, archives and information services workforce.

The programme of 14 initial consultation meetings that took place throughout the UK between February and July 2006 endorsed the proposal put forward to combine the 3 existing and separate sets of NOS, inherited from the former Information Services National Training Organisation (ISNTO), into 1 integrated standards framework. A number of different qualification pathways will then be defined through this framework for staff working in libraries, archives or information management. The rationale for this proposal is the implicit commonality of many areas of competence in the existing 3 sets of NOS and

the aspiration to create a more flexible set of standards which is better designed to be used for a range of personnel management tasks in addition to supporting a viable qualifications framework for the whole of the workforce.

A project steering group, comprising employers, representatives of the professional bodies and other stakeholders has met twice, in September and December 2006, to formally endorse the overall direction of the work and to consider a model standards framework representative of the style of standards that LLUK is now developing for a number of different workforce groups within the broader lifelong learning sector. These are not levelled in qualification terms and will therefore look very different to the previous 2000 NOS, being more of a competency framework for the whole workforce and identifying a number of generic roles within the workforce for the purpose of designing new vocational qualifications.

### **What happens next?**

The drafting of the new standards framework has already begun and reaction to this first outline framework will be tested with a small number of invited focus groups during February–March 2007. This will be followed by a programme of 9 consultation events throughout the UK during April–May and finally electronic consultation via the LLUK website during June. It is anticipated that work will be completed over the summer and the new standards and associated documentation will be submitted to the National Occupational Standards Board in September 2007.

### **Looking forward to new vocational qualifications**

Discussions have begun with City & Guilds and the Scottish Qualifications Authority on the shape of a future qualifications structure for the libraries, archives and information services workforce. This is complicated by the introduction, over the next 18 months, of the new Qualifications and Credit Framework in England, Wales and Northern Ireland which embodies similar principles to the Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework, already established. This new approach to qualifications which are built from units, using credit accumulation, will provide significant new opportunities for more flexible qualifications design. However,

at the moment a number of significant features of the new framework have yet to be confirmed, pending a period of testing and trialling that is running from September 2006–July 2008.

There was a consensus of opinion at the 2006 initial consultation events that Scottish/National Vocational Qualifications (S/NVQs) had not realised their potential for a number of reasons. Reforms to the qualifications frameworks across the UK offer new opportunities in qualifications design that should enable the combination of the best features of the S/NVQ approach together with the vocationally-related qualification (VRQ) approach (which has a stronger emphasis on developing skills, knowledge and understanding) to develop a new suite of qualifications better able to underpin staff development across the sector.

It is Lifelong Learning UK's intention that new qualifications will be flexible, relevant and accessible. It is also intended, and the recent Leitch Review of Skills commissioned by HM Treasury supports this development, that there will be more involvement by employers in their design. Leitch is also calling for the UK workforce to be qualified at least to Level 3 in England, Wales and Northern Ireland and to Level 6 in Scotland. Finally, it is recognised that we need a major effort in disseminating information on qualification opportunities, and the benefits of this, to both employers and staff alike.

### **Foundation degrees**

The 2006 initial consultation also suggested significant interest in the return of a qualification at Level 4 (in England, Wales and Northern Ireland). As part of government strategy to increase participation in higher education a new vocational qualification has been introduced in England, Wales and Northern Ireland at Level 4/5, called a Foundation Degree (FD). A feature of these new qualifications is the involvement of employers, locally and nationally, in the design and provision of qualification programmes. Some FDs in library and information management are already available, however provision is uncoordinated. As the national voice of employers on workforce development issues, Lifelong Learning UK remains committed to initiating a discussion with existing and potential providers, and the professional bodies, to agree a model of what foundation degrees in our sector should look like, how

they should relate to the new National Occupational Standards and the body of professional knowledge, and how employers can be involved in their development. Discussions are already underway on how best to take this forward with Foundation Degree Forward, whose role is to promote the development of foundation degrees across all occupational sectors.

Foundation Degrees are not awarded by Scotland's colleges and universities as Higher Nationals continue to be the preferred vocational qualification at this level. Lifelong Learning UK's intention is to engage with employers, stakeholders and awarding bodies in Scotland, recognising the provision that currently exists at Levels 7/8 of the Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework, to discuss the requirements for vocational qualifications at this level for the libraries, archives and information services workforce in Scotland.

For further information, please contact Peter Ramsden at Lifelong Learning UK, by email, <peterramsden@lluk.org> or, by phone on 020 7936 5740. Alternatively, contact your LLUK national or regional manager - names and contact details are on the LLUK Web site: <<http://www.lluk.org>>.

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#### **Peter Ramsden**

*Lifelong Learning UK*

*St Andrew's House, 18-20 St Andrew Street,  
London EC4A 3AY*

*Tel: 0870 757 7890*

*Web site: <[www.lluk.org](http://www.lluk.org)>.*

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## **Films from State Sponsored Bodies and Government Departments held by the Irish Film Archive**

Although in Ireland there is no formal procedure for deposit of moving image produced from state sources and indeed no central repository designated by government for its preservation, it is no surprise that the Irish Film Archive contains many films of this type. This article gives a brief overview of the

history the Irish Film Institute's tradition of collecting, distributing and producing state sponsored film and the types of material this category encompasses. It is intended as an introduction to this fascinating area of the Archive's collection and sources for further information are provided.

### **History**

The National Film Institute (NFI) was established in the early 1940s under the direction of the Roman Catholic Archbishop for Dublin - John Charles McQuaid. McQuaid felt it was important that the Church was actively involved in the production and distribution of film thereby fulfilling the Pope's decree that "films could be used for healthy upbringing and education and not for the perdition of the soul" (O'Brien, 2004). The *Vigilanti Cura* (1936) issued by Pope Pius XI stressed the importance of the Catholic Church's involvement in all aspects of motion pictures.

In keeping with this dictate, the National Film Institute not only maintained a distributing library of film but also was involved in the production of safety health and educational films in the 1940s and 50s. Key to the financing of this film production was McQuaid's association with the dominant political party Fianna Fail. Their leader Eamon de Valera's conservative and sectarian vision of Irish society enshrined in the constitution coalesced with McQuaid's mission to enforce the *Vigilanti Cura* and he contracted the Institute to produce films for various government departments under his tenure. (Ni Chanainn, 1992)

Although NFI film production ceased in the 1960s, the distributing library continued until the 1980s. When the decision was made in the mid -1980s to set up an Archive section of the IFI (as it was now called) it was natural that these films would form the basis of the nascent archive. Films of Irish interest which largely consisted of the safety health and educational films made by the NFI in the previous decades were isolated from the library collection and were over time other films of this nature category have found their home in the Irish Film Archive.

### **Collections**

A noteworthy example is the Department of External Affairs 1950s look at anti-Catholic housing discrimination in Northern Ireland *Fintona- A study of Housing Discrimination*. This film is unusual as the government allegedly made it with the use of a hidden camera (Rockett, Cinema and Ireland, 1987)

and harnessing the power of film to create political change. This signified a dramatic move away from the benign output of the National Film Institute and such government bodies as the Cultural Relations Committee who had produced such titles as *W. B. Yeats A Tribute* (1950) and *Liam O'Leary's Portrait of Dublin* (1952). When *'Fintona'* was released in 1954 (distributed in the UK by the Anti-Partition League) it was the centre of much controversy leading to official complaints by the Northern Irish and British Governments.

Some of the largest state related collections held by the Archive are those deposited by Bord Failte, the National Road Safety Association and the National Museum of Ireland's folklife collection. Other films come from such disparate organisations as the Department of External Affairs and subsequently the Department of Foreign affairs, the ESB (Electricity Supply Board), Defence forces, National Library, Bus Eireann, Irish Dairy Board, Tourism and Transport. These films are important, not only for their content but for gainfully employing many luminaries of the Irish film industry such as Liam O'Laoghaire, Colm O'Laoghaire, George Morrison, Louis Marcus, Bob Monks and Kieran Hickey at a time when the Irish film industry was underdeveloped and opportunities for technical training were limited.

Many of these films are public information/propaganda films instructing the Irish population in the importance of rural electrification, eating Irish butter, preventing against accidents in the home, taking care on the roads etc. Well known Irish personalities such as Cyril Cusack, Niall Toibin and Maureen Potter feature and a drama documentary style was often employed to emphasise the message. Films such as the *Life of Reilly* for the Department of Health (1954) warning against accidents in the home, the *Art of Reception* for the Tourist Board, *Bord Failte* (1954) and *AmpleXample* for the National Road Safety Association (1975) are typical of the genre.

### **Politics**

The Archive also holds a number of films produced by political parties including a large Fianna Fail collection and material from the Irish Communist party. Of particular interest is a film produced by the short lived but briefly successful *Clann na Poblachta* (The Republican Family)<sup>2</sup>. Called *Our Country* it was made by Irish Civic Films and directed by Liam O'Laoghaire (1948) Their agenda of

radical republicanism and social reform was dramatically conveyed alongside a litany of social and economic failures during Fianna Fail's 16-year term in power including emotive issues such as tuberculosis, emigration and unemployment. The film concluded with anti communist sentiments by the party leader Sean MacBride to ensure non-alienation of the Catholic electorate. The success of the film across the country added to the general disillusionment with the current regime and in 1948 following a swift general election a coalition government was formed between Clann na Poblachta and Fine Gael. (Rockett, 1987).

### Ownership

One of the problems that faces the Irish Film Archive in relation to State or government sponsored films is the ever-difficult question of copyright. Government departments are in a continuous state of evolution with amalgamations, splits and dissolution. This can make it very difficult to establish the copyright holder of material. In many cases, for example the recent donation of the Roinn na Gaeltachta collection by the Department of Gaeltacht Islands and Rural Affairs, there is a logical transferral of ownership. In other cases it might not be so obvious or may now be split between a number of current departments. This can cause difficulties should a programme maker want to use an extract of uncertain copyright right title.

### The Future

It is worth mentioning that few of the government or state sponsored films in the Irish Film Archive collection date from after the 1980s. This is not because of a lack of production but due to the lack of an official route from their creator to a recognised, resourced, specialist place of deposit. Recent material concerning such important issues as the Euro change over, campaigns relating to Road safety, racism and HIV/AIDS etc have not found their way into the Irish Film Archive, and as the Archive has no official remit to request their deposit with us, we are concerned that these important records may not be adequately preserved and ultimately may be lost.

The expertise and conditions for the preservation of specialised collections and the mechanisms for providing access are both hard to come by and extremely complicated. In the UK the British Film Institute and Public Records Office have come to an agreement whereby material needing specialised AV preservation is sent held officially by the BFI on behalf of the

National Archives. The creation of a similar agreement between the National Archives and the IFI would be the logical route to protecting this valuable genre of films and it is one that we are seeking to put in place.

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### Kasandra O'Connell

*Head of the Irish Film Archive*

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#### (Footnotes)

<sup>1</sup> *Fianna Fail were the dominant political party in Ireland during the 30s, 40 and 50s, their leader Eamonn de Valera was Taoiseach (Prime minister) 1937-48, 51-54, 57-59.*

<sup>2</sup> *Formed in 1946 by republican activists including Sean MacBride, who became its leader and who later won the Nobel peace prize for his work as one of the founders and Chairman of Amnesty International.*

# Registration Scheme News

## Registration Scheme Training Event

**14 June 2007**

**Venue: Archives and manuscripts,  
University of Southampton**

**A half-day programme, and the  
event is FREE!**

This workshop will provide the opportunity to:

- Find out about the Registration Scheme
  - Why do it?

- Personal and Professional benefits?
- What does it involve?
- Work through the 4 development areas
  - Formal training courses
  - Private study/professional research
  - Work achievements
  - Contributions to the profession.
- Work through Learning Outcome Forms
  - Motivation
  - Achievement
  - Evidence
- View successful portfolios
- Ask questions

### Programme leader:

**Caroline Shaw**, Events Co-ordinator for the Registration Sub-committee  
e-mail: <regschemeevents@archives.org.uk>.

### Programme Structure:

13:00p.m. - 13:10p.m.

Arrival

13:10p.m. - 13:50 p.m.

Overview of the SoA Registration Scheme

- Role of the candidate
- Role of the Mentor
- Personal Development Plans.

13:50 p.m. - 15:00 p.m.

Getting to grips with the 4 areas of development

- Learning Outcome Forms.

15:00 p.m. - 15:15 p.m.

Tea/coffee

15:15 p.m. - 15:45 p.m.

View binders from some of the successful candidates

15:45 p.m. - 16:30 p.m.

Frequently asked questions

Continuing professional development (CPD)

Discussion and round-up

16:30 p.m.

Close

**Maximum attendance: 16.** Book early to avoid disappointment.

**Deadline for bookings:** 27 April 2007.

Suitable for candidates, referees, mentors and anyone interested in enrolling on the scheme or becoming a mentor.

This event is primarily for South East Region members - candidates from other Regions will be considered if places are still available after the closing date.

**To register for the workshop, please contact the following member to reserve a place and receive further location details:**

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**Heather Needham**

*Training Officer, South East Region, E-mail: <heather.needham@hants.gov.uk>.*

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## Forthcoming Events

### Accessible Archives?

**Serving all our users equally  
Practical ways to break down  
barriers for disabled users**

**A training event organised by the  
East Midlands Region to be held on  
Tuesday 1 May 2007, 10a.m. to  
4p.m.**

**Venue: VISTA Headquarters,  
Leicester, fully accessible to all**

Part of our duty to the records in our care is to ensure that they can be accessed equally by all, without discrimination. These records are the property of communities of all kinds - communities which include disabled people with

exactly the same research needs as others.

This training event brings together archivists, research managers and disabled researchers to examine ways of opening up access to our resources from a practical perspective. Our aim is to send you away with simple ideas for breaking down barriers to accessibility - ideas which can be put into practice in your home repository without delay.

We will hear from speakers including a representative of a government agency working in the equal opportunities field, research managers and archivists in the disability support sector, and disabled researchers.

We will provide you with

- information about Government strategy Arc Magazine April 07 setting on disabled access at national level
- advice on likely problems faced by disabled users of archives
- feedback on recent practical experiences of a disabled user in local record offices workshop activities to tackle real-life problems
- advice on surveying your disabled users and interpreting results.

Course fee: £40 for Society of Archivists' members; £45 for non-members

Further details available from Margaret Bonney, Joint Training Officer, East Midlands region, e-mail <mbonney@leics.gov.uk> or phone 0116 257 1080

Booking: please use the Society of Archivists' booking form available from <<http://www.archives.org.uk/areerdevelopment/training.html>>.

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**Margaret Bonney**  
*East Midlands Region*

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## Preservation Day for Archivists

### Society of Archivists: Eastern Region. Training Event

Many archivists would like to develop their awareness of preservation issues which are essential in their daily work. This practical workshop on basic preservation will be run by experienced conservators for archivists to help them develop these skills using the broad range of conservation facilities at the Norfolk Record Office (NRO).

The workshop is open to all archivists who would like to improve their awareness of basic preservation. It would particularly suit archivists who work in a small unit, or on their own, and who do not have access to a specialist conservation department. The course would also be suitable for archive support staff.

Venue: Norfolk Record Office  
Date: 20 June 2007

Delegates can buy a dinner in the NRO staff canteen or bring a packed lunch to eat in the canteen.

### Aims and objectives:

The workshop aims to:

- provide an opportunity for participants to learn about preservation issues from an experienced conservator in a workshop environment. This will include a tour of the facilities at the Norfolk Record Office,
- provide advice on assessing the physical condition of archives,
- cleaning and archival packaging materials,
- prompt discussion and the sharing of knowledge and experience about practices in different organisations. There will be an opportunity to ask about specific issues relevant to delegates.

### Programme:

The programme will be run by Nick Sellwood and Antoinette Curtis, qualified

conservators, at the Norfolk Record Office. Registration will commence at 10.00 a.m. The programme will begin at 10.30 a.m. and finish at 4.00 p.m. From 12.30 p.m. to 13.30 p.m. there will be a break for lunch.

Charge: £25 SOA member, £30 non member.

Maximum attendance: 10 delegates

### Booking Information:

To book, please complete the Society of Archivists' booking form, available on the Web site at <<http://www.archives.org.uk/careerdevelopment.html>>. Please note that the booking form should be returned to the Society's Office, and not to the course organiser.

## Society of Archivists: Data Standards Group

### Sharing Made Simple: A Practical Approach to Social Software

10.00a.m.-17.00p.m.,  
Tuesday 5 June 2007  
Camden City Learning Centre, Charrington Street, London NW1 (near Euston and Kings Cross Stations).

This training day is co-facilitated by the Society's Data Standards Group and by Brian Kelly (UKOLN: <<http://www.ukoln.ac.uk/>>).

This is a hands-on course, with PCs provided for delegates. Previous experience of interacting with social software is not necessary, as this is an introductory course.

### Description

This course will provide a practical introduction to 'Web 2.0', which encompasses social software such as blogs, wikis and rss, and also encourages a culture of collaboration, sharing, user-generated content and openness. An introductory talk will describe some of the key technologies and the culture associated with Web 2.0 and also outline some of the risks and difficulties that

such technologies may give rise to. A strategy for deploying Web 2.0 will be described, which will include risk assessment and risk management approaches, and ways of identifying the 'low-hanging fruit'. The course will provide a number of case studies, illustrating the use of social software within the archive domain and cultural heritage sector. A large part of the day will be given over to practical hands-on work, where delegates will undertake a number of exercises that employ social software.

### Learning Outcomes

1. Have an awareness of the meaning and application of Web 2.0 and social software
2. Have an appreciation of the benefits of employing social software in terms of encouraging a culture of collaboration and sharing
3. Have an appreciation of possible difficulties and risks associated with Web 2.0 and the use of social software
4. Have a reasonable understanding of the meaning and application of RSS, personalised web services, blogs, wikis, collaborative tools and social bookmarking
5. Have a practical understanding of the use of a number of technologies (delegates may focus on the technologies they are most interested in learning about)
6. Be confident to start to investigate and use social software within their own work environment.

### Fees

£60	Data Standards Group members;
£70	Society of Archivists' members;
£85	non-members.

### Booking

Please book for this course through the Society of Archivists' booking form: <<http://www.archives.org.uk/thesociety/specialinterestgroups/datastandardsgroup/trainingandevents.html>>.

## All Change: Adapt and Thrive in a Digital Age

London Museum Librarians and Archivists Group (LMLAG) \* 1 day conference

Thursday 26 April 2007 9.30a.m.-16.30p.m.

BP Theatre, British Museum, Great Russell Street, London WC1B 3DG

- *Need to make your museum library and archive collections more visible and accessible in a competitive Web environment?*
- *Under pressure to engage with wider audiences?*
- *Unsure what virtual knowledge-sharing developments such as Web 2.0 are - and how they might revolutionise your services without heavy investment?*
- *Interested in how partnership and collaboration is helping to develop digital services and resources?*
- *Wondering how realistic and affordable such opportunities might be?*

Then the 'All Change' conference is for YOU!

The 'All Change' conference will look at Web, digital and electronic knowledge-sharing developments and the opportunities and challenges they bring for museum libraries and archives.

It will look at how to exploit these opportunities, even when resources are limited. It will also address the pros and cons of getting involved in collaborative partnerships.

Speakers will talk about the impact that new information-sharing developments are having on the physical study spaces and services that libraries and archives provide.

A unique group of speakers will introduce relevant experience and ideas from the museum and other sectors. The conference will interest librarians, curators, archivists, students, learning specialists, researchers - in fact all who

use, or work in, museum libraries and archives and are concerned about their future development.

The keynote speaker is John Dolan, Head of Library Policy at MLA. Other confirmed speakers include:

*Brian Kelly, UK Web Focus, UKOLN (Web 2.0 and low cost service development opportunities)*

*Pat Christie, University of the Arts (innovation in physical study environments)*

*Caroline Warhurst, London's Transport Museum (making the best of small spaces and budgets)*

*Graham Higley, Biodiversity Heritage Library Project (a global network with museum participation)*

*Michael Popham, Oxford Digital Library (lessons of the Google Books project)*

*James Strachan, The National Archives (TNA) (user-led online initiatives)*

*Other speakers still to be announced from: TNA, the Britain in Print collaborative partnership and a view of partnership from the private sector.*

#### How to Book:

Book through the British Museum Box Office (10.00a.m.-16.45p.m. daily) quoting 'All Change conference':  
Telephone: +44 (0)20 7323 8181  
Fax: +44 (0)20 7323 8616  
Minicom: +44 (0)20 7323 8920  
By mail to: Box Office, British Museum, Great Russell Street, London WC1B 3DG

Conference Fee: £35 including VAT  
Concessions: (students, pensioners, jobseekers) £25 including VAT.  
Cheques are payable to 'The British Museum', or pay by debit or credit card (but not American Express or Visa Electron card).

Other booking requirements please contact Joanna Bowring, <jbowring@thebritishmuseum.ac.uk> or, Charles Hoare <choare@thebritishmuseum.ac.uk>. Please mention any special access requirements when booking.

NOTE: Tea and coffee, morning and afternoon, are included in the price but to keep the conference fee low, lunch is not included. The British Museum has a restaurant and cafés, and there is a wide choice of cafés and restaurants within a short walk of the Museum.

\*LMLAG (London Museum Librarians and Archivists Group) is an informal grouping of archivists and librarians in national museums and galleries in London. We aim to promote best practice and meet the needs and aspirations of museums and their developing audiences, to promote opportunities to learn from each other and from others, and raise awareness of our present and potential abilities among museums and the archive and library professions.

For further information about the Group, contact Richard Golland, <RGolland@iwm.org.uk>.

LMLAG would like to thank the British Museum for providing a venue for the 'All Change' conference and undertaking booking services.

## The Parker Library Now

A 2 day Symposium at Corpus Christi College, Cambridge  
In Honour of Professor R.I. Page  
6-7 September 2007

PRESERVATION - CONSERVATION -  
DIGITISATION - SCHOLARSHIP - PUBLIC  
ACCESS

The Parker Library comprises one of the most important small collections of English medieval manuscripts ever assembled. It was entrusted to the College in 1574 by Matthew Parker (1504-1575), archbishop of Canterbury, with detailed requirements of preservation and accessibility to scholars. In the 1980s, Professor Raymond Page, then Fellow Librarian of the College, commissioned a review of the collections and their long-term preservation, and he established the Cambridge Colleges Conservation Consortium, still based in Corpus Christi College. A 2 day conference was held in the College in 1988 to bring many of these issues to public discussion. 2 decades later it seems appropriate to ask whether they have stood the test of time, and to look at new directions for the Parker Library in the 21st century.

The symposium will include papers on library history, conservation, digitisation and its application, new discoveries and directions

in medieval manuscript scholarship, and the benefits or problems of access to some of the most precious illuminated manuscripts in existence. Speakers will include Christopher Clarkson, Nicholas Pickwood, Melvin Jefferson, and Christopher de Hamel.

The basic non-residential symposium fee of £90.00 includes all lunches and refreshments. Limited accommodation is available for the nights of Thursday 6 and Friday 7 September, and there is a further option of attendance at the Parker Library Audit Dinner on Friday 7 September.

For further details, fees, and a booking form, please see:  
<<http://www.corpus.cam.ac.uk/parker/>>.

Alternatively, please contact: Christopher de Hamel, telephone 01223 339994, e-mail <cd281@cam.ac.uk>, or Gill Cannell, telephone 01223 338025; email <gc110@cam.ac.uk>.

## The Society of Bookbinders Education & Training Conference

Date: 9 - 12 August 2007  
Venue: The University of York

There will be:

- Demonstrations
- Lectures
- A Suppliers' Fair
- Competition.

Speakers include:

Julie Biggs, James Brockman, Paul Delrue, Mirjam Foot, Edwin Heim, Robert Holroyd, Derek Hood, Paul Johnson, Peter Jones, Hedi Kyle, Trevor Lloyd, Douglas Mitchell, David Pearson, Clare Prince, Eleanor Ramsey, Lori Sauer, Alain Taral, Sün Evrard, and, Michael Wilcox.

For further information and to download a booking form, please contact: <<http://www.societyofbookbinders.com>>, or, write to: SoB Conference Organiser, 8 Wildwood Close, Woking, Surrey, GU22 8PL, UK.