



LIVERPOOL UNIVERSITY
LUCAS
CENTRE for ARCHIVE STUDIES

Inside this issue:

<i>Death in the Archives Summary</i>	1
<i>Death in the Archives Event Report</i>	2
<i>Welcome and Congratulations!</i>	2
<i>Conference Reports Association of Canadian</i>	3
<i>University Honours for Liverpool Archives Graduate</i>	4
<i>Forthcoming Events</i>	4
<i>Join LUCAS</i>	4

Issue Highlights

Welcome to the Winter edition of the LUCAS newsletter! Hear all about our recent activities both in Liverpool and overseas and what we have got coming up, as well as many other great articles!

We hope that you enjoy reading this issue and wish all our members and colleagues a Happy Christmas!



A word from our Director...

It has been an active and exciting few months for LUCAS! We have welcomed 50 students onto our programmes, presented papers at 2 international conferences, hosted a national PhD conference and held a successful public event! We intend to build on our activity in 2006 and hope that you will get involved with LUCAS when you can!

Caroline Williams, LUCAS Director

Death in the Archives Event

LUCAS recently organised another successful one-off public event as part of the Archive Awareness Campaign. Historians at the University of Liverpool joined writers and archivists to discuss stories of death, burial and ritual at a special Hallowe'en event at the city's Metropolitan Cathedral on Saturday 29th October.

LUCAS were able to enlist the expertise of a range of speakers including Alan Crosby, Honorary Research Fellow in the School of History, Dr Julie-Marie Strange, University of Manchester, Paul Newman, Archivist at the Cheshire Record Office and Kate Hallett, Liverpool Record Office.

The four speakers joined Caroline Williams and Margaret Procter and over 100 members of the public at the event which was held in a magnificent venue, the Crypt of the Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral. The excellent attendance shows the level of interest in the subject and is testament to the high profile local publicity that LUCAS were fortunate enough to have secured.

Feedback from the day has shown that everyone who attended had an enjoyable time and were keen to come to future events. One comment made by an attendee highlighted the great success of the event, *'Excellent, absorbing and last but not least fascinating!'* We couldn't have hoped for a more positive response!

A more detailed summary of the day as recorded by two of the MARM students can be found on page 2.

LUCAS' Caroline Williams and Lizzie Woulfe seek the secrets of the dead in Liverpool's St James' Cemetery before the event. (Photo—Daily Post)



Death in the Archives Event Report - Written by Rachel Foss and Rosemary Wynn

On Saturday 29th October Liverpool University Centre for Archive Studies hosted *Death in the Archives*, an afternoon of talks focussing on accounts of mortality on Merseyside. Around 100 people attended the event, which was held under the auspices of the national Archive Awareness Campaign and took place in the splendid and wonderfully apposite surroundings of the Crypt of Liverpool's Metropolitan Cathedral. The first talk was given by Dr Julie-Marie Strange, who spoke about mortality and ritual among the poor in 19th century Liverpool. Her paper sought to challenge the oft-cited supposition of many historians that the poor were in some way insulated from the pain surrounding a death, since it was such a frequent occurrence in often very large families. Drawing her evidence from a variety of sources including the records of Poor Law Guardians, the papers of the Liverpool Medical Officer, Dr Edward Hope and social reformer Eleanor Rathbone, she argued that the working classes felt the incidence of death keenly. Acknowledging the difficulty of recovering the voices of the poor, so often written out of the records handed down to us by posterity, Dr Strange sought instead to engage with these marginalized voices by examining evidences of the customs associated with death and bereavement. Dr Alan Crosby from Liverpool University's School of History then widened the geographical and chronological frames of reference in his paper, 'Natural and Unnatural Death tracking the deceased in the archives', using examples in Lancashire and Norfolk from the 16th to the 19th centuries to discuss the various recordings of death in archival sources. In an entertaining and illuminating talk, Dr Crosby outlined the research potential of sources such as burial registers and coroners' records. He emphasized that death was an ever present threat for the people of the past, and that its figuring as a permanent resonant rather than an occasional visitor, as it is for us today, in no way blunted its impact. Kate Hallett gave an account of a project to catalogue hospital records dating from the late 19th century to the 1980s completed at Liverpool Record Office. She discussed the variety of hospital foundations, the numerous types of records they produced and the difficulties that users can encounter when accessing them. Lastly, Paul Newman from Cheshire Archives spoke about Cheshire people and their wills. He explored the kinds of insights into family, social and religious history that wills and their accompanying inventories of possessions can offer, emphasizing their significance as a unique research resource and giving some advice on how to trace them. A lively question and answer session concluded the event.

A series of engaging talks resulted in a highly informative and successful afternoon which provided much food for thought and useful practical tips and contacts for those engaged in their own family or local history research projects.

LUCAS welcomes new students to Liverpool!

September 2005 saw the arrival of 21 postgraduate students ready to begin studying on the Master of Archives and Records Management programme. Among these budding archivists and records management are four international students, from Tanzania, Australia and Malaysia who are studying on the 'international pathway' that was introduced in 2005.

What better way to welcome our new recruits than with a drinks reception hosted by the Society of Archivists? The event marked the end of the introductory week for the students and gave the perfect opportunity to unwind and make new friends and professional colleagues. A great



Dr Michael Cook welcomes a group MARM students to Liverpool

beginning to an intensive year for the students that we hope will result in their qualification as professional archivists and records managers and the start of successful careers.

Celebrations for more successful DCPS RIM students!

The "Records Management in Government Conference" held in October was the venue for the presentation of awards to another successful cohort on the DCPS:RIM Programme. A total of 33 students were awarded either the *Certificate* or *Diploma in Professional Studies: Records and Information Management*.

Pictured below are 19 of the students who received their awards at the conference with Margaret Procter, Programme Director. Margaret spoke of their success 'This result represents a substantial commitment of time and effort on the part of every student, and I join in offering my congratulations!'



Successful DCPS RIM students celebrate being presented with their awards with Margaret Procter at the Records Management in Government conference in October

**Association of Canadian Archivists:
Conference in Saskatoon 9-11 June 2005**

LUCAS Director Caroline Williams took the opportunity during her period of sabbatical leave to present a paper at the Association of Canadian Archivists Conference in Saskatoon 9-11 June 2005.

The conference attracted speakers and delegates from Australia, the US, Iceland, China and the Cayman Islands – and five speakers from the UK including Caroline.



Caroline prepares to give her lecture at the Association of Canadian Archivists: Conference in Saskatoon

The theme of the conference centred on the relationship between theory and practice and asked for papers to consider how far new concepts in theory had influenced the practice of archivists, and how far changes in practice had influenced theory.

Caroline submitted a paper entitled 'Studying reality: the application of theory in an aspect of UK practice', which considered such issues as where does theory 'come from' and explored the dynamics between deductive and inductive theory, between ideas and pragmatic solutions. On her return from Canada, Caroline has been invited to submit the paper on which this was based for publication in *Archivaria*.

Caroline said of her attendance at the conference 'This was a very good conference with a chance for UK archivists to listen to excellent papers from overseas colleagues. The standard of papers was uniformly high, and it was encouraging to see young archivists delivering thoughtful papers with confidence'

This was another great opportunity for LUCAS to continue developing its international profile in the archives and records management arena.

I - CHORA2 : the second International Conference on the History of Archives and Records.

This conference, held at the University of Amsterdam in September 2005, is the second in a series which has proved increasingly popular. The first I-CHORA was held at the University of Toronto in 2003. LUCAS was represented at it, but there was only one UK contribution there. At this second event in Amsterdam we were much more fully represented.

Margaret Procter gave one of the two overall keynote papers on the first day: 'A slightly special relationship: US and British archivists and historians in the first half of the 20th century'. There were several

papers of interest to British archivists and historians, on the colonial administration in Palestine and the Pacific, and on the development of the charter in English law. Other papers were also of great interest to all of us, for example on the records administration of the International Criminal Tribunals for Yugoslavia and Rwanda, and on the de-Nazification of German archivists after the 2nd World War.

These conferences are proving increasingly popular, especially since they range over such a wide area of human experience. The next one will

be held in Boston in 2007. LUCAS certainly hopes to make a contribution there, and indeed harbours a secret wish to become one of the hosts in future years.

Margaret Procter gives one of the Keynote speeches at I-CHORA2



University Honours for Liverpool Archives Graduate

Dame Stella Rimington, who became the first female Director General of MI5 in 1992, was awarded a Doctorate of Laws during the University's graduation week, in which 4,500 students are graduated.

Dame Stella began her career as an archivist for Worcestershire county Council after being awarded the post-graduate Diploma in the Study of Records and Archives at the University of Liverpool in 1959. Her time at MI5 was a significant one – she was the f

first Director to be named publicly and the first to publish an autobiography. She was made a Dame Commander of the Bath in 1996.

Dame Stella has remained a good friend of LUCAS and we were fortunate to welcome her back to Liverpool in 2004 to deliver the keynote speech at our 6th Annual AGM. It was therefore with great pleasure that LUCAS was able to be present at her honorary graduation.



Dame Stella Rimington and Liverpool University Chancellor Lord Owen celebrate following the honorary graduation ceremony

Forthcoming Events

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
			<p>The 8th Annual LUCAS AGM</p> <p>Is taking place on Wednesday 22nd February 2006 at The University of Liverpool.</p> <p>Guest Speaker will be Dr Nick Barratt, presenter of the popular BBC series 'Who do you think you are', will speak on 'Archives and the media—Who do we think they are and what do they think we're doing'.</p> <p>Contact Lizzie Woulfe on lwoulfe@liverpool.ac.uk or 0151 794 2414 to book your place - Make sure you hurry! We are expecting a high level of interest!</p>			

Have we got news for you?

Is there anything that you would like to see in the next LUCAS newsletter? If you have an idea or suggestion for the next issue we would love to hear from you! E-mail lwoulfe@liverpool.ac.uk with your comments.

LUCAS@

Visit our new look website to find out more information about LUCAS' events, publications and programmes.

www.liv.ac.uk/LUCAS



Would you like to join LUCAS? If so, please complete and send to:
Margaret Procter, Associate Director and Secretary,
LUCAS, 9 Abercromby Square, Liverpool, L69 7WZ

I wish to join LUCAS and enclose cheque / postal order for £10 payable to the 'University of Liverpool'

Name (Block capitals):

Address (Block capitals):