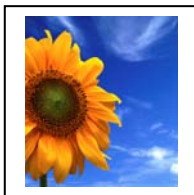

June 2007

Issue 17

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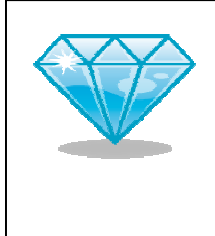
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LIVERPOOL UNIVERSITY

LUCAS

CENTRE *for* ARCHIVE STUDIES

It is our diamond jubilee!!



And to celebrate we are holding a reunion for all those who have been involved with the postgraduate archives and records management course over the last sixty years. See page 2 for more details.

Dear LUCAS members

This is my final newsletter! I have been Director of LUCAS since 1996 but will be leaving at the end of June to take up a new role at The National Archives. Since 1996 LUCAS has achieved a great deal. Looking back over the years I see that by the end of 2007 we will have put on eight public events (from Publishing Local History to Crime in the Archives), and 10 training events for professionals (from Preserving Digital Archives to Interpreting the Photographic Record). We've put on an international conference and produced four publications and at each of our Annual General Meetings we have presented a key note speaker of international repute. This has all been done through the help of a very supportive Executive Committee, whose membership has changed over the years, but who have taken significant responsibility for making a success of all these events. It has been fun working with them all and I am very grateful for all their help and commitment.

But to look forward. We are about to celebrate the 60th anniversary of postgraduate education at Liverpool in July 2007. This diamond jubilee will be celebratory rather than cerebral and all sorts of events are planned. We are welcoming any previous students or teachers on the programme to come and celebrate with us. Further details are on page 4 and do contact Michelle Alexander if you are interested. We are coming to the end of our annual LUCAS seminar series and in October we are putting on an event about popular music and archives aptly entitled 'Pop in the Archives'! (Again more details can be found in this newsletter).

I shall look forward to hearing about all LUCAS's future events and to attending as many of them as I can (starting with the alumni event in July). I am delighted that Margaret Procter, whose contribution to LUCAS as Associate Director has been enormous, will be taking over as Director of LUCAS from July.

With best wishes
Caroline Williams

LUCAS SEMINAR SERIES 2006/07

The seminars were held on 17, 23 and 30 May. We hope to add the papers to our LUCAS website soon.

Drawing the Line: archival sampling strategies in difficult conditions

Paul Sillitoe brought a technical slant to the start of this year's LUCAS Research Seminar Series, with his thought-provoking paper "Drawing the Line: Archival Sampling Strategies in Difficult Conditions".

Paul's AHRC-funded PhD research is aiming for new ways to make technical drawings more understandable for archivists and accessible to researchers. He will seek to develop and apply traditional diplomatic textual analysis theory and methodologies to graphical records, as exemplified by technical drawings.

This innovative approach will rely upon statistical sampling of large numbers of drawings, to try to draw out attributes of structure, contexts and content that are generic to many different types of drawings.

The core of Paul's presentation was a description of the issues that he faced in selecting a sample of technical drawings from his first case study. This was a large and internally diverse accumulation, located in somewhat difficult working conditions. He prefaced the practicalities with a

note of the problems of deciding appropriate accuracy and reliability limits for the sample. He then looked at two practical issues - stratification of the sample, and choosing the most appropriate sampling methods.

He tried to explain the "why's", as much as the "what's" and "how's" of his sampling approach. Lines had to be drawn between pragmatism and rigour, while trying to obtain research results that rest upon a well-founded, repeatable methodology. This was a valuable case study, whose description attracted much useful comment and advice from the audience.



Paul Sillitoe

Life Before Jenkinson: The Prehistory of British archival theory

Margaret Procter (LUCAS) presented the second seminar which was based on her work towards her PhD. MARM students present were familiar with various archival theories, including those of Jenkinson, from their first semester. Margaret looked

back, beyond the most prominent theories, to the period from the mid 19th century to early 20th century. She focused on various elements of the earlier theoretical writings (pre-Jenkinson) and the ways these theories were articulated and disseminated. The most interesting part of her presentation was about the many individuals who shaped archival theory particularly in Britain prior to Jenkinson. Margaret's presentation also shed some light on how these earlier writings and thoughts influenced Jenkinson's writing of the *Manual*. In conclusion, she looked at why Jenkinson's *Manual* achieved its eminence despite being in some aspects narrow and rigid. The conclusion was that Jenkinson was at the right place, at the right time and held the right positions.

The archival educator: perceptions and preoccupations in a changing world

As Caroline Williams' last LUCAS event before she leaves to take up her post at the National Archives the final seminar enjoyed a good turn out and a thought-provoking paper. Caroline examined the role of the archival educator over time both at Liverpool and elsewhere, reflecting on how much had much had changed and what remained the same. As most of those present had done or were currently doing an archival course the paper provoked a good discussion.

9th LUCAS AGM 7 February 2007



Natalie Ceeney

The new Chief Executive of The National Archives, Natalie Ceeney, spoke at LUCAS's 9th AGM on 7 February at the Liverpool Medical Institution. With a management background – ranging from the NHS to the consultancy giant McKinsey – Natalie's appointment has raised some eyebrows among UK historians and archivists, but her presentation looked at the way in which technology can customise and enhance the delivery of traditional archival services to meet individual demand – the 'Amazon' approach.

She also emphasised the importance of continuing and growing partnerships both with the academic community and with local record offices, many of which, in the North West, are institutional members of LUCAS.

Following a question and answer session there was an opportunity to debate policy more informally with local archivists and current postgraduate students over a glass of wine.

GERMAN ARCHIVES VISIT

Kirstin Smith, a student on the MARM course, recently visited three business archives in Germany. She describes the experience and shares her impressions.

As a student on the MARM course, any opportunity to gain further experience or insight into the profession of archives and records management is welcomed. So when such an opportunity arose and I was able to visit some business archives in Germany, I jumped at the chance to learn more about non-British corporate archives. My first visit was to ZDF (Zweites Deutsches Fernsehen), an independent television company located in Mainz, near Frankfurt. My visit consisted of an interview with one of the senior archivists and one of the archivists who worked with digital meta-data, then a tour of the stores (including seeing the Emmy the company received) then a chance to see the online resources the archive service provided for its internal researchers. Along with the BBC, ZDF are using the most high tech methods in the Western world to capture the meta-data of their programmes and to make this data almost immediately available to their researchers and journalists.

The second visit was to the ECB (European Community Bank). Given the unique circumstances

within which the bank operates, the challenges that the records management and archives team face within the ECB are very different from other banks, even the national ones. Again I had an interview with the head Archivist and another member of the archives team. This discussion was particularly interesting as the Head Archivist was English and had previously worked in Britain so we were able to discuss a range of general topics such as standards as well as issues more specific to the ECB itself.

The third visit was to Degussa archives, a German company who have faced major ethical backlash in recent years due to the emergence of evidence that gas used during WWII was manufactured by some of their chemical plants. It was sobering to discover how such information affected all of the employees, both past and present. The need to explain and discover the extent of the company's involvement with the Nazi party was so great that a book was produced and disseminated (free of charge) in both English and German. The archives department was involved heavily in this project and it was interesting to talk to the head archivists and compare this situation with the problems that some companies in Britain have had recently with records which confirm the company's involvement with slavery. I was also given the opportunity to list

and prepare some of their English material for cataloguing. It was fascinating to discover the different principles favored in a different country and the impact that this has on the final catalogue.

The trip overall proved to be an interesting learning experience and certainly helped me to appreciate that some difficulties that archivists have to deal with a common, no matter where one works.

60TH ANNIVERSARY REUNION CELEBRATIONS



1983

The event will be held Thursday 12 – Friday 13 June at Carnatic Halls of residence. Further details can be found on the website at <http://www.liv.ac.uk/lucas/events.htm> or by contacting Michelle Alexander (contact details at bottom left of page 1). All alumni and others who have been closely linked with the course are welcome to attend. **The deadline for booking has been extended to 15 June.**

So far bookings have been received from alumni ranging from the first year of the course (1947/48) right up to the current day with the 2006/07 students hoping to attend some of the celebrations. Several current and past members of staff will also be present.

Places on the Duckmarine have nearly all gone and the morning sessions are filling up fast too. There will still be the option to go into Liverpool and have free time there or to stay at the halls where we have an excellent programme of speakers including Paul Booth (University of Liverpool), Chris Lewis (Victoria County History), Mike Riordan (St John's and the Queen's Colleges, Oxford) and Pat Starkey (University of Liverpool).

As a result of popular demand from those who have to work 12-13 July there is now the option to attend just the drinks reception and dinner for £20. This appears on the new booking form available from the website.

Several photographs and reminiscences have been received but we are still keen to receive more. All contributions will go into the University Archives and a selection will be used in a publication to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the course.

Also LUCAS are keen to stay in touch with alumni and other associates. So if this applies to you please get in touch even if you cannot make the reunion.



2006

Other future events

Autumn 2007 Open Day at LUCAS

We intend to hold another open day following the successful first open day held last autumn. This time it will be in term time so prospective students gain a fuller picture of student life at Liverpool.

13 October 2007 'Pop in the archives' Philharmonic Hall

Following on from our other "in the archives" events we are pleased to announce a music themed event aimed at the general public and linked to Archives Awareness week. There will be speakers from various archives and also footage from the North West Film Archive.

Keep an eye on our website for more details about these events. <http://www.liv.ac.uk/lucas/>

**Margaret Procter, Associate Director and Secretary,
Would you like to join LUCAS? If so, please complete this form and send to:
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):

If you would like information on institutional membership, contact Margaret Procter on 0151 794 2411