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Happy New Year!

It's almost a year since the last issue of the *Newsletter* so there's a lot to catch up!

2011 saw a full busy programme of events, starting in February when our AGM guest speaker Oliver Morley, the Keeper of Public Records, predicting a bright future for archives and one that's well within reach despite the economic uncertainty in the public sector. (See Page 2).

Our training event in October, in conjunction with the NW region of the ARA was on copyright, with Tim Padfield. Tim's ability to make the arcana of intellectual property both relevant and interesting was appreciated by all.

We've had lots to celebrate in the academic sphere, with a Historical Association Prize Winner and two PhD awards, as well as a DLitt – further details on pages.

LUCAS events this year will open on 22 February with our AGM, at which we welcome an international speaker, Dr David Leitch, Executive Secretary of the International Council on Archives. David will be talking about global perspectives on archival work and his talk will be open to all.

Later in the year, we'll be involved with a successful AHRC funded project, 'Memories of Mr Seel's Garden'. In collaboration with academic partners at the University of Manchester's ESRC Centre for Research on Socio-Cultural Change (CRESC), the Royal Commission on the Historic Monuments of Scotland, Edinburgh College of Art and community groups in Liverpool, including the Friends of Everton Park, the Friends of Sudley House and Transition Liverpool, the project will explore how engaging local communities with the changing patterns of food production could contribute to current grassroots efforts within the city to raise awareness of current food issues. LUCAS Executive member Sarah Starkey will be involved with training volunteers in archival research, with Alex Buchanan exploring the volunteers' engagement with archives and how archival research can contribute to an understanding of contemporary food production and consumption. We'll also be involved with a LUCAS event on the deliciously forbidden subject of 'Eating in the Archives'.

2011 AGM – OLIVER MORLEY, THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

Mr. Morley's talk highlighted ten points that represent not only the significant aspects of his first year as Keeper and how he approached them but also the major professional issues faced by archivists and records managers across the public sector: 1, stakeholders in government are vital no matter the level; 2, digital records in archives are not replacing paper archives, but adding to them; 3, serving the public; 4, volunteers; 5, grant funding; 6, technology (keep it simple, be imaginative and pragmatic); 7, financial savings are possible and allow you to face your funding body from a position of strength; 8, expansion; 9, partnerships; and 10, preservation. Mr. Morley considers these ten points key places where archives and records offices can "push forward." A push he hopes will allow archives and record offices to apply for and receive more funding based on their merits as unique cultural organizations and so promote further engagement with the public



With the possible exception of the BBC, Mr. Morley points out, The National Archives is the largest cultural organization in the United Kingdom. "The long-term picture for the archives sector is positive because we're the only people who can provide the legacy and

a future for the record," Morley said after the meeting. Mr. Morley also fielded questions from the audience on the status of archives in the 21st century, the future of the profession, the success of the government's G-cloud.

"It provided a real insight into the strategic aims of the National Archives," said one of Liverpool's MARM students during the reception after Mr. Morley's lecture.

Catherine Bloom, MARM student

WHAT WE'VE DONE

ARCHIVES AND DEAF COMMUNITIES

As one of the oldest sensory impairment charities in the UK, Manchester Deaf Centre (MDC) boasts records dating back 165 years. However, much of the archive is uncatalogued and the Centre had major concerns not only about preserving its historical data, images and artefacts, but also about adequately recording its current activities for future generations. Through her role as a charity inspector FOR The Clothworkers' Foundation, Alex Buchanan became aware of the challenges faced by the MDC. She successfully applied to the University for a Knowledge Exchange (KE) 'Voucher' to kick-start what we hope will be a long-term collaborative project to create a community archive that will bring deaf people's history and stories to life, and foster more effective communication and understanding between deaf and hearing communities.

The KE Voucher has enabled Manchester Deaf Centre and LUCAS to host a unique conference on archives and deaf communities.

The conference, held on 17 May 2011 at the Deaf Centre, brought together respected experts in deaf history and archives to explore existing and potential deaf community archives and share best practice. Papers were presented in both spoken and signed form by Nicola Waddington (archivist) and Deepa Shastri (heritage interpreter) on 'Archives, Memories and Stories', by Rachel O'Neill (University of Edinburgh) on 'Doing Deaf History: Revisiting the Archives', by Peter Jackson (Deaf History Society) on the HLF-funded 'Deaf Roots Project', by John Walker (University of Sussex) on the 'Hidden Histories Archive Project' and by John Hay (University of Wolverhampton) on his Churchill Scholarship funded investigation of the Deaf archival centres in Europe. PDFs of the presentation slides are available on the LUCAS website.

The event provided a fascinating insight into the challenges and opportunities of working in the community archives field and the particular issues faced by the Deaf community worldwide in seeking to create, preserve and exploit their heritage.



LIVERPOOL TRAVEL SEMINAR

THE MATERIALITIES OF TRAVEL WRITING

The Liverpool Travel Seminar is an ongoing collaboration between those interested in travel writing across the different universities in Liverpool. On 23rd May, LUCAS teamed with the seminar to organise an event devoted to the material aspects of travel writing.

Papers were presented by Kevin James (University of Guelph, Canada) on 'Visitors Books and Hotel Culture in Victorian Ireland', a revealing insight into the contents, context and structure of this overlooked record type; by Kirsty Hooper (University of Liverpool) on 'Framing the Edwardian Tourist Gaze: Media and Multimedia in the Booth Line Holiday Tour Archive, 1901-1914', relating to the Liverpool-based shipping line and its links with northern Spain and Galicia; Fabio Pesaresi (University of Urbino) on travel writing in the dispute between Domenico Vandelli and Giovanni Bianchi (1745), showing how scholars used their unpublished travel diaries as evidence in a dispute over scientific advances; Alexandrina Buchanan (University of Liverpool) on the Italian sketchbooks of architectural writers Robert Willis and John Ruskin and Wendy Bracewell (UCL), on 'Book-shaped Objects as Polemical Weapons: The Case of the Maligned Moldavians and the Vilified Wallachians', in which the speaker presented her own 'book shaped object' as part of her presentation!

UK-CHORA: The local record office, past, present and future, 5-6 July 2011

The success of last year's International Conference on the history of Records and Archives, organised at LUCAS, demonstrated that research into the history of archival administration was a growing field. A short conference on the history of provision of local archive services certainly confirmed that assumption.

The conference aimed to give a chronological overview of the development of archive services – with a necessarily broad definition of service. 14 papers were delivered, beginning with the 19th century, progressing through the establishment of CROs and the NRA's county committees, to the (allegedly) 'golden age' of the CRO in the 1960s the present day, and, in a closing paper by Nick Kingsley of TNA, to the future too. Some of the papers will form a special issue of the *Journal of the Society of Archivists* in 2013 while the shorter versions delivered at the conference will be available on the LUCAS website.

En route we considered the effects of legislation, local government reorganisation and class on what and how services were delivered. There was enthusiastic audience participation and a real sense that 'archival history' deserved more attention. We certainly intend to give it that attention and further conferences on the subject are being planned.

CONGRATULATIONS

MARM student is Historical Association prize winner

A new dissertations prize awarded by the Public History Committee of the Historical Association to dissertations has gone to MARM graduate Kate Jarman. Kate was awarded second prize for her 2010 dissertation, an edition of the deposition book of the Consistory Court of Chester, September 1558 – March 1558/9. The judges thought this 'a very solid introduction to the edition of the documents, with a thorough understanding of the work of the consistory court.' You can read about the prize and access Kate's dissertation at http://www.history.org.uk/resources/public_news_1234.html

Paul Sillitoe PhD



The University's December graduation ceremonies are always special events as that's when the MARM students graduate. This year we had extra reasons to celebrate. Paul Sillitoe (pictured here with Margaret Procter, Caroline Williams and Dr Michael Cook) was awarded his PhD for a thesis which assessed the applicability of diplomatic analysis techniques to engineering records. One of eventual aims it to make it easier for archivists faced

with large amounts of apparently impenetrable technical records in multiple versions to make informed judgements on which are 'worth keeping'. The research has also opened up new areas of research into technical records *per se*.

Charlotte Harrison

We're also delighted to report that Charlotte, Lecturer in Archives and Records Management at the University has passed the oral examination for her PhD entitled: 'The role of written records in peasant tenure and litigation: a study of the manor court rolls of Wakefield (Yorkshire) and Alrewas (Staffordshire) before 1381'.

We hope Paul and Charlotte will share their research in the LUCAS seminar series for 2012.

Paul Booth, DLitt

Generations of Liverpool graduates who studied medieval palaeography with Paul Booth will be delighted to learn of his award of DLitt. Although Paul has now retired, he continues to lead the University's Gascon Rolls project and is a member of LUCAS.

NEWS IN BRIEF

New FARMER chair – Alexandrina Buchanan

Liverpool is once again at the head of FARMER, the Forum for Archives and Records Management in Education and Research, which represents the record-keeping education programmes in the UK and Ireland. Following the end of the term of office of Andrew Flinn (UCL), Alexandrina Buchanan has

been elected as the new chair for three years.

International experience for MARM students

At the end of July four MARM students travelled to Marburg, home of one of Europe's oldest and best known European archival schools for an intensive fortnight of study on the topic of appraisal theory and practice.



Marburg Archivschule

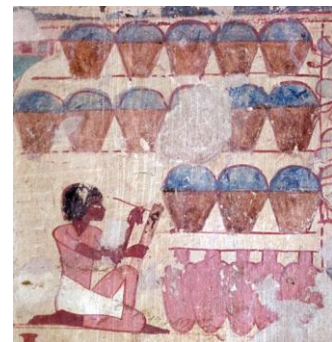
Funded by Erasmus, students from eight different northern European universities (including Amsterdam, Oslo and Tampere) participated in the study school which was incorporated into a MARM module (a first for Liverpool University). Academic staff from the universities concerned (including Margaret Procter from Liverpool) tutored specialist groups and facilitated their group work. At the same time social aspects of international collaboration were not neglected, with a barbecue and closing dinner in particular providing ample opportunity for a mini-version of the Eurovision song contest!

Inter-disciplinarity: a shared taste for public administration, corruption and accountability

There's a common complaint that archivists

only tend to talk to other archivists, especially in terms of their professional literature. This isn't a complaint restricted to archivists of course, but common ground is often difficult to find. One area that has brought academics across disciplines together at Liverpool is the study of the nature and history of bureaucracy.

Margaret Procter with two colleagues from the University's Management School and School of Archaeology and Egyptology have established a research group working on this topic and papers from the first seminar – on 'Bureaucracy, corruption and accountability in historical perspective' held in October 2010 appeared in a special issue (vol 34 no 11) of the *International Journal of Public Administration*. Articles range from Pharaonic Egypt to the Dutch republic.



*Keeping the records straight
in ancient Egypt*

The 2011 seminar on 'representations of bureaucracy', including a paper from Eric Ketelaar, Emeritus Professor of Archivistics at the University of Amsterdam, takes place in October, and further publications are planned. See

www.liv.ac.uk/state-admin