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Contact LUCAS at
9 Abercromby Square
Liverpool L69 7WZ
e-mail: lucas@liv.ac.uk
tel: 0151 794 2411
fax: 0151 794 3153

Happy New Year!

Our Newsletter has now become an annual publication, reflecting the move towards making the web our main means of communication.

2012 again saw a busy programme of events, starting in February when our AGM guest speaker, Dr David Leitch, Executive Secretary of the International Council on Archives. David gave a fascinating talk about global perspectives on archival work, which prompted some lively but goof-humoured debate with the audience.

In May, our 'In the Archives' event was devoted to eating and was held in association with the AHRC-funded 'Memories of Mr Seel's Garden' project (see p.000). We had an excellent attendance of over 80 members of the public in the delightful surroundings of Croxteth Hall.

Our 2011-12 students proved another excellent cohort, most of whom have already gone on to excellent jobs, including in local records offices, TNA and a wide variety of private and corporate recordkeeping roles. We have also been delighted that two have continued with us as PhD students (see p.000).

LUCAS events this year will open on 13 February with our first training event: New Directions in Cataloguing (see p.000). Our AGM will be held on 18 April – more news about this nearer the time. Following another successful AHRC bid (see p.6), our 2013 'In the Archives' event will be devoted to time.

MARM Open Days are now a regular and very popular part of our calendar, usually taking place in May and November. These are advertised on Archives-NRA and on our website, so please tell volunteers and potential applicants to look out for announcements.

**2012 AGM – David Leitch,
International Council on
Archives**

**AGM lecture: “A race
against time?”**



Dr David Leitch

Our speaker for the 14th LUCAS AGM was Dr David Leitch, Secretary General of the International Council on Archives. The ICA was established in the aftermath of World War 2 and works to advocate the importance of archives and records through a structure of special interest sections and regional organisations which undertake their own projects and programmes. While the ICA has always emphasised the need for archives from an accountability perspective, it has developed over the last couple of decades in particular, an explicit commitment to global solidarity between archival institutions at national level – and between individual practitioners. The most visible result of this work for individual archivists has perhaps been the publication and adoption of descriptive standards,

starting with ISAD(G), and, more recently the introduction of practical tools such as ICA-AtOm, the free cataloguing software. The ICA has also a very strong

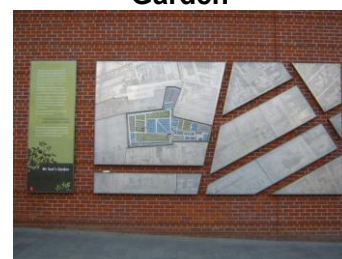
track record in supporting the human rights aspects of archival management.

Starting with Michael Cook in the 1970s, LUCAS has had a continuing connection with the ICA: Michel was involved with the creation of ISAD(G) (which is heavily influenced by his existing work on descriptive standards and the *Manual of Archival Description*), ; Caroline Williams was an active member of the Section of Archival Education visiting South America and China to speak about developments in professional education and while Margaret Procter now heads the editorial board of the ICA journal *Comma*. MARM students, are encouraged to ‘think globally’ and in the past few years have successfully gained first level entry jobs at the UN and agencies of the EC, as well as graduate traineeships at the European Central Bank. We

were therefore very pleased that, before the AGM, David Leitch was also able to lead a class about the ICA and internationalisation specifically for the students.

David Leitch, a Scot, became Secretary General of the ICA in August 2008 leaving the TNA (where he had worked before 2003 with the Historical Manuscripts Commission). His AGM talk addressed ‘The survival of the archival profession in the 21st century’, a topic of relevance to archives and archivists at any level, Acknowledging that our survival was, perhaps, ‘A Race Against Time’ (the talk’s subtitle), he emphasised the importance of advocacy to (at least) keeping up in that race and the need for us to engage actively with resource providers to ensure that the dire consequences of not maintaining adequate recordkeeping systems – both in current and cultural contexts - were fully understood.. .

**WHAT WE’VE DONE
‘Memories of Mr Seel’s
Garden’**



*Map showing Mr Seel’s
Garden on Seel Street*

Throughout 2012, Alex Buchanan and other members of the LUCAS executive have been involved with an exciting project funded by the AHRC ten Pilot Demonstrator Projects aimed at showcasing the distinctive approach of the

new 'Connected Communities' research theme. The project is a collaboration between Transition Liverpool, Friends of Everton Park and the Friends of Sudley Estate, as well as academics from Liverpool, Manchester, Glasgow and Edinburgh. The main aim of the project is to explore how engaging local communities with the changing patterns of urban food production might contribute to current grassroots efforts within Liverpool to raise awareness around current food issues.

The project was originally inspired by a set of plaques located around the corner from the main entrance to a Tesco Superstore on the outer edges of Liverpool ONE (above). The plaques reproduce an 18th-Century map of the area, with the description stating that this area was once 'Mr Seel's Garden'. Drawing the contemporary viewer into a lost past, the description states: "you are standing on what was the garden, represented by an asterisk".

The uncanny juxtaposition of current and historic food systems, made visible by this map, has been commented on by a number of Liverpool local food activists. The vivid experience it produces, draws together multiple elements - food, maps, history - to paint a complex picture of the changing nature of communities and the systems that connect them together.

The research project has involved three strands: archive research in the Merseyside Maritime Museum, where we've looked at Bills of Entry to

explore the role of Liverpool as a national and international trading hub and in the Liverpool University Special Collections, where we've studied cookery books and resources relating to local food production; map research in the University's Geographical Information Centre and oral history research.

could mark the locations of food related sites. He quickly enthused everyone with the possibilities that the maps contained. The volunteers studied the maps, mentally wandering around areas they knew imagining the streets one hundred and sixty years ago. Much amazement was expressed at the proximity of court dwellings to much more salubrious housing;



Volunteers researching in Special Collections

Tinho da Cruz reports on the map strand: 'Readers are always astounded at the quantity of detail to be found on Ordnance Survey large-scale material and the participants of the map workshops were no exception. The 1840s five-foot (1:1056 or five feet to one mile) plans of Liverpool kept many engrossed as they sought out evidence for food storage, processing or even production. Others looked at more recent 1:2500 or the six-inch (1:10560) sheets for the same clues. The session facilitator, Dr Alex Hale of The Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland, had brought down copies of the maps on which participants

the rich and poor were cheek-by-jowl. I was on hand not just to act as host and make the coffee, but also to answer questions of a cartographic nature; such as 'What does this WP stand for?' Water Plug or Wooden Peg being my somewhat unsatisfactory answer in that instance. I also showed some pre-OS maps county maps of Lancashire, but as these were much less detailed they did not hold the attention for long. Unsurprisingly some participants wavered from the project towards their own genealogical research and others became intrigued with the history of the site of their home. All, however, were delighted with what the maps had to reveal to them.'

Our research has been disseminated at a number of events: besides 'Eating in

the Archives', we've been involved with Liverpool's 'Light Night', the Local History Fair at St George's Hall and the Hope Street Festival. The final event of the project took place on 27th January, including a theatrical performance (developed in association with theatre expert Liz Postlethwaite) and poetry by volunteer participant Eleanor Rees, both based on the oral history recordings and the launch of our postcards and food-hacking products, including an i-Phone app will read food barcodes and send back quotations and stories from our research.



Feedback from participants, both in the research and in the dissemination events has been extremely positive: everyone has found the research fascinating and several participants have become regular archive users or have seen new potential in archive research to inform their community projects. We've shown that history is a powerful tool, both for community engagement and for developing a deeper understanding of our local environment and the issues we face in developing a sustainable future.

You can find out more and download an i-Phone app at <http://www.mrseelsgarden.org/index.html>

EATING IN THE ARCHIVES

Although part of the 'Mr Seel' portfolio, 'Eating in the Archives' was also a LUCAS event and was one of the most successful we've run. Publicity on BBC Merseyside ensured an excellent turn-out and Croxteth Hall, with its long history of fine dining and its active home farm and walled garden, was a perfect venue for the event.

The speakers were Michelle Bastian, who introduced the event with a description of the aims and approach of the Mr Seel's Garden project. Her paper was followed by Ben Bennett from the Scottish Council on Archives, whose 'Edible Archive' project has involved the discovery of a number of Scottish archival recipes – several of which have been tried and sampled at some popular events. The next speaker, Alex Buchanan, based her talk on the archives of The Clothworkers' Company, one of the Great 12 Livery Companies in the City of London. The archive includes a shopping list for their election dinners in 1560-1562 – a feast of roasted heron, boiled capon with gooseberry sauce, and swan pudding. The Co-op always prompts popular memories and the talk of the next speaker, Adam Shaw, was no exception as he recounted the history of the co-operative movement, Co-op stores in Liverpool and the Co-op's local food

production plants. The event concluded with the ever-popular film show from the NW Film Archive. Marion Hewitt shared clips of clocking on at the biscuit factory, rare footage of a wartime birthday meal and a 1920s cautionary film about the dangers of building your own automatic timer for a gas oven!

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

The next LUCAS training event will be held on Wednesday 13 February, entitled New Directions in Cataloguing.

The next LUCAS AGM will be held on Thursday 18 April, at which the speaker will be Prof Chris Woolgar of the University of Southampton.

For further details of these and other events, please see the LUCAS website.

CONGRATULATIONS DR MARGARET PROCTER

After a brace of PhDs last year, we were delighted that Margaret Procter completed the hat trick by successfully defending her thesis, investigating the development of archival practice and theory in England before the first world war. The thesis centred on Hubert Hall, an assistant keeper at the PRO between 1879 and 1921. Hall was one of a number of PRO officers who wrote extensively on archival management at the turn of the twentieth century but who have been largely forgotten. It's hoped that the thesis will contribute contribution toward wider

examination of our early professional history. The thesis can be accessed online at <http://research-archive.liv.ac.uk/6693/>

BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENTS

On 14 August 2012, Dr Charlotte Harrison (née Swire) gave birth to Daniel Charles, a healthy 10lb 7oz boy. Charlotte is at present on maternity leave – we look forward to welcoming her back later in the year.

Daniel therefore joins Philippa Clare Cavaco da Cruz, daughter of Tinho (born 17/08/2009) and Joseph George Whitby, son of Simon (born 25/03/2011) as the junior members of the LUCAS executive.

NEW PUBLICATIONS

2012 saw the publication of two articles by Alex Buchanan. The first, in *Archivaria*, entitled 'Cardiff and Miller's Road Trip: Between Archive and Fiction', developed the ideas first presented in the LUCAS seminar series on Art and Evidence in 2009. The second, published in *Architectural History*, used the Willis and Clark archive in the Cambridge University Library to explore the changing use of archival evidence in architectural history.

NEWS IN BRIEF

TRIP TO HARNOSAND, SWEDEN

At the end of July four MARM students and their tutors travelled to

Harnosand, home of the Mid-Sweden University, with its newly established record-keeping programme for an intensive fortnight of study on the topic of appraisal theory and practice. *Appraisal workshop*

Funded by Erasmus, students from eight different northern European countries (including Germany, Norway, Finland and

differentiating these graduates from other PhDs exiting from the History department. Although it's always been possible to undertake record-related doctoral study at Liverpool, the opportunities have now been made more visible with the launch of a specific programme for PHD Archive and record studies. See <http://www.liv.ac.uk/study/postgraduate/research/> for



Students in a workshop

Belgium, as well as Britain and Sweden) participated in the study school, which built on the experience of Marburg last year (see newsletter number 25)! As well as visits to a local outdoor museum and a Cold War defensive bunker, appraisal theories were tested in practice on a selection of chocolates from the participating countries!

NEW PhD PATHWAY

The recently-reported PhD successes have been cause for celebration – but an anomaly has remained that there is no evidence

more details. We currently have two full-time students on the programme both conducting interdisciplinary research – on the policy context for developing record-keeping curricula in higher education (jointly supervised with the Management School) and on community archives (jointly supervised with Archaeology from an ethnographical perspective.

DCPS ARM GOES DIGITAL

The DCPS ARM programme was launched in 2002 aimed at paraprofessionals and professionals in other areas who had acquired archival

responsibilities. Since then we have had a number of students working in organisations ranging from schools and museums to The Big Lottery and the War Graves Commission. We've also had students from abroad, including an employee of the European Bank and head of the National Archives of the Falkland Islands (who completed her diploma in the year of the 30th anniversary of the Falklands War).

The decision has been taken that to further develop the course, the next step is to enhance its digital component, which is being achieved with the help of Paul Duvall eLearning Unit at the University of Liverpool. This project has included a specifically arranged photo shoot within the Liverpool Special Collections & Archives to provide images for the e-learning website.

A blog post was recently created by the e-Learning Unit, which showcased the project. This has become one of the most popular blog posts the team has ever created, with many visits from all over the world. For the full article please visit <http://elearningatliverpool.wordpress.com/2012/11/29/diving-into-the-archives/>.

The first cohort of e-learners have just been recruited and are due to start in February 2013.

JEWELS IN THE CROWN

LUCAS Executive member Michael Cook attended the British Records Association (BRA)'s meeting and reports back:

'The archives of empire are all over the news at present, what with the awful revelations of what went on in Kenya, and the surprises over Mrs Thatcher's Falkland Islands dithering. That is no doubt why the British Records Association chose the theme for its annual conference this winter.

The conference included six substantial papers, all by established authorities, and covering a wide range of topics. One of them came near to being a hot topic, dealing with the records of the alleged genocide of the indigenous population in Tasmania. Then we had new developments in the India Office archives (nowadays part of the British Library's extensive record holdings), Commonwealth and African holding at the Bodleian (what we used to think of as the Rhodes House collection). Next came research into Near Eastern history, which might indeed have a bearing on political action, and then records of a family archive arising from plantation records in the West Indies. The conference was very well attended, and (the real test) there were questions from well-informed people for every speaker. The BRA is to be congratulated in sustaining alert interest from a large audience who had to sit for five or six hours. The BRA has a solid record of activities that bring together public voices, academics and practitioners in the archive field that stretches back to the 1930s.

The best bit came last, after the tea break. The Wadsworth Lecture was given by (Lord) Peter

Hennessy, who gave a lively and amusing account of his years of work as an archive user at Kew and other places. If this is to be published it will be an intriguing and catalytic experience, as well as a bit of fun. We all ought to see the lighter moments of hours in the search room, and they can be important too.'

TIME AND ALTERNATIVE ECONOMIES

LUCAS has been involved with another successful AHRC bid, this time from the new 'Care for the Future' theme. Alex Buchanan will be part of an interdisciplinary team exploring the link between shifting experiences of time and alternative economies. The pilot project asks whether the rising interest in new economic models might also bring with it different approaches to time. That is, if industrial capitalism is often linked with clock time, and late capitalism with a speeded up, 24/7 network time, what might be the time of a more sustainable economy? The project will look at both past and present shifts in labour relations and will include archive research and ethnographic field work. Partners on the project include Cooperatives UK, the new economics foundation, Transition Network and the Permaculture Association. You can find out more at <http://www.temporalbelongings.org/time-and-alternative-economies.html>