FNLA
Friends of the Newsam Library and Archives
FNLA, Information Services, Institute of Education, 20 Bedford Way, London, WC1H 0AL
Chair: Anne Peters  Hon. Sec.: Natalie Zara

Interim Meeting 9th May 2007

NEW LIBRARY SEMINAR ROOM, INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION

In attendance: Natalie Zara (Chair); Claire Drinkwater; Katie Mooney (minutes); David Medd; Diana Guthrie, Marcos Guillen, Grace Rose.

Katie Mooney gave the first talk on the National Preservation Assessment Survey, covering why we did the survey and how it was carried out. Natalie Zara gave the second presentation on cataloguing including how archival collections are deposited and catalogues, the archives preservation strategy, concluding with an overview of the archival collections which have been catalogued since October 2007. Claire Drinkwater gave a presentation on Special Collection projects and their progress, including microfilming the pamphlet collection; geography textbooks project, and the repackaging of the early Institute theses for transportation to off-site storage.

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Norman Graves, Claudia Clarke, David Watson, Harvey Goldstein.

2. Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the October’s AGM were approved by FNLA.

3. Matters Arising

Natalie Zara briefly introduced the session in the absence of Anne Peters and announced that the Friends had received charitable status which allows the FNLA to claim gift aid on all donations/subscriptions and access to a wider range of funding. It was also announced that the FNLA had received a donation of £200 from Lady Vallance and thanked her for her donation which was received with her life membership.

4. Annual Update

Natalie Zara announced that FNLA now had 34 members. 12 of which are life members, 21 individual members, 1 corporate member.
The 5th Newsletter had been written and distributed. It had been decided after the initial appeal for members the newsletter would now be sent to members only.

The 1st study afternoon was a success and members have already received information about the 2nd study afternoon on 27th June on the History of the Institute held in conjunction with the History of Education Society. This is planned to be held in the Seminar Room, but other plans may be made if demand for places is as great as the first study afternoon.

The Archives are currently writing subject theme guides to their collections which will be available on in hard copy and on the website and were produced for examination at the meeting. Three have been produced so far (School Architecture and Design, Comparative Education, and Progressive Education) which were produced at the meeting. Initially the Archives are planning to write 8 difference guides but asked for suggestions for any further guides. Grace Rose suggested Adult Education as an additional topic.

Natalie Zara also announced that the Archive’s web pages have been fully transported into the new Content Management System (CMS) and she is in the process of making the Archives catalogue database available on the web site.

4. Treasurer’s Report

Claire Drinkwater presented the interim Treasurer’s Report from August 2006-April 2007. In August 2005 the FNLA authorised the use of funds to pay for binding and general conservation of collections. The Treasurer announced this had been used to rebind fragile volumes in the ‘Sadler reports’ series and the Reports of the Committee of Council on Education, 1880-1881. Claire produced samples of the work already completed by Chivers-Period Bookbindery, including examples where delicate pages had been encapsulated. Claire was asked if it would be more convenient to have access to a freelance or in-house conservator. Claire answered that a conservation studio would be costly to set up and would need to employ a professional conservator. Claire stated that this may be a possibility in the future as the Library may have the opportunity to use facilities at University College London where there are plans for a specialist conservation studio at the Institute of Cultural Studies, which may be available for other members of the University of London. The FNLA were also informed that the expenses for Friend’s activities would be taken from the FNLA budget, such as catering for meetings/study days.

5. Discussion of Proposals for the Future

Natalie Zara asked if any one could suggest additional activities for the FNLA or any suggestions for future study days or presentations. Asked if students who used the Archives could be encouraged to talk about how they use the collections and their research. Confirmed there were PhD students who used the archives frequently who could be asked. Attendees were asked if there where any activities that the Friends would like to support financially. More information about the collections was suggested. Claire
Drinkwater said there were plans to create an introductory guide to the Special Collections and more subject guides were being written in the Archives. It was also suggested that the FNLA could organise visits to other library/archives. Natalie Zara offered the possibility of doing a tour of the Senate House archives. Other suggestions included Education Settlement in Birmingham, Institute of Career Guidance Archives, and Mass Observation Archives. Natalie Zara recommended that it would be simpler to start with local visits first and suggested maybe one of the Friends would like to organise the visits. It was also suggested that the visits could be used to bring in more student members.

6. Any other business

Marcos Guillen highlighted that this year was the 70th anniversary of the evacuation of Basque children during the Spanish Civil War. Many returned to Spain but some stayed in the UK. A group has been set up to bring all the children together. The children were taught at local schools/specially set up Basque schools/ or received on education.

More suggestions for subject guide titles including open air schools; health; role of HMI 1945-1970; teacher training (David Medd recommending contacting Len Marsh).

It was also suggested that the FNLA was publicized at external events to try to increase membership such as CILIP conferences. Also suggested that the FNLA could send information to other educational organisations and colleges/universities with education departments, especially concentrating on the benefits of reduced reader tickets costs.