Friends of the Newsam Library and Archives
Institute of Education, 20 Bedford Way, London,
WC1H 0AL
Chair: Sarah Aitchison Hon. Sec.: Rebecca Webster

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, 14th August 2014

Library Teaching Room, 20 Bedford Way

In attendance: Sarah Aitchison (Chair), Becky Webster (Secretary), Gene Adams, Alexandra Hall, Beverley Hinton, Gwyneth Price, Jessica Womack, Claire Drinkwater, Trevor Jagger.

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Diana Guthrie and Margaret Spencer.

2. Approval of Minutes

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

3. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising

4. Annual Report

Sarah Aitchison reported on the work of the Friends over the past year.

The FNLA now has 52 members. Currently there are 34 annual members (4 students), 14 life members and 2 corporate members. We have recently completed another membership campaign and hope to welcome new members soon.

The annual study day was held in March with the title ‘Anthem for doomed youth’: exploring conflict and resolution through archives. External speakers for the day were Walter Lewis, Honorary Archivist of the BFES/SCE Association, Professor Stuart Hall, and Dr Barry Blades.

Next year’s event will mark three important anniversaries: 50 years since the issuing of Circular 10/65 on comprehensive education, 50 years since the foundation of the ILEA and, then the 25th anniversary of its abolition in 1990.

The Chair reported on the work of the two Archive and Collections Assistants partially funded by the Friends. The two students have completed a number of important tasks for us including repackaging of the Medd and Ray Archives, listing IOE letter books, and the sorting of the Examinations papers, as well as helping us around the
office immensely. Their work has helped improve the preservation of, and access to, a number of our collections.

The creation of a display for the ISCHE2014 conference, which was also partially funded by the Friends was completed on time and under budget and will be on display at the IOE until autumn 2014.

Finally, a new logo had been created for the Friends by our volunteer Victor Garcia Gabarda.

5. Treasurer's Report

Income figures attached. The Friends currently has £7228.07 (as of 31st July 2014)

The main expenditure for the year was £3 000 towards the employment of two Archives and Collections Assistants. It was agreed this should be supported for another year.

6. Discussion of current projects and future activities

There has been a substantial increase in the number of archive researchers over the last year.

This year the Archive Team has also developed an extensive public engagement programme. The Education Co-ordinator has been using the archive of the National Union of Women Teachers to create and deliver school workshops for all ages from Key Stage 1 to A-Level. Oral histories have been created on people’s experiences of education in London, and of evacuation during the Second World War. Adult education events have been held in partnership with London Metropolitan Archives and HHALL. Volunteers have also been working on a range of projects including the digitisation of the first volume of the Woman Teacher. Funding has been secured to employ the Education Co-ordinator for a further year (until summer 2015).

The Archives Team has also been developing procedures and policies for the collections development and care of digital archives.

Funding has been secured from Wellcome to catalogue the administrative archive of the Centre for Longitudinal Studies. An archivist will be employed for 18 months to complete this work. An application is being submitted to the National Cataloguing Grants Programme to secure funding to catalogue the archive of Joseph Lauwerys. The decision will be made in mid-October. Funding has also been secured to employ an Archive Assistant to focus on digitisation. One year contracts will run for the 2014/15 and 2015/16 academic years. During the first year the Assistant will focus on piloting the digitisation of the College of Preceptor’s Educational Times.

New archive collections include: Caroline Benn, Professor Keith Jones, and Children’s Rights Alliance for England (CRAE).

The Chair gave an update on the proposed merger between the IOE and UCL.

A new Curriculum Resources librarian has been employed.

Librarians (with Gwyneth Price, Clair Drinkwater and Stephen Pickles) have been sorting and weeding the historical textbooks collection. The Examinations papers collection has been sorted and weeded in preparation for a funding bid to digitise the
collection (£300k is being sought from Wellcome). The Comparative Education collection has also been sorted and weeded.

7. Any Other Business

Gene Adams reported on the ILEA design collection from the 1950s which is housed at an art school. The school is seeking advice on cataloguing the collection. In the future. The collection could potentially be made publicly accessible.