Staff News

Baby Jamie
Our Archivist, Sarah Aitchison, officially went on maternity leave in November 2006 and we are delighted to announce the arrival of James John Aitchison (to be known as Jamie), who was born on 21st December 2006.

Change of role
In Sarah’s absence, Natalie Zara, the Assistant Archivist and Secretary of the Friends, is taking over in the role of Acting Archivist.

New Staff
We are also pleased to announce the arrival of temporary Assistant Archivist, Katie Mooney, part-time Archives Assistant, Hayley Thomas, and a part-time Volunteer Archives Assistant, Anne Archer. In addition, another temporary part-time Archives Assistant, Evike Galajda is joining us specifically to help with our NPO surveys project (see back page).

Next Friends Meeting
The next meeting of the Friends of the Newsam Library and Archives will be held at 2 p.m. on Tuesday 1st May 2007, in the New Seminar Room of the Institute of Education Library. You will be sent further details nearer the time but remember to keep the date free! All members are welcome to attend.

If you wish to reserve a place now, please do so by contacting Natalie Zara – by post addressed to the Institute Archives; by telephone to 0207 911 5568; or by email to n.zara@ioe.ac.uk.

More Storage
With the special collections and archives ever expanding, we have happily secured another archival store, complete with roll out shelving! We have also installed rolling stacks in our existing Store 3, increasing capacity, and also making it more convenient to use. This should mean that we can make even more of our collections accessible.
At the heart of the Newsam Library’s Special Collections is the History of Education Collection, of books on education published before 1918. These contemporary accounts are an invaluable resource for historians, and make this the key collection among all our older materials. Approximately 1130 volumes date from before 1850 (the era of hand printing); the remaining 9,000 are from the later 19th century and the early 20th, their greater number reflecting both the arrival of mass production in the printing industry and the increasing importance of education to government and society, up to and beyond the introduction of compulsory schooling in 1870.

The collection has been built up from a number of sources. The nucleus was purchased for the library, especially by D. J. Foskett, Librarian from 1957 to 1978. Later this collection was combined with that of the College of Preceptors. A further significant addition came with the deposit on permanent loan of older materials from the Department for Education and Skills, including a valuable collection of pamphlets, dating from the 18th to the early 20th centuries, and totalling 151 bound volumes.

The oldest items in the collection in the original editions are from the 17th century. The earliest are still in the ubiquitous Latin: John Stockwood’s Disputatiuncularum: grammaticus libellus…., a fifth edition of a work of 1634, and the Polyglot edition of Comenius’ Janua linguarum, from 1646. Other treatises on education appear in English: Richard Allestree’s The ladies calling from 1673 complements Obadiah Walker’s Of education: especially of young gentlemen from 1687; our oldest copy of John Locke’s Some thoughts concerning education is a fourth edition dated 1699. There are also early textbooks from this period, such as The young clerk’s companion: or a manual for his daily practice, published in London in 1668.

The earliest works in the collection were originally published in the 16th century. We are not fortunate enough to have an original copy of any of these, however, but must rely on later reprints and edited scholarly editions. They include items such as: Erasmus’ The praise of folly, originally published in Latin in 1509, and represented in our collection by a 1913 edition of John Wilson’s 1668 translation; Sir Thomas Elyot’s The boke named the governour, first published 1531, in an 1883 edition; several editions of Roger Ascham’s The Scholemaster, the earliest dating from 1711; and The ABC both in Latyn and Englyshe: being a facsimile reprint of the earliest extant English reading book, the original published in 1547 and the facsimile in 1889.

Comenius: Janua Linguarum, 1646

Richard Allestree: The Ladies Calling, 1673

Roger Ascham: The Schoolmaster, 1711
Biography Study Day Report

On 25th January 2007 we held the first of our bi-annual study afternoons. The theme was ‘Learning through Lives’, focussing on research through biographical sources.

Dr Jane Martin, Reader in Education, IoE, spoke first, on London’s Feminist Teachers and Social Action. She looked at the way in which women teachers fought for equal pay and the lifting of the marriage bar in the early 20th century. In particular, she examined the work of Florence Key, a London-based teacher whose husband, Charles, was also politically active.

Dr David Crook, Senior Lecturer in History of Education, IoE, was the next speaker, on The Multiple Lives of Sir Ernest Graham-Little, MP. Graham-Little was a doctor who served as a Member of Parliament for London University from 1924 until the university franchise was abolished. He was a strong opponent of socialism and the National Health Service, but a supporter of the Footpaths Association, an upholder of the Empire and an advocate of wholemeal bread!

After tea, Anjali Kothari, a PhD student presented part of her thesis on Gender and Generation: Life Histories of Indian Mothers and Daughters. Inspired by her own experiences, she has interviewed mothers and daughters in India about their ideas of arranged marriage. She talked about how the attitude of her own family, who wanted her to marry early despite being extremely supportive of her academic career, surprised her; she has since found that this is a common theme in India.

Natalie Zara, the archivist at the IoE, gave the last talk of the day. She provided a brief background to the University Archives; talked about the main types of biographical sources; gave examples from the deposited collections; and, looked at how researchers can gain access to the Institute Archives and other archives around the UK.

All in all, it was a very successful afternoon. We hope to hold the next Study Afternoon in June in conjunction with the History of Education Society, so watch this space!

In the first half of the nineteenth century the volume of material published is already increasing rapidly, and our collection includes some 972 titles, again ranging over educational theory and more practical works of instruction.

Once education has arrived on the political agenda, publication on the subject increases dramatically, and the remainder of the collection dates from after 1850.

Obadiah Walker: Of Education, 1687

By the eighteenth century the number of titles in the collection has grown to nearly 200, including both works about education, including several specifically on the education of women, and examples of early textbooks for a range of subjects. From this period, for instance, we have early editions of the Rousseau’s works on education and also works such as Sarah Fielding’s The governess, or, Little female academy (1758) and Mary Wollstonecraft’s Thoughts on the education of daughters (1786)

Sarah Fielding: The Governess, 1758
New acquisitions

Our main new acquisition for the Archives has been the deposited collection of the papers of Hilde Jarecki.

Hilde Jarecki came to England and was involved in bringing children safely to Britain via The Kindertransport. She spent around 20 years working as the Senior Professional Advisor for the London Playgroup Association. As part of her involvement, early on she carried play equipment to the new playgroups, gave advice to members, organised meetings and had a major role in the playgroup movement. Hilde was the first person to introduce mothers helping in the playgroup that their child attended. She is perhaps best known for her book *Playgroups: a Practical Approach*, which was published by Faber in 1975.

Elsewhere in the deposited collections we have received photographs, letters and papers relating to the British Forces in Education Services collection, and, more papers for the Brian Simon archive.

In addition, we have received a number of new acquisitions for the Institute Archive including Diploma in Education and Curriculum Studies Materials.

A major addition to the Special Collections is a gift of approximately 1,000 old textbooks from York St John University. These cover a range of subjects, including geography, mathematics and science. They date mainly from the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, which complements our existing holdings of later twentieth century materials.

Cataloguing Progress

With such a strengthened team of archivists, cataloguing progress has been steady and very productive.

We are pleased to announce that the following collections are now completely catalogued and can be accessed via appointment in the Search Room:

- Papers of Hilde Jarecki (HJ)
- Records of the Child Development Society
- Records of the British Association for International and Comparative Education (formerly the British Comparative and International Education Society)

Furthermore, the following collections are being catalogued at present and should be available to researchers in the next few months:

- Papers of Eileen Molony
- Papers of William Michael Duane
- Records of the Forest School Camps

NPO surveys

Over the past year, we have been working to complete NPO (National Preservation Office) Preservation Assessment Surveys of all our collections. The PAS is a standard tool, developed and administered by the NPO, which allows Libraries and Archives to assess the preservation needs of their collections, using a standard sampling technique. The results of the survey are fed back to the NPO for analysis, and added to their growing national database, enabling comparisons to be made between depositories, and a national picture to be built up.

We have already surveyed the Library’s main open access collections, the survey of Special Collections is at the data entry stage, and the final survey of our Archive collections is in progress.

Not yet a Friend?

The Friends support the future development of the Newsam Library and Archives as a unique resource for research in education, and especially its role in preserving the UK’s educational heritage by acting as a national centre for archives and special collections.

To join the Friends, contact Natalie Zara, Assistant Archivist, Institute of Education, 20 Bedford Way, London WC1H 0AL. Tel: 020 7911 5568 email: n.zara@ioe.ac.uk