As reported in our recent correspondence to members we have a new Assistant Archivist with us until summer 2012. Kathryn Hannan joins us from the Wessex Film and Sound Archive where she was working on the ‘Revitalising the Regions’ project – itself part of a larger Screen Heritage UK project. Whilst with us Kathryn will be working on the project to catalogue the records of the National Union of Women Teachers (NUWT). Kathryn Meldrum has also just joined us for four months. During this time she will be cataloguing some of our deposited collections and helping with reader services.

On the library side of things Claire Drinkwater, our Special Collections Librarian and Treasurer of the Friends, retired in May and we wish her a long and happy retirement. Our new Research Support and Special Collections Librarian, Nautil Bhimani, joined us at the beginning of August. As part of her role she will be working with the archivists to promote the archives and special collections amongst students here at the Institute. She joins us from Christ’s College, University of Cambridge where she held the post of College Librarian.

Cataloguing Progress

We are pleased to say that our plan to catalogue the photographic archive of the Architects and Building Branch (ABB) has now been completed. The catalogue for this massive collection, comprising 1900s photographs on school architecture and school life from the 1940s to the 1990s, is now fully available online. Jessica (who completed the work) has also been working to promote the collection to new user groups.

The records of the Collegiate Division, forming part of the institutional archive are also now fully listed. Although the list is not yet online researchers are able to come and use the collection and we will be working hard over the next year to complete further listing of the IOE’s archive to improve access.

Update on our project to catalogue the NUWT archive

By Kathryn Hannan

I am now over one third of the way through the cataloguing and have catalogued 141 boxes. The range of subjects continues to surprise me in its diversity – recent finds include records from a Cypriot women teacher on the situation for women teachers in Cyprus, a great deal of material on the campaign to pass the Nationality of Married Wives Bill, ephemeral material from hotels and venues advertising their menus and facilities, post-war reconstruction in Britain and aid to countries affected by the war throughout Europe, NUWT Equal Pay for Equal Work campaigns, including campaigns they carried out during the Annual National Union of Teachers conference, and material on Air Raid Precautions.

In amongst all these varied subject files I have also been finding boxes of branch records which give us a real insight into the day-to-day running of the branches, including branch involvement in national campaigns, local campaigns, membership drives, problems with keeping up attendance figures at meetings and the account and organisation of the branch.

The project will be completed on time and we are planning to hold a reception to celebrate the completion of the project at the end of May 2012.

We will, of course, be in touch to invite all our Friends to thank you for supporting the project.

Staff news

New archives

Cataloguing progress

Featured collection: records of the BFESSCE Association

Study afternoon

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New Archives

It’s been a busy year for the archives and we’ve received twelve new collections as well as a number of additions to existing collections. One factor that is becoming increasingly frequent with archive deposits is the hybrid nature of collections – comprising both paper and electronic records. We are currently working to develop a digital archive repository to ensure their appropriate management and preservation. We will give you a full update of what we have been doing once it’s fully functional, but in the meantime here is an overview of what has come in over the last few months:

In our last newsletter we reported that we had received a large accession of records relating to the work of the Pre-School Playgroups Association (PPA). Since then the records of the Pre-School Learning Alliance have been deposited with the archives. Comprising both paper and electronic archives the collection comprises the administrative archive of the national body. A further hybrid archive is the Teaching and Learning Project (TLPs). Running from 2000 until 2012 it is the UK’s largest ever educational research programme, co-ordinating some 200 researchers in over 100 investments. TLPs’ overarching strategy was to support research of both high quality and high relevance in terms of policy and practice and its archive comprises a sample of its diverse work.

We have also received a largely electronic archive from the General Teaching Council for England. This collection has already been received and will be the first of our electronic archives to be added to the new digital repository.

Finally, the representation of the work of the English department here at the IOE has been greatly increased by the deposit of the archives of Nancy Martin and Jimmy Britton. In addition to these personal archives we have also received the records of ‘The Development of Writing Abilities, 11-18’ and ‘Writing Aross the Curriculum’ which were two research projects based in the English Department and headed by Britton.

The remaining collections comprise:

- The records of Librarians of Institutes and Schools of Education (LISE). The majority of these records were transferred from the Modern Records Centre at the University of Warwick and comprise all their administrative archives.
- Papers of Professor Miriam David comprising her work on social diversity including family, gender, sexuality and social class.
- Papers of Michael Marland including talks and written papers; correspondence particularly regarding his work at the IOE and papers on specific schools notably North Westminster School.
- Records of the Leggatt Trust which was set up to provide small grants for educational projects in Africa.
- A small photographic collection showing art teaching in schools during the 1950s and 60s.
- Papers of children’s author Leila Berg including papers on children’s rights and correspondence with and papers about A S Neill and Michael Duijce.

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When the end of the Second World War resulted in the division of Germany into four occupied territories it led to the establishment of a uniform system of education for the children of British Forces personnel. At a meeting held on February 9th 1946 the War Office convened a working party to investigate the setting up of a Central Education Authority to work under the Control Commission for Germany and Austria. Although no formal decision had been made as to whether families should join serving personnel, the working party sought to establish how large an education system would be needed. They found there were nearly 6,000 Service children aged between 0 and 15 years and that the greatest need would be for the provision of primary education. The decision that children should join their families (as long as the education they received was ‘at least equal to’ that they would have received in the UK) was made in June. In response, the Foreign Office created the British Families Education Service (BFES) and from July 1946 administrative staff were recruited to set up schools in Germany. For the recruitment of the estimated 200 teachers required, the BFES looked to the local education authorities. In fact more than 2000 teachers were recruited to set up schools in Germany. By August 1947 there were 85 schools in operation with a total student population of 3,500.

In April 1952 the general control of the BFES was transferred from the Foreign Office to the War Office. In later years the School Children’s Education Service (SCEA) was established with responsibility for the overall organisation of school provision for Forces’ children overseas. However, for those teaching in West Germany, the direct administration of the BFES (working under the umbrella of the SCEA) until well into the 1970s. Further changes were made to the structure of the organisation and when a new administration was adopted in 1989 it was renamed Service Children’s Schools (SCS), before becoming Service Children’s Education Association (SCEA), the title it retains today, some years later.

Although some teachers stayed working overseas for a number of years, a large proportion of teachers only worked in schools for a short period. In 1967 the BFES Association was established to enable past and present BFES teachers to keep in touch. In the 1980s it merged with the Service Children’s Education Authority resulting finally the BFES/SCE Association.

As part of its work, the Association began collating archives from the various BFES/SCE schools and began depositing these records with us in 2002. Earlier this year the collection was fully catalogued and the list made available online. The archive is generally split into four sections forming the records of the BFES/SCE Association itself, records regarding the BFES/SCE more generally; a small amount of papers regarding the work of the British Forces; and – by far the most extensive section – papers regarding the life of teachers and children living in British occupied territories. Although much of this section relates to Germany, records from teachers working in Belgium, Cyprus, Egypt, Hong Kong, Malaysia, Mauritius, Sri Lanka, Yemen, and Belize show how widespread the work of the BFES/SCE has been since its inception.

There are biographical sources on the lives of teachers, photographs capturing school life, school log books and a whole range of papers relating to the British Forces communities across the world. Of particular interest in the archive is the collection of pupils’ work. Archive collections tend to form the records of either organisations or individuals (adults) whose contribution to their field of work has been considered of great significance and therefore worthy of permanent preservation.

As a result the threat is that the experience of the child becomes the lost voice amongst the legacy of educational theory, policy and practice. The BFES/SCE Association archive contains school magazines, publicity material for school productions and even short videos showing school children recording a song for charity. Although they only provide a snapshot, through using such items we can start to gain a better understanding of the experience of the child – the factor which is ultimately the main motivation for those working in, and studying, the field of education.

Although the collection is now fully catalogued and the list available online it is by no means complete. We are working with the BFES/SCE Association’s archivist to locate and collate more material to be added to what we already hold. This means new content is added all the time and with our online catalogue now automatically updating on a weekly basis we’re able to make the new material available to researchers extremely quickly.

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Study Afternoon

After the success of the last study afternoon held to mark the abolition of the ILEA we realise we have been rather quiet. The good news is that we are planning to hold another study afternoon on Thursday, 26th January 2012 on Teachers: from the Revised Code to ‘The Importance of Teachers’.

So far we have confirmed talks on teachers and the curriculum (Professor Gary McCulloch, Institute of Education, University of London) and teacher training (Dr David Crook, Brunel University). There will also be the usual discussions around the collections we hold and Professor Wendy Robinson (University of Exeter) will be chairing the final session on past, present and future research.

The event will run from 12pm-5pm and will be held in the Library Teaching Room. If you are interested in coming please email me at rebecca.webster@ioe.ac.uk. We plan to publicise the event more widely shortly.