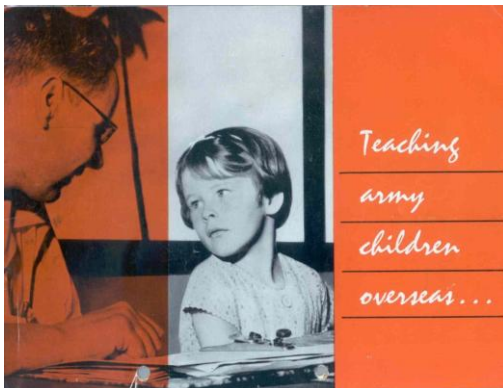


## Institute of Education Archives Subject Guide No. 4 Post-War Reconstruction



### Introduction

Following World War Two, there was a massive international co-operation to reconstruct countries which had been destroyed by the War. The Potsdam agreement agreed that the only guidelines for the administration of the occupied countries were to eliminate National-Socialism and Fascist ideologies and introduce democracy. In November 1945, the recently formed United Nations created the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) to establish the “intellectual and moral

solidarity of mankind” and to try to prevent another World War. UNESCO reviewed the educational systems of Germany, Italy and Japan and led an international cooperative programme to try to eliminate Fascism, Nazism and militarism. UNESCO later developed a series of bilateral initiatives which removed teaching aids which promoted international hatred and misunderstanding and created a network of educational institutions to promote international understanding.

Most of the collections on post-war reconstruction in the Archives relate to the British efforts in Germany. After the war Germany was split into 4 Occupation Zones each administered separately by the USA, USSR, France and Britain. A joint educational programme across Germany was unworkable as each occupier followed practices from their own country and state education had previously only been known in Germany under the Third Reich. Education placed an important role in the British efforts to reconstruct Germany and try to achieve lasting change in implementing democracy. The British Education Branch established its headquarters in Westphalia and assumed control over German education in the British Zone and the British Sector of Berlin. Initially the British administration kept direct control to maintain peace and sort to provide for the immediate need for schooling, though it also saw the need for adult education. In 1947 the direct control of education was passed to the local German authorities, though Britain maintained overall control and the occupation did not officially end until 1955. The Education branch recognized the right of the German people to determine the future of their education was respected. The city of Berlin remained occupied until 1990 and the British continued to have a military presence in Germany, providing its own schools for education for the families of members of the military who were stationed there through the British Families Education Service (later known as the Service Children’s Education).

## **Related Collections**

Click on name of each collection for more information.

### **[Records of the British Families Education Service/Service Children's Education Association \(BFES/SCE\) \(DC/BFE\)](#)**

The BFES was established in 1946 to teach the children of British families stationed in the British Zone of Germany after WW2. It was renamed the Service Children's Education (SCE), taken over by the army in the 1950s and now runs schools around the world. BFES Association was founded in 1967 to enable BFES teachers to keep in touch. In the 1980s it merged with the Service Children's Education Association (SCE) to become the BFES/SCE Association. The records of the BFES/SCE Association, 1947-2000, include administration records; publications; and memorabilia collected from members of the Association relating to their work across the world, including post-war Germany.

### **[Papers of John Stanley Beaumont Boyce \(1911-1992\) \(DC/BOY\)](#)**

John Stanley Beaumont Boyce was part of the Education Branch in Germany at the end of WW2, and was involved in setting up local government and education systems. His collection, 1920-1992, includes letters to his wife while stationed in Germany; photographs of Germany; handwritten 'Random thoughts at the beginning of the Second World War 1939-1940'; file relating to his army career; file containing 'Monthly Reports, Jun-Dec 1945: Education Summary'; and photographs of German Schools.

### **[Records of German Educational Reconstruction \(DC/GER\)](#)**

German Educational Reconstruction (GER) was founded in 1943 with the aim of helping refugee educationists to prepare for their post-war return to Germany. After the War the GER promoted Anglo-German relations by acting as an information bureau and means of communication and exchange between British and German educationists. It was wound up in 1958. The collection, 1943-1958, includes administrative papers, containing minutes, correspondence, administrative and policy files; bulletins, reports and memoranda; files on conferences, meetings and group visits; material relating to a wide range of other organisations; and press cuttings and collected publications.

### **[Papers of Mimi Hatton \(b 1915\) \(DC/MH\)](#)**

Mimi Hatton was a primary teacher with the British Families Education Service (BFES) in post-war Germany. Her papers, 1946-1952, relate to her work with the BFES, including an account of her service in Germany; photographs; and memorabilia.

### **[Papers of Arabella Kurdi \(DC/AK\)](#)**

Arabella Kurdi worked as School Meals and Domestic Science Organiser from The British Families Education Service (BFES) in post-war Germany. Her papers relate to her work, 1947-[1971], including album of photographs of conditions in Germany, friends and colleagues and BFES schools; correspondence, including letters describing her experiences; material relating to the school meals service; and printed material.

### [Papers of Joseph Lauwerys \(1902-1981\) \(DC/JL\)](#)

Joseph Lauwerys, Professor of Comparative Education at the IOE from 1947-1970, was involved in many organisations for promoting international co-operation and understanding and comparative education. His papers, 1920s-1980s, include personal and working papers reflecting many aspects his career, including material about post-war reconstruction and the founding of UNESCO.

### [Papers of the Moot \(DC/MOO\)](#)

The Moot was a private discussion group to consider post-war social reconstruction within a Christian framework. Its members included T.S. Eliot, Karl Mannheim, R.H. Tawney and Sir Fred Clarke. The collection mainly consists of Sir Fred Clarke's set of the circulated discussion papers, 1939-1942, and an incomplete run of the Christian News-Letter, 1939-1949.

### [Papers of Ronald Wilson \(DC/WIL\)](#)

Ronald Wilson was involved in the post-war reconstruction of adult education in Germany. His papers, 1945-2005, include papers on the reconstruction of adult education in post-war Germany; and papers relating to Anglo-German co-operation.

### [Records of the World Education Fellowship \(DC/WEF\)](#)

Founded in 1921 as the New Education Fellowship, this organisation grew into an international organisation, and was re-named the World Education Fellowship in 1966. The Fellowship had sections across the world and was interested in child-centred education, social reform through education, democracy, world citizenship, international understanding and the promulgation of world peace. The collection comprises the central administration records of the Fellowship, including papers regarding post-war educational reconstruction after WWII.

## **Bibliography and other printed sources**

Adishesiah, M S 'From International Aid to International Cooperation: some thoughts in Retrospect' *International Review of Education* Vol. 25, No. 2/3, (1979), pp. 213-230.

Hearnden, A *The British in Germany: educational reconstruction after 1945* (London, 1978)

Lawson, R F 'The English Approach to Educational Reorientation in Postwar Germany' *Comparative Education Review*, Vol. 8, No. 1, (Jun., 1964), pp. 58-64.

## **Links to other UK collections**

The National Archives holds the official records of the BFES, 1947-1959; The City University Archives hold the papers of Sir Robert Birley who was Educational Advisor for the Control Commission in the British Zone in German (Ref: GB 2107 Birley); The British Library of Political and Economic Science holds the papers of Robert Samuel Theodore Chorley, 1895 - 1978, 1st Baron Chorley, including papers relating to his work in the Association of University Teachers, including material on the post-war reconstruction of German universities, and the papers of the Federal Union and Federal Trust for Education and Research, 1931-2004, who concerned itself with post war reconstruction in the 1950s and 1960s.

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