

THE FRIENDS newsletter

HLF Grant for School Histories

The Library has recently succeeded in winning a grant from HLF for its school histories project. This is how we described the project in our grant application:

'The project aims to create a single comprehensive collection devoted to the history of individual schools and to make it available to everyone interested, from individual family historians, through teachers and school students to the more traditionally academic researcher.

It will involve cataloguing the collection, conserving items which need work, and making it accessible for the public to use.

The project will also involve the development of new audiences for the collection. For example, we want to produce education packs to encourage children to learn about school history, as well as events, a travelling exhibition and publicity to involve new users. We will recruit volunteers to help with the project, especially in basic conservation, creating education packs and web pages, and outreach sessions.

We want people not only to use the existing collection but also to be inspired to produce histories of their own schools so that it can grow in the future.'



School histories in store

Next steps

We shall be appointing two part time staff for a period of nine months to carry out this work – a Project Librarian for the cataloguing side, and an Outreach Co-ordinator for the education side. We shall also have an advisory board, and shall be looking to involve interested colleagues and volunteers in the project.

For further information, please contact Claire Drinkwater, Special Collections Librarian, ext 6060, email c.drinkwater@ioe.ac.uk

Friends AGM 2010

This year's Annual General Meeting of the Friends of the Newsam Library and Archives will be held at 1.30pm on Wednesday 5th May, in the Library Teaching Room at 20 Bedford Way. Full details will be sent separately. All members are welcome to attend.

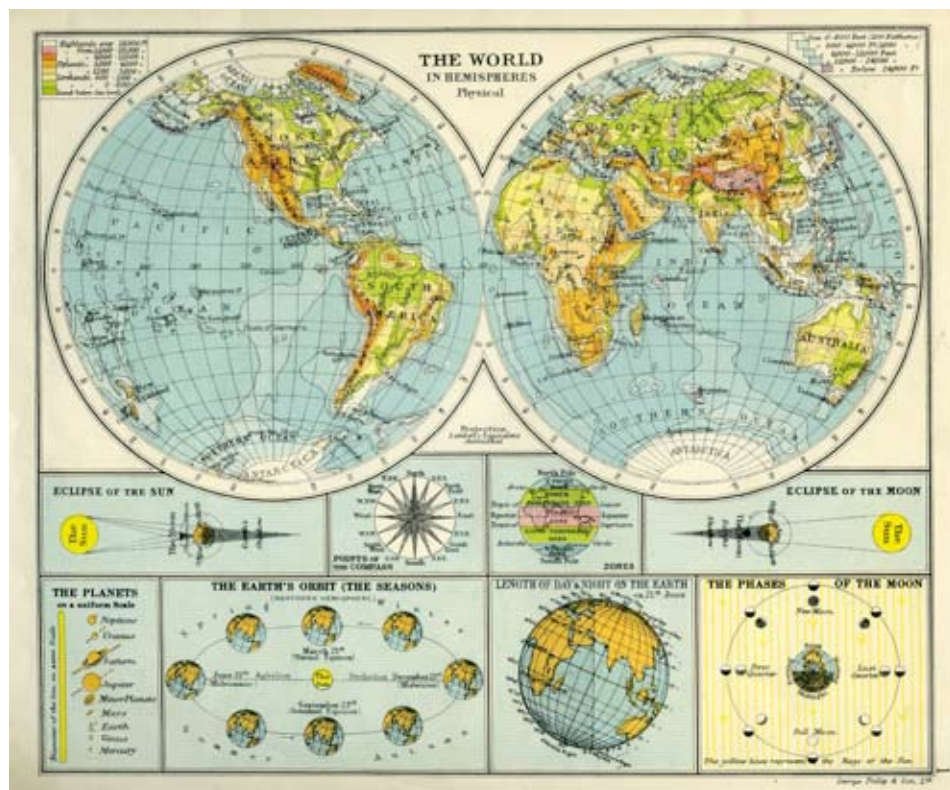
If you wish to reserve a place now, please do so by contacting Becky Webster – by post addressed to the Institute Archives; by telephone to 020 7612 6983; or by email to rebecca.webster@ioe.ac.uk.

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Featured Collections:

The Geography Textbooks Collection



'The World in Hemispheres', from *Philips' Standard School Atlas of Comparative Geography*, 1938

School textbooks are one of the largest categories of material held in our special collections – and one of the most neglected. In spite of our rich holdings in this area, only a minority are visible on the online catalogue, with a further thirty percent accessible via a card catalogue. The Geography Textbooks project is a first step towards changing all that.

With generous support from the Frederick Soddy Trust, we have been able to catalogue, and therefore make accessible, a comprehensive collection of books published in Britain for the teaching of geography in schools, or to young people.

All aspects of geography are covered, including human geography, physical geography and regional geography as well as a selection of school atlases. The collection includes materials for both primary and secondary schools, up to A-level or its equivalent. The earliest examples date from the mid-nineteenth century, and the latest from the 1990s, with particular strength in the middle decades of the twentieth century. More recent texts will be added in future.

The collection has been assembled with the help of generous gifts of material from the University of Cambridge and the University of Southampton Library, as well as from a number of individuals. These have been added to the existing collections of the Newsam Library.

When the current phase of the project finishes in July, we hope to have approximately 4,000 items listed.

The significance of the collection

School textbooks are often discarded as having little intrinsic value or academic worth, but they are a fascinating resource for the historian.

For the historian of education, textbooks are useful sources of information on the development of the school curriculum, especially before the introduction of the National Curriculum. They also provide evidence of changing ideas on teaching methods and assessment.

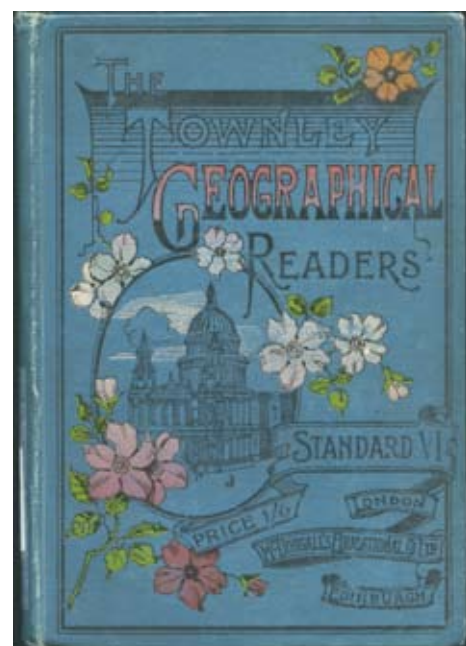
School books, especially geography books,

also provide interesting evidence of other aspects of everyday life in past eras. In addition to the 'factual' presentation of contemporary life in text and illustrations, they often reveal prevailing attitudes. Their presentation of other races and cultures, for instance, or of the British Empire, demonstrates the accepted view of the establishment at the time of their publication.

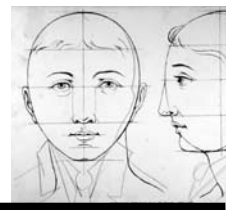
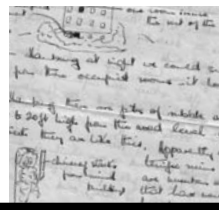
A leaflet describing the collection is in preparation, and there will be an official launch event in the autumn.

And in the future...

We hope that this collection will demonstrate the possibilities, and help us to get funding for further collections of a similar kind. History is next on the list!



Geographical Reader for Standard 6, ed. A. Park, ca. 1890

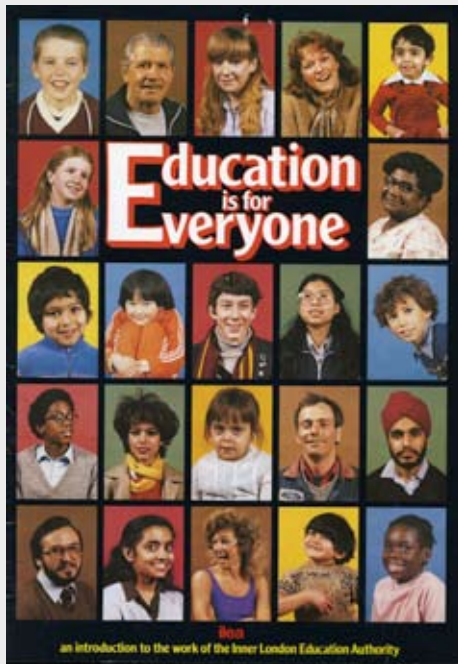


ILEA: Memories and Legacies

On Thursday 21st January 2010 we held our fourth Friends study afternoon which marked the 20th anniversary of the abolition of the Inner London Education Authority (ILEA), 1965-1990. The ILEA introduced experimental approaches to state education and adopted a culturally pluralist approach towards minority groups within its jurisdiction.

The event looked back at the work of the ILEA through the eyes of its former employees and included talks by a number of influential figures. Sir Peter Newsam, Chief Education Officer for the ILEA, and former Director of the Institute, opened the afternoon by giving an introduction to the authority, looking at what it was and what it did. This talk was followed by three further presentations looking at specific areas of the ILEA's work.

Gene Adams, who was originally appointed as the Art and Museum Education Advisory Teacher at the ILEA in 1975, becoming the Museums Education Advisor three years later, spoke about her own role creating learning activities for children and teachers outside of the school classroom. During the break people



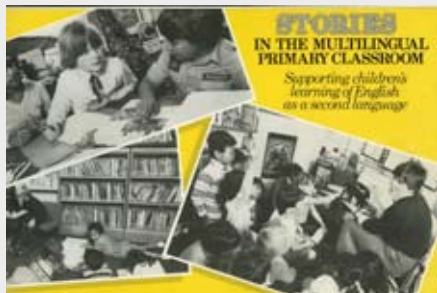
were able to see some of Gene's work as we aired a video showing the visit of a camel from Longleat House to an ILEA-organised holiday activity held at Rangers House in August 1986. The second part of the afternoon featured talks by two of ILEA's former inspectors. Barbara MacGilchrist talked about her experiences as the ILEA Chief Inspector and Leisha Fullick, ILEA Staff Inspector for Further and Higher Education, analysed how the ILEA's programmes on lifelong learning and further education can contribute to current policies.

Our Assistant Archivist, Katie Mooney, also gave a presentation on the collections we have here in the archives and special collections relating to London, and more specifically the ILEA, and the event was closed by a questions and discussion panel chaired by Professor Jane Martin. All the presentations were recorded and a copy will now be preserved in the archives for future researchers.

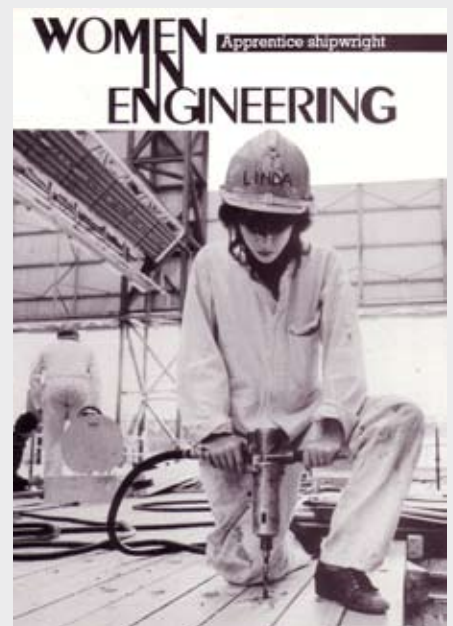
The afternoon was organised solely by Katie and was a massive success with over ninety people attending, including many who had worked for the ILEA themselves. To support the event Katie also designed an exhibition using our collections, which will be on display in the main reception of the Institute until the end of May. A subject guide has also been written and this is now available on our website.

In the evening Sir Peter Newsam hosted a drinks reception, which provided an opportunity for those attending to continue discussions and catch up with old friends and colleagues.

We are very grateful to the Friends for their continuing support, without which we would not be able to provide such interesting and enjoyable events.



ILEA publications from the library's collection: *Stories in the multilingual primary classroom*, *Education is for Everyone* and *Women in Engineering: Apprentice Shipwright*



Cataloguing Progress

With fewer members of staff, and an increase in the number of researchers visiting the archives, we have catalogued less this year than we reported in our last newsletter but are pleased to say that catalogues of the following collections are now complete and available via the online catalogue:

- Papers of Amelia Fysh (c1922-)
- Papers of Gene Adams
- Papers of Brian Simon (1915-2002)
- Papers of Nigel Spearing (1930-)
- Papers of Rose Kosky (1922-2003)
- Records of the Programme for Reform in Secondary Education (PRISE)

We have also improved the descriptions in the catalogue of the World Education Fellowship (WEF) and added a later large accession. The catalogue of the College of Preceptors (now College of Teachers) has also been extended to include later accessions.

The appraisal of the Institute's own records continues: we are currently cataloguing the records of the Collegiate Division c1949-1983, which co-ordinated work with associated teacher training colleges in London and the South-East. It is hoped that the list will be available by summer 2010.

Our next project will be to list the photographic archive of the Architects and Buildings Branch (1942-1982). During its influential work overseeing central government policy relating to school architecture and building programmes, its staff accumulated large collections of photographs documenting the exteriors and interiors of school and college buildings and activities in schools.

New Archives

In the last year we have taken in a number of new archives that have broadened the scope of the collections we hold.

The largest of these is the records of the Pre-School Playgroups Association. The PPA (now called the Pre-School Learning Alliance) was set up in 1961 in response to a lack of state provision for nursery education. It aimed to provide support for local communities to organise their own playgroups and lobby government to emphasise the importance of pre-school education. In 1991 the organisation adopted a new constitution and in 1995 they changed their name to the PLA. The collection comprises papers sent in from people involved in the work of the PPA countrywide.

The papers of Marian Ray comprise a large collection of well-known teaching aids which were used by educational institutions throughout the world from the 1940s-1970s. The collection includes filmstrips, teaching notes, and some 2000 pieces of original artwork, covering a wide range of subjects, from which the films were produced.

As a complement to Marian's papers we have also received, from King Edward VI School in Birmingham, a small collection of educational filmstrips created by a number of sources including the USA War Office.

Other smaller and ongoing accessions include the papers of:

- Bernard Barker, who has been credited with being the first comprehensive school student to become a comprehensive school head teacher
- London Association for the Teaching of English (LATE), an organisation established in 1947 to campaign

in the areas of composition, comprehension and poetry, and examinations

- Sir Peter Newsam (former Director of the Institute) relating to his work for the Inner London Education Authority (ILEA)
- James Lumsden, regarding his work as an HMI for special schools for disabled children, and with the BFES in Germany after the Second World War
- Textbook Colloquium charting the organisation's work to promote the interdisciplinary study of textbooks, especially from a historical perspective
- Trevor Jagger, comprising speeches and articles relating to his work as a schools' inspector at ILEA

Staff News

Firstly we would like to welcome back Sarah Aitchison, our Archivist, who returned to us from maternity leave in January. We will also soon be joined by Jessica Womack, our new Assistant Archivist, who will be replacing Katie Mooney in early April. Jessica is coming to us from the Black Cultural Archives where she has been responsible for managing a large project to establish a full archive service.

In addition we also have James Mortlock working with us as an Archives Assistant until July 2010. He is doing some excellent work to list a number of our uncatalogued collections including the records of the Pre School Playgroups Association.

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 Rebecca Webster, Assistant Archivist, Institute of Education, 20 Bedford Way, London WC1H 0AL.

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