

UNIVERSITY OF SALFORD LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES

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The University of Salford received its Royal Charter as a University in April 1967. Its institutional history, however, goes back to the last decade of the nineteenth century, and it can be seen in large part as a product of the worries in late Victorian Britain about the inadequacy of technical education in the face of growing international industrial rivalry.

In 1889 Salford Borough Council set up a Technical Instruction Committee to consider the provision of technical instruction 'for the artisan class of the Borough.' Its recommendation for a new college bore fruit in the opening of the Salford Technical Institute in March 1896. The building was formally opened by the Duke and Duchess of York, and a year later Queen Victoria, acceding to a request from the Borough, commanded 'that the Salford Technical Institute shall be called the Royal Salford Technical Institute.'

Before its foundation as a University, the institution underwent two further changes of name. In 1921 the term 'Institute' was dropped in favour of 'Royal Technical College Salford'. A much more fundamental change took place after the Second World War when the restructuring of technological education in Britain again came to prominence in public concern. In recognition of its increasing reputation for external degree and other higher level work the College was designated as a

College of Advanced Technology in 1956 and renamed the Royal College of Advanced Technology (R.C.A.T.) in 1961. This process entailed an organisational split. The non-degree level work was concentrated in what eventually became the Salford College of Technology¹. It was the R.C.A.T., housed in Peel Park, which formed the basis of the last of the new universities to be chartered in the 1960s.

Anyone who wishes to explore further the prehistory and early history of the University should consult Colin Gordon's thorough and lively account². It is only necessary here to draw attention to three themes - the development of the University as a significant contributor to the study of local affairs, the history of the University library, and some consequences of the vicissitudes which the University has experienced since 1975 when Colin Gordon's book was published.

As we have seen, the historical background to the University is a technological one, and it has usually been described as a 'technological university'. From the 1950s, however, social studies came increasingly into the profile of the College, and from 'liberal studies' beginnings there eventually emerged a separate Faculty of Social Sciences and Arts. The institution has always prided itself on its close links with the local community and it is not surprising that an important contribution has been made by many departments (mainly but not exclusively



The Minister of Education, Ellen Wilkinson, addressing the Royal Technical College, March, 1946.

from this Faculty) to the study of various aspects of the Manchester region. Some of this work has been historical or has used history as a foundation for the analysis of the contemporary world.

Much of this work has been formally published. Indeed two articles by Salford staff have appeared in recent issues of the *Manchester Region History Review*³. There has also been a significant output of what is known in the library jargon as 'grey literature', including discussion papers, theses and dissertations. The existence of some of this material perhaps ought to be better known to local historians. One of us (John Percy) is at the very early stages of compiling a database of it, and intends to keep tabs on future output. The database will cover local studies generally and not just local history.

One major deficiency of the Royal Technical College was its lack of a library. The close proximity of Salford Public Library

the University's own archives, which record much of the process, will provide a great deal of insight to future historians of higher education in the last decade.

Survival required rapid adjustments. Staff had to be shed in all Departments, including the Library, which had to focus its attention very precisely upon meeting the core needs of students and staff. Not only did this entail curbing the collection of archives but it also had a restrictive effect on the indexing of those already in stock.

One more recent development needs to be mentioned. In 1988 the Library merged with the University's Computing Services Section to form 'Academic Information Services'. This form of merger is not unparalleled in academic institutions though it is still uncommon. Within Academic Information Services the Library continues to perform its traditional functions and



A Life class in the College during the interwar period. L.S. Lowry is standing on the right.

militated against its foundation but this was clearly unacceptable with the elevation to 'CAT' status. It was not until 1957 that the first Librarian was appointed. In its early years the Library operated in appallingly cramped conditions but this was relieved in December 1970 with the opening of the present building. Thereafter the stock expanded rapidly and it was during the ensuing decade that the Library acquired most of its collection of archives. This collection tended to mirror the enthusiasms and interest of University benefactors, such as Lionel Angus-Butterworth, or members of staff, notably Hugh Malet, a former lecturer, whose speciality was canal history and in particular the 'Canal Duke'.⁴

Colin Gordon ended his monograph optimistically looking forward to the 1996 centenary. Those of us who watched on the Library's teletext receiver the announcement in July 1981 that the University Grants Committee was cutting its grant to Salford by 44% wondered whether that centenary would be reached. This is not the place to describe how the University did survive and continue even to flourish; suffice it to say that

contains, in addition to its main collections of books and journals, some very interesting archive material.

An account of its archive holdings should begin with the material relating to the University and its predecessors. The main body of this collection is known inhouse as the 'Local Collection'. This is a large collection containing approximately 60,000 separate items, and consists of material devoted entirely to the University. There are two main categories: the press cuttings collection, and departmental material.

The press cuttings collection focuses on the activities of the university as reported by the national and regional presses. This collection was started in the mid-1960s with a subscription to the International Press Cuttings Bureau and was maintained without a break until 1991. There are approximately 35,000 cuttings which range from major initiatives by the university covered by the national press, to news of individual students reported in their local papers. Consequently the depth of coverage is impressive, and this collection provides virtually

a complete record of the university over the last quarter of a century.

The departmental material provides a record of the main inter-departmental administrative exchanges since the late 1960s. The collection is somewhat uneven in that a number of departments are well represented, while others are not. Material ranges from posters and notices to detailed internal reports and memoranda.

The Local Collection also includes a collection of inhouse serials. Student newspapers, university bulletins, and various newsletters are preserved here, providing a rich panoramic view not only of university life, but also RCAT days.

This collection is complemented by a Photographic Archive, which comprises about 40,000 separate items providing a unique photographic record of the university and its earlier institutions dating back to the mid-1890s. Honorary graduate and Degree Day photographs are routinely preserved, together with departmental material. An early, hitherto unknown,

photograph of L.S. Lowry attending a life class in the 1920s was discovered in the collection some years ago. Subjects such as long forgotten Cricket Club outings, Coronation Day decorations, visiting Royalty and politicians, and student demonstrations all combine to form an absorbing collection.

Because of its long association with the university and its predecessors, the papers of the Salford Technical and Engineering Association should also be mentioned here. This was deposited in the Library in 1974 by its members and consists of approximately 300 separate items. The Association even predates the Technical Institute and had a significant role in the development of technical education in the region.

The Archives contain valuable collections relating to two important local literary figures. The Walter Greenwood Collection has often been consulted. This consists largely of Greenwood's personal files and papers. It is a complete collection of all his published and unpublished novels in manuscript form (including *Love on the Dole*), together with

The fair copy manuscript of Walter Greenwood's 'Love on the Dole'.

PART ONE

Chapter I

Hanky Park

They call this part 'Hanky Park'. It is that district opposite the bareish church of Beadleton, one of many industrial townships comprising the Two Cities. In the early nineteenth century Hanky Park was part of the grounds of a wealthy lady's mansion; at least, so say the old maps - the Salford Town Hall. The district takes its name from a sloping street, Hanky Park Street, whose pavements, made of wood and very narrow, have been polished by the traffic of boots & dogs of many generations. On either side of dies are other streets, mazes, jungles of tiny houses crumpled & huddled together, two rooms above and two below, in some cases only one room above and one public houses by the score where forgetfulness hurls in a mug; pawnshops by the dozen where you can raise the wind to buy forgetfulness; churches, chapels and interpretations, mission halls where God is praised; muddy, black patches of land, 'crofts' as they are called, waterlogged, sterile, bleak & dull.

The dobsteps and window sills of the houses are worn hollow. Once a week, sometimes twice, the women clean them with brown or white rubbish stone; the lane with portions of the pavement immediately outside their front doors. And they glare at any pedestrians who unavoidably muddy their handiwork in traversing the strip. Some women there are whose lives are dedicated to an everlasting battle with the invincible forces of dirt and grime. They are flattered when you refer to them as "house proud". But they are few. The others prefer to have a weekly tilt at the demon dirt and to leave the field to him for the next six days. On a Friday evening when this portion of the housework is generally done, the

his book collection, correspondence, scrap books, photographs etc. It would be a first port of call for any potential Greenwood scholar.

The Stanley Houghton Collection was purchased in the early 1980s following its discovery by Paul Mortimer, who was at the time researching for a PhD on Houghton in the University's Department of Modern Languages.⁵ The collection consists of unpublished manuscript material by Houghton including three one act and five full length plays, one short story, collections of photographs, theatre contracts and correspondence. The collection also contains a folio album with a series of stage photographs of the first production of Houghton's play *Hindle Wakes*.

Transport has been and remains a major focus of University research particularly in the Department of Geography and the Department of Civil Engineering. It is therefore fitting that the Archives contain a number of collections of transport archives, of which two are particularly associated with the Manchester region.

Of these the most significant is undoubtedly the Archives of the 3rd Duke of Bridgewater. This unique collection of papers relating to Francis Egerton, 3rd Duke of Bridgewater ('The Canal Duke'), 1736-1803, is on loan from the Estate of the Dukes of Sutherland. It comprises about 900 separate items, all individually catalogued, in 21 archive boxes. The manuscript material includes letters from the 2nd Duke of Bridgewater to his sisters in the 1730s; the 3rd Duke's correspondence during his Grand Tour of 1753; detailed plans, accounts, maps and correspondence dealing with the Bridgewater Canal; bound volumes of payment books, cellar books, deeds, etc. It also contains the drafts of unpublished family chronicles compiled by Strachan Holme, Librarian at Bridgewater House during the 1920s.

The archive was brought to Salford through the work of Hugh Malet. It may be consulted by *bona fide* scholars by prior arrangement with the university library. A brief listing of the material held in it is available on request.

Another interesting collection, even though it does seem to relate to one of the blind alleys of transport engineering history is the Badnall Papers. This comprises letters written between 1832-4 to and by Richard Badnall concerned chiefly with his eccentric invention - the 'undulating railway'. Badnall and his collaborator Richard Gill for a time attracted the attention of prominent individuals investigating new modes of transport at



Herbert Lomas and J.V. Bryant in the original production of 'Hindle Wakes'.

the outset of the Industrial Revolution, including the Directors of the Liverpool and Manchester Railway. The archive consists of correspondence with Robert Stephenson, the railway company, and the Patent Office, and includes the original patent dated September 1833. Much of the correspondence is in the form of copy letters written on india paper, and is consequently difficult to read.

Among a small number of company archives which the Library holds the most significant is the archive of Bridgewater Estates plc. This is not, of course, to be confused with the Duke of Bridgewater Archive. This is a large collection of correspondence and management papers relating to this Worsley based company between 1895 and 1950. Further substantial holdings relating to the Bridgewater Estates are held by Salford City Archives. The material, amounting to about 900 separate files, was deposited at the University as a result of an agreement with the Directors of the company in October 1977. The material provides a wealth of information on local social and economic history relating to the first half

*Expenses for His Grace the Duke of Bridgewater to pay for travelling Charges
by James Brindley 13 Novem - 1761*

18 th Nov	measuring a cut from Dunham to warburton more or less Thelwall 3-11	0=7-4
19 th Nov	Dunham for 2 Dinners 1-3 for the man 1-0 at Thelwall 1-2. all night working	
19 th Nov	fat out from Chester for London & Worsley septer 12 returned back going to London and at London than back to Worsley (Charges horse & my self)	4=8-0
20 th Nov	coming back for from Hampton Charges at Wilders pool all night at Warrington to meet Mr Ashley	0=8-0
10 th Dec	to obtain the turnpike roads 2-8 of ager and 12 to roads 3-8	0=4-2
21 st Dec	to inspect the flux and reflect at Hampton 2 Days Charges	0=8-0
26 th Dec	to see the contents of the above hills by the hand of John Gilbert Esq. James Brindley	0=0-0
		0=00-0

A travelling expenses claim on behalf of James Brindley during his service for the 'Canal Duke' (from Duke of Bridgewater Archives).

I do acknowledge to have this Day received of his Grace the Duke of Bridgewater by the Payment of
 Mr. Tomkinson, his Agent; the Sum of Five Pounds and Ten Shillings as and for the Purchase of
 my Cottage in Bacton which I hold by virtue of a Lease from Geo: Legh Esq: for three Lives all
 of which are now in being And which is intended to be taken down for the Use of his Graces
 navigable Cut a Canal now in making from Loozley to Manchester by virtue of an Act of
 Parliament for that Purpose And I promise to execute upon Demand such Deed
 Instrument or Writing for the absolute assigning & surrendering my Estate and Interest
 in the said Premises unto the said Duke his Heirs & Assigns for any the Purposes in the said
 Act mentioned ^{as shall be required} As witnesseth my Hand this Twentieth Day of May 1760.

Witness

J. Worthington
 Bell: B. B. B.

The { Mark of }
 Alice Markland }

Compensation for a cottager displaced by the building of the Bridgewater Canal (from Duke of Bridgewater Archives).

of the century, and is particularly rich in detailed information on specific localities.

A comprehensive catalogue to the Bridgewater Estates Archive was compiled under a Manpower Services Commission project during 1980-1 and is available for consultation.

In addition to the archives which have been described the Library has a number of other collections which contain material of value for students of local history. One of these is the Map Collection. The Library has a substantial, though incomplete, set of holdings of the old county-based 6 inch and 25 inch Ordnance Survey maps of south Lancashire and Cheshire. These are of various dates mostly falling between the 1900s and 1930s. Most are in very good condition. The Library also collected large scale maps in the later National Grid based O.S. series, but these are more narrowly focused on Salford and its environs.

Another important collection is of Planning Proposal Maps. These date from the 1950s and 1960s and relate to Manchester, Salford, Lancashire, Cheshire and many Lancashire and Cheshire towns.

The Library holds copies of University of Salford Doctoral theses and Master's theses done by research-only students. In

general the Library does not have dissertations done by postgraduates or undergraduates as part of taught courses, although there is an exception to this in the case of dissertations done for the Modular Master's Programme. Subjects researched in recent years by students in various Departments have included, for example, the history of the Lancashire textile machinery makers, the history of Prestwich Hospital, the development of the Wythenshawe Estate, and the ecology and history of Rochdale woodlands. The Library has also collected discussion papers or occasional papers issued by University Departments; the series which perhaps most often contains items of local history interest is the Occasional Papers series of the Department of Politics and Contemporary History.

The Library normally allows access to reference facilities for bona fide researchers. The term-time opening hours are 9.00 a.m. to 9.00 p.m. (Monday to Friday) and 9.00 a.m. to 12.00 noon (Saturday). During vacations the Library is open between 9.00 a.m. and 5.00 p.m. on Mondays to Fridays only. It is advisable for anyone wishing to consult the archives to contact the Archivist, John Blunden-Ellis, in advance, in order to make an appointment because it is not usually possible to arrange consultation of the material at short notice. The address for correspondence is **Academic Information Services, University of Salford, Salford M5 4WT, and the telephone number is 061-745-5000.**

NOTES

1. It seems that the wheel may be about to turn full circle. For some time the University and the College have been involved in negotiations leading to closer links and possible merger. The latter has now been renamed the University College of Salford.
2. Colin Gordon, *The foundations of the University of Salford*, 1975.
3. John Garrard, 'The Salford gas scandal of 1887', *Manchester Region History Review*, 2:2 (1988/9), pp.12-20; Frank Neal, 'Manchester origins of the English Orange Order', *Manchester Region History Review*, 4:2 (1990/1), pp.12-24.
4. See Hugh Malet, *Bridgewater, the Canal Duke, 1736-1803*, 1977.
5. Paul Mortimer, *The Life and Literary Career of W. Stanley Houghton 1881-1913*. University of Salford, Ph.D. thesis 1984.