

The British International History Group

(under the auspices of the British International Studies Association)

NEWSLETTER

Number 8 – June 2001

Forthcoming Conferences

Australasian Association for European History, 13th Biennial Conference, 9-12 July 2001, Auckland

The biennial conference of the Australasian Association of European Historians is **the** major forum for historians of all areas of modern European history in Australia and New Zealand. It attracts a large number of university teachers and postgraduate students from both countries as well as renowned speakers from overseas. Speakers at the previous two conferences in Perth (1999) and Adelaide (1997) included Sheila Fitzpatrick, Martin Blinkhorn, Jonathan Steinberg, Richard Bosworth, Hans Mommsen, Karen Offen, Jürgen Förster, Dick Geary, and many others. It is anticipated that around 80 to 100 speakers will attend the Auckland Conference, with total conference registrations of at least 200.

For further details contact Christian Leitz on +64 9 373 7599 ext. 7361, or e-mail c.leitz@auckland.ac.nz.

International History Seminar

The ICBH intends to revive the International History Seminar in London, commencing in January 2001 and taking place monthly, either at the IHR or the University of Westminster's central London campus in Upper Regent Street.

Any international historian wishing to give a paper or seeking further details should contact Dr Saul Kelly, University of Westminster, School of Social Sciences, Humanities and Languages, Regent Campus, 309 Regent Street, London, W1B 2UW, e-mail Saul.Kelly@Tesco.Net or Gillian Staerck at ICBH, IHR, Senate House, Malet Street, London WC1 7HU, telephone 020 7862 8804, e-mail gstaerck@icbh.ac.uk

Public Record Office – Events at Kew

The latest programme of events organised by the PRO includes a major two-day conference on '*The Missing Dimension*': *British 20th Century Intelligence*, to be held on 29th-30th June. For further details on this event, and other events in the programme, contact the PRO Interpretation Department

on 020 8392 5202/5353, e-mail: events@pro.gov.uk or visit the website at <http://www.pro.gov.uk/events>.

BIHG Conference, September 2001

The call for papers for this year's BIHG Conference at Canterbury have already been circulated, along with details of the Thesis Prize. Application forms and detailed programme will be despatched within the next 3 months, and we look forward to seeing you all in September.

Conference Report

'Reinventing Peace': A Conference to mark the 75th Anniversary of the Treaty of Locarno

Between July 12-14 2000, Bolton Institute hosted a very successful conference designed to mark the 75th anniversary of the signature of the Treaty of Locarno. The conference was attended by more than 30 scholars from the UK and North America. The speakers were: Dr David Cameron (South-East Missouri State University); Professor Alan Cassels (McMaster University); Patrick Cohrs (Oxford University); Dr Anthony Heywood (University of Bradford); Professor John Jacobson (University of California, Irvine); Dr Gaynor Johnson (Bolton Institute); Professor John Keiger (University of Salford); Dr Philip Towle (University of Cambridge); Dr Jonathan Wright (Oxford University). The conference proceedings, entitled *Locarno Revisited*, will be published by Frank Cass in 2001-2, with additional contributions by Professor Michael Dockrill and Dr David Dutton, among others.

BIHG News

Membership News

Dr Joe Smith of Exeter University, has been appointed Editor of "History". Contributions and queries should be addressed to him c/o Room 210, Amory Building, University of Exeter, Exeter, EX4 4RJ, e-mail: jha@exeter.ac.uk.

Dr William Philpott, Senior Lecturer in Modern History at London Guildhall University and Dr Joseph Maiolo, Lecturer in International History at the University of Leeds, have been appointed as Lecturers in the Department of War Studies, King's College London, to replace Brian Bond, Professor of Military History, and Michael Dockrill, Professor of Diplomatic History, who are both retiring on 30 September 2001.

BIHG Thesis Prize

The joint winners of the 2000 Thesis Prize were

Publications by BIHG Members

David Bewley-Taylor, *The United States and International Drug Control, 1909-1997*, Pinter, London & New York, 1999

Neil Forbes, *Doing Business with the Nazis: Britain's Economic and Financial Relations with Germany 1931-39*, Frank Cass, 2000

David J Whittaker (ed.), *The Terrorism Reader*, Routledge, 2001

Sources

electronic Journal of International History

The electronic Journal of International History publishes aspects of international history since 1870. It can be accessed free of charge to readers on London University's Institute of Historical Research website – <http://www.history.ac.uk/publications/ejihmnu>

Besides being free at point of delivery, it offers opportunities to international historians to have their work published as soon as it has been accepted by at least three referees and any amendments satisfactorily completed. The eJIH conforms with the high academic standards of the IHR and articles published are fully RAE-acceptable.

A call for papers, suggesting aspects of international history which eJIH will publish, can also be found on the IHR website. Alternatively, further information can be obtained from Gillian Staerck, ICBH, IHR, Senate House, Malet Street, London WC1 7HU, telephone 020 7862 8804, e-mail gstaerck@icbh.ac.uk

Diplomatic Studies Programme Newsletter

The Diplomatic Studies Programme Newsletter carries items on researching national state diplomatic resources, including most recently Norway, Australia and Canada. In addition, there are generally useful and interesting items on books and diplomatic memoirs (for example, Robert K Olsen's recollections of his posting to Libya as an American FSO at the time of Suez).

The current editor of the DSP Newsletter is Paul Sharp (psharp@d.umn.edu)

Documents on Canadian External Relations (DCER)

The 1954 DCER documents are available on the web (together with a history of the Canadian DFAIT) on <http://www.canschool.org/dcer/menu-e.asp>

DFAIT Historical Section Publications

The Historical Section of Canada's Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT) is responsible for a number of products which record Canadian foreign policy. Most detailed among these is its series of historical *Documents on Canadian External Relations* which reprints material from the files of the Department to chronicle the evolution of Canadian foreign policy from 1909 onward.

The first six volumes trace the country's early struggle during and after the First World War to become an autonomous dominion. Included in these volumes is material on Canada's evolving place in the British Empire, its role at the Paris Peace Conference and the new League of Nations, and its response to the rise of Fascism in Europe and Asia.

Volumes 7 through 11 document Canadian diplomacy during the Second World War as the country grew into a middle power with global interests and responsibilities. Among the topics covered in these volumes are the conduct of war with Germany and Japan, the problems associated with postwar planning, and the creation of the UN.

Subsequent volumes follow Canada's diplomatic fortunes into the postwar period. Each volume includes extensive documentation on the conflict with the Soviet Union. The origins of NATO, the conduct of the Korean War, and the developing crisis in Indochina, where Canada served on the commissions overseeing the Geneva Accords, are among the subjects given considerable space.

The most recent volume to appear is Volume 22, which covers the period January 1, 1956 to June 10, 1957. This volume includes considerable material on the Suez Crisis.

Volumes 19, 20, 21 and 22 have all been digitized and appear on the Historical Section's webpage at www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca/hist Current plans call for all future volumes to appear simultaneously in print and on-line, and there is in place a plan, stretching over several years, to post the early volumes on this website.

In addition, the Historical Section's website provides a short, illustrated, and easily accessible history of Canadian foreign policy, a brief administrative history of the Department, and a historic database on Canadian Heads of Posts Abroad. The Historical Section's occasional publications are also regularly posted on the website.

Finally, the Historical Section is responsible for preparing a series of administrative histories on the Department. The first volume, *Canada's Department of External Affairs, Vol I, The Early Years, 1909-1968*, was written by John Hilliker, and published by the McGill-Queens University Press in 1990. A second volume, *Canada's Department of External Affairs, Vol. 2, Coming of Age, 1946-68*, by John Hilliker and Donald Barry, was published in 1995. Work is now proceeding on a third volume. These histories are also published in French by Les presses de l'université Laval.

Complete information on these publications and their availability may be obtained at the Historical Section's website at www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca/hist

Peter Beck, USING THE ARCHIVES

4. *National Archives at College Park (Archives II) and the Nixon Presidential Materials Staff, College Park, Maryland, USA*

For many international historians the neo-classical National Archives building located between the White House and the Capitol on Pennsylvania Avenue in downtown Washington DC. became a familiar place for research. However, during the 1980s the rapid growth in users, most notably those researching their family's past, highlighted the growing inadequacy of a building, whose storage capacity had been reached as early in 1970. As a result, during the early 1990s a new six-storey archives building was constructed in a park-like setting near the University of Maryland's College Park campus. Double the size of the Pennsylvania Avenue building and capable of accommodating 390 researchers, Archives II is presented as the largest archives building in the world possessing 'state of the art' archival storage, reference and laboratory facilities.

Archives II operates alongside, rather than in place of, the downtown building, which continues to house the records of Congress and the Supreme Court, genealogical materials (census, veterans administration, land entry), passport applications, the Bureau of Indian Affairs and other papers. The majority of textual records, most notably, State Department, Second World War, Vietnam and JFK Assassination Records, together with special media material (e.g. still and motion pictures, maps), were transferred to Archives II. For many international historians, State Department Record Group RG59 will be the prime target.

Also located at the College Park site is 'The Nixon Presidential Materials Staff', which is part of the National Archives and Records Administration's Office of Presidential Libraries (NARA). It is responsible for managing the historical materials, including tape recordings, created and received by the White House during Richard Nixon's presidency (1969-74). Although Nixon was in office for only five years, reportedly his papers comprise the second largest collection of any Presidential Library. There are *circa* 40 million pages (7 m. pages are open for research), 350,000 photographs, 4,000 videotapes, 4,469 official White House sound recordings, 950 secretly recorded White House tapes, and 2.2 million feet of motion picture film! In January 2000 265 hours of Nixon White House Tapes – these included Watergate Trial Tapes and Transcripts, Watergate Special Prosecution Force Tapes, and Abuse of Governmental Power Tapes - were made available for duplication for the first time. Researchers should note that the Richard Nixon Library in Yorba Linda, California, is not affiliated to NARA.

Visitors to Washington have additional research opportunities at the Library of Congress, located near the Capitol and Union Station (this will be the subject of the next 'Using the Archives' article), interviewing American government officials or exchanging ideas with colleagues based at Georgetown, George Washington and other nearby universities. There are also numerous sightseeing attractions, historic buildings, and museums. A rental car provides easy access to such locations as Monticello, the University of Virginia and the Civil War battlefields at Fredericksburg or Chancellorsville.

Brief details:

- **New readers** are required to register (photographic ID required) in a room located off the main lobby. If you wish to view files on the day of arrival, you are advised to arrive in the morning to allow time for ordering and retrieval.
- **Xeroxing** – Xeroxing facilities, including self-service copying (15¢ per page), are available. Microfilm to paper copies cost 30¢ per image. Xerox fees, having been static for several years, were increased to these rates in November 2000.
- **Laptop computers** – Researchers may use their own personal computers (laptops, notebooks, etc.), typewriters, tape recorders, cameras and approved scanners.
- **Paper** - Paper and pencils are provided for researchers. Researchers may take approved (ie. they are checked and stamped) loose research notes into research rooms, but cases &etc. must be stored in basement lockers for which a refundable quarter (25¢) is required.
- **Ordering documents** – records are retrieved at designated fetch times for use in the research room. On your first day, you will be lucky to retrieve records ordered upon arrival at 0845 hours before 1130 hours. Staff in the Research Room offer guidance on indexes, ordering procedures &etc. If you plan to use a wide range of files from different departments, especially for the pre-1939 period, it might be prudent to check prior to your visit if any are located at the downtown building.
- Requests for records to be used during evening hours must be submitted by 1500 hours. Records for use on Saturdays must be ordered by 1500 hours on Fridays. Most of the microfilm collection, like copies of some videos, still pictures, and maps, are available for self-service retrieval in research rooms. Archives II's policy seems to be one of moving to the greater use of microfilm by researchers.
- **Library** – The library contains a limited range of reference works, including the *FRUS (Foreign Relations of the United States)* series.
- **Opening hours** – (like other details, these must be checked prior to your visit)
Mondays & Wednesdays: 0845-1700 hours
Tuesdays, Thursdays & Fridays: 0845-2100 hours
Saturdays: 0845-1645 hours
Listening hours for Nixon tapes 0845-1600 hours Mondays-Fridays
Closed Sundays and Federal Holidays.
- **Accommodation** – College Park offers a good range of hotels/motels linked to the major chains, including Comfort Inn, Holiday Inn, Ramada, Days Inn, Howard Johnson, Super 8, Econo Lodge and Quality Inn. I have not stayed at the University of Maryland, but its website indicates that accommodation is available only in the Summer vacation (University of Maryland, College Park, MD, 20740). Hotels in downtown Washington are relatively expensive and often heavily booked. Having worked at Archives II from accommodation in both College Park and downtown Washington, I recommend the former (plus a rental car), especially if you plan to work at the archives for several days and to take advantage of late night opening.
- **Food** – The Archives II cafeteria sells a good range of food, while there is a small convenience shop.

- **Transport** – Washington DC. is served by National, Dulles and Baltimore/Washington International (BWI) airports as well as by Amtrak's Union station. Airline/Amtrak internet sites provide schedules/routings. All airports have the usual car rental agencies and bus transportation. Washington's National airport is accessible also by Metro, BWI airport by rail. Union station has both a Metro link and car rental agencies. For travel between Washington DC., New York and Boston, Amtrak is a good choice.
- **Local travel** – It is possible to rely on buses/taxis, but Archives II's rural location means that a rental car is useful, especially for those staying in College Park. From I-495 (the Capital Beltway or Washington's ring road) take exit 28B for New Hampshire Avenue (Route 650) south.
From downtown Washington, the Metro – this is a far superior system to London's underground - is a good choice, but there is a hourly staff shuttle bus to and from the downtown Archives building (Mondays-Fridays only: 0800-1700 hours). Researchers may use it on a space available basis. In May 2000 one researcher told me that seats were normally available every day.
If using the Metro, travel on the Green Line to Prince George's Plaza to catch the R3 Metrobus. Buses run every 30/60 minutes from the Metro station according to the time of day (Prince George's Plaza has a good shopping mall with food outlets a short walk away if you have a long wait). R3 Metrobuses do not run on Saturdays, when a free shuttle bus operates hourly between Prince George's Plaza station and Archives II. Don't forget to get a transfer ticket at the Metro station for use on the R3 Metrobus.
- **Parking** - Visitors can park cars during opening hours.

Contacts:

i) Archives II

Postal: National Archives at College Park
8601 Adelphi Road
College Park, MD 20740-6001
USA

Phone/fax: [From UK 00 1 then] area code (301) 713-6800

Phone for Nixon Presidential Materials: [From UK 00 1 then] (301) 713-6950

Email: inquire@arch2.nara.gov.

Fax: [From UK 00 1 then] (301) 713-6169

Internet addresses (these contain a wide range of information, including maps):

Archives II's Home Page:	http://www.nara.gov/
Archives II's Research Room:	http://www.nara.gov/research/
What's new in the Archives:	http://www.nara.gov/research/all/new.html
Nixon Presidential Materials:	http://www.nara.gov/nixon

College Park accommodation list:

<http://www.funtastikmaryland.com/College/Park/CollegeParkHotel.html>

Metrobus timetables:

<http://www.wmata.com/timetables>

- ii) University of Maryland**
Conference and Visitor Services
University of Maryland, College Park
MD 20742-9811

Email: conferences@umail.umd.edu

The university website provides local information on College Park etc.

- iii) National Archives and Records Administration**
This site provides information about all the presidential libraries.

Internet home page: <http://www.nara.gov/nara/president/address.html>

- iv) Richard Nixon Library and Birthplace**
18001 Yorba Linda Boulevard
Yorba Linda
California 92886

Internet: <http://www.nixonfoundation.org>

Contributors:

The editors are grateful for contributions from the following:

Louise Atherton, Peter Beck, Michael Dockrill, Greg Donaghy, Gaynor Johnson, Christian Leitz, Lorna Lloyd and Gillian Staerk

BIHG NEWSLETTER EDITORS:

Dr Pauline Elkes, Staffordshire University, School of Arts, Flaxman Building, College Road, Stoke-on-Trent, ST4 2XW. Tel: 01782 294806. e-mail: artpe@staffs.ac.uk

Dr Carolyn Kitching, University of Teesside, School of Law, Arts & Humanities, Borough Road, Middlesbrough, TS1 3BA. Tel. 01642 724931 e-mail c.j.kitching@tees.ac.uk or cj@onyxnet.co.uk