

The British International History Group

(under the auspices of the British International Studies Association)

NEWSLETTER

Number 7 – July 2000

Forthcoming Conferences

Everyone should, by now, have received the programme for the Twelfth Annual Conference of *The British International History Group* to be held at the Gregynog Conference Centre of the University of Wales Aberystwyth, and we look forward to seeing you there.

The *BISA Conference* will this year be held at Bradford, between 18-20 December 2000. The International History Group input will include two panels, once again co-ordinated and organised by Ted Johnson, and will be detailed in the full BISA programme.

Membership News

Klaus Larres of Queen's University of Belfast has been awarded a Jean Monnet Chair of European Foreign and Security Policy by the Commission of the European Union.

Antony Lentin has been awarded a personal Chair in History at the Open University.

Geoffrey Roberts has been awarded the University College Cork Arts Faculty Research Achievement Award 2000, awarded for the best research and publication record in the past five years by a senior member of staff.

Glyn Stone has been awarded a Chair in International History at the University of the West of England, Bristol. He has also been appointed Dean of the Faculty of Humanities at the same university.

New Publications

The **Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO)** Historians will be publishing a new volume of Documents on British Policy Overseas (DBPO) in the autumn. The new volume, *Détente in Europe, 1972-1976* (edited by Gill Bennett and Keith Hamilton), is based entirely on Government records from the 'closed period' and therefore otherwise unavailable to researchers. It covers Britain's preparations for, and role in, Mutual and Balanced Force Reductions (MBFR) negotiations in Vienna and Anglo-Soviet bilateral relations in the mid-1970s. This will be the first DBPO volume to be published by the newly-formed Whitehall History Publishing group in association with Frank Cass.

Publications by BIHG Members

Brian Girvin and Geoffrey Roberts (eds.) *Ireland and the Second World War: Politics, Society and Remembrance*, Dublin, Four Courts Press, 2000

Klaus Larres and Torsten Oppelland, *History of the Federal Republic of Germany, 1949-1989*, Erfurt, Landeszentrale für politische Bildung, 1999

Klaus Larres and E Meehan (eds), *Uneasy Allies: British-German Relations and European Integration since 1945*, Oxford, Oxford University Press, 2000

Len Scott and Stephen Twigge, *Planning Armageddon: Britain, the United States and the Command of Nuclear Forces, 1945-1964*, Harwood Academic Press, 2000

Len Scott, Macmillan, *Kennedy and the Cuban Missile Crisis: Political, Military and Intelligence Aspects*, Macmillan, 1999

Alan Sharp and Glyn Stone (eds) *Anglo-French Relations in the Twentieth Century*, London, Routledge, 2000

New Releases

Several BIHG members have expressed a desire for early notification of releases of new material from major archive centres and approaches to the Churchill Archive Centre and the Bodleian Library do, in fact, produce such information on the internet. The Churchill Archive Centre has an entry on the Historical Manuscripts Commission's website at <http://www.hmc.gov.uk/archon.archon.htm>. Details of the Bodleian Library's latest releases, including the Monckton boxes, can be accessed at www.bodley.ox.ac.uk/dept/scwmss/modpol/latest.html.

Peter Beck, USING THE ARCHIVES

3. *The Lyndon B. Johnson and George Bush Presidential Libraries in Texas, USA*

The papers of Franklin D. Roosevelt and his successors at the White House are housed in a series of dedicated presidential libraries dotted across the USA but linked to the National Archives and Records Administration. Naturally, these libraries are of most use to those researching American domestic and foreign policy, but anyone working on either international history in general or 20th century British foreign policy will find it difficult to ignore the US dimension. Moreover, declassification review procedures mean that frequently source materials become available for research much sooner at presidential libraries than on this side of the Atlantic. Thus, on my recent visit to the Bush Presidential Library, I was able to read papers about the Gulf War covering the year 1991. One interesting item at the LBJ Library came from a policy review delivered on 16 September 1968 by Dean Rusk, the Secretary of State. Having indicated that some 1.5 million cables had gone out since Johnson became president, he continued that ‘out of these thousand cables a day that go out of the Department, I will see eight. The President will see two. That means that 992 of them go out signed “Rusk” without my seeing them’ (LBJ Cabinet Papers, Box 17).

The most recent addition to the network, the George Bush Presidential Library, is located on the campus of the Texas A & M University at College Station, Texas. Its relative proximity to the Lyndon B. Johnson Presidential Library – this is part of the University of Texas at Austin – means that the two archives are easily accessible during one visit. Reportedly, the LBJ Library holds 44 million documents plus 1,000+ oral history interviews, while the Bush Library claims 38 million pages of official and personal papers and 1 million photographs. Thus, the archives cover, say, Cabinet meetings, National Security Council materials, memoranda, speeches and public statements, oral testimony as well as the papers of those working for the administration. I am sure that the vice presidential records of Dan Quayle are worth looking at! There are also good supporting collections of secondary materials at each library.

Further materials are constantly being released for research. Obviously, this is truer of the Bush Library, given its recent establishment and the fact that most papers, dating back principally to the late 1980s and early 1990s, have first to be cleared through review. Currently, only *circa* 10% of the archive is open, although I understand that a further batch of declassified files will be released soon. During my visit in mid-May 2000, I was informed that papers dealing specifically with Anglo-American relations have yet to be requested for declassification review. I proceeded to request a review (if relevant to your research, please contact me by Email at P.Beck@kingston.ac.uk for news of the progress of my application). Meanwhile, during May 2000 the LBJ Library made available (at the archive, on the internet, and for purchase on cassette) another batch of presidential telephone conversations covering the period January-March 1965.

Both libraries provide a large and ever-increasing amount of source materials (as well as more general archival information, including maps) on the internet. For example, the recent release of LBJ's telephone conversation transcripts plus sample conversations is already online. Thus, it is essential for any intending visitor to make full use of both libraries' websites before arrival, especially as Finding Aids (e.g. *Historical Materials in the LBJ Library*) can be downloaded. See (<http://www.lbjlib.utexas.edu/johnson/archives.hom/holdings/content.asp>). The Bush library's website lists files (and the important declassification reference nos.) open for research following declassification review – these include the files of Chief of Staff John Sununu (98-0004-F); Prisoners of War/Missing in Action (98-0029-F), Pan Am 103 (98-0034-F); Persian Gulf Conflict (98-0099-F); Somalia (98-0101-F); NATO Heads of Summit at Rome, 1991 (98-0142-F); Bush's trip to Hungary, 1989 (98-0194-F); Women Ambassadors (98-0260-F); and the India and Pakistan nuclear issue (98-0387-F). As mentioned above, a further batch of declassified files should be added in the very near future.

When visiting the LBJ Library, don't forget the research resources of the Harry Ransom Humanities Research Center (includes the Garvin papers) and the University of Texas Perry-Castañeda Library. Both are a short walk away across the campus.

Brief details:

- **Access** – readers are strongly advised to make prior appointments to visit
- **New readers** are required to register and to provide photo ID. Both libraries conduct an introductory interview with new researchers to identify relevant source materials for research topics. Pre-visit Email exchanges proved extremely useful in my case.
- **Research grants** – Like most other presidential libraries, the LBJ Library offers grants-in-aid providing limited financial assistance to researchers (deadlines: 31 January and 31 July of each year). No scheme exists at present for the Bush Library, but one is planned.
- **Xeroxing** – self-service copying is available for certain documents at both libraries (10 cents per copy), but both libraries provide efficient xeroxing services (LBJ Library, 10 cents per copy; Bush Library 50 cents per copy, plus handling/postage charges).
- **Laptop computers** – these can be used at the discretion of search room staff.
- **Paper** - The Bush Library requires researchers to use paper provided by the archive i.e. like Archives II.
- **Ordering documents** – normally, orders are retrieved quickly, but fetch times (quarter past the hour at the LBJ Library) tend to be slower *circa* lunchtime. Both libraries allow researchers a full cart of files/boxes.
- **Opening hours** – (like other details, these must be checked prior to your visit)
LBJ Library: Monday-Friday 0900-1700 hours (closed national holidays).
Bush Library: Monday-Friday 0900-1630 hours (closed national holidays).
- **Accommodation** – Note that, whereas Austin, Texas' state capital, has a population of 570,000, College Station/Bryan is *circa* 123,000. The LBJ library provides a list of nearby hotels/motels and bed & breakfast places, while the Bush Library indicates a relevant website. The LBJ Library is within easy walking distance of both the Rodeway and Days Inn motels listed below. Current rates are *circa* \$45-60. Both are relatively basic and located

near a busy road, but the air conditioning overrides the traffic noise! Most US chains have hotels/motels located at both Austin and College Station and bookable through UK agents.

- **Food** – The Conference Centre next to the LBJ Library sells a good range of food, while several food outlets exist a further 20 minutes walk away across the university campus. At the Bush Library, food outlets, including the ubiquitous MacDonald's, are located about one mile away, although during term time the university campus has food outlets.
- **Transport** – Both Austin and College Station have airports; indeed, that at Austin is brand new. College Station's smaller Easterwood airport can even be seen from the Bush Library. Both are accessible principally to Dallas Fort Worth and Houston (American or Continental Airlines might prove good transatlantic choices to get cheaper domestic flights, possibly free stopovers as in my case). Airline internet sites provide schedules/routings. Both airports have the usual car rental agencies.
- **Local travel** – When using the LBJ Library, it is possible to rely on walking/buses/taxis, but the Bush Library requires a car, unless you are prepared to walk long distances (frequently in great heat). The 110 mile journey from Austin to College Station is difficult to do other than by car (the main alternative is to fly via Dallas or Houston).
- **Parking** - Visitors can park cars at both libraries/museums. At the LBJ Library, your library registration card allows you to park in the nearby University of Texas car park.

Contacts:

i) Lyndon B. Johnson Library and Museum

Postal: Lyndon B. Johnson Library and Museum
2313 Red River Street
Austin
Texas 78705-5702
USA

Phone/fax: [From UK 00 1 then] (512) 916 5137 Fax [00 1 then] (512) 916 5170

Email: library@johnson.nara.gov

Internet
home page: <http://www.lbjlib.utexas.edu>

Other contacts

Harry Ransom Humanities Research Center
PO Box 7219, University of Texas at Austin, Austin, Texas 78713-7219
<http://lib.utexas.edu/hrc>
Phone: [From UK 00 1 then] (512) 471 9119
Fax: [From UK 00 1 then] (512) 471 2879

Days Inn University/Downtown
3105 N IH-35, Austin, Texas, 78722 Phone (512) 478 7666
Email: DaysInnUniversity@aol.com

Rodeway Inn University, 2900 N IH-35, Austin, Texas 78705
Phone (512) 477 6395

University of Texas housing (512) 476 5678, 471 3136

Austin Hotel Guide
<http://hotelguide.net/austin>

ii) George Bush Presidential Library and Museum

Postal: 1000 George Bush Drive West
College Station
Texas 77845
USA

Phone/fax: [From UK 00 1 then] (409) 260 9552 Fax 00 1 (409) 260 9557

Email: library@bush.nara.gov

Internet home page: <http://bushlibrary.tamu.edu>

Other contacts

Accommodation:

Bryan/College Station Accommodation (hotels, bed & breakfast)
<http://www.bryan-collegestation.org/accommodations.htm>

Bryan/College Station Transportation
<http://www.bryan-collegestation.org/transportation.htm>

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>

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