

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS NEWS

Autumn 2007



MADE IN BRADFORD: THE UNIVERSITY IN PICTURES

A new display in the J.B. Priestley Library Atrium, showing our new students the history of the University and the stories of previous students.

Image: Richmond Building, 1974.

PRIESTLEY'S WAR LETTERS

J.B. Priestley served five years in the British infantry in World War 1, enduring the hell of the Front, where he saw "the flower of my generation mown down among the barbed wire". The J.B. Priestley Archive at the University of Bradford has now received his wartime letters to his family in Bradford, detailing the hardships and the terrible sights and sounds of the trenches.

Alison Cullingford, the Special Collections Librarian at the University of Bradford, has written about Priestley's war service, using these letters and his published writings, in a new book telling the story of Bradford's war:

"Bradford in the Great War" / Bradford World War I Group. Sutton Publishing, 2007. ISBN: 978-0750946186.

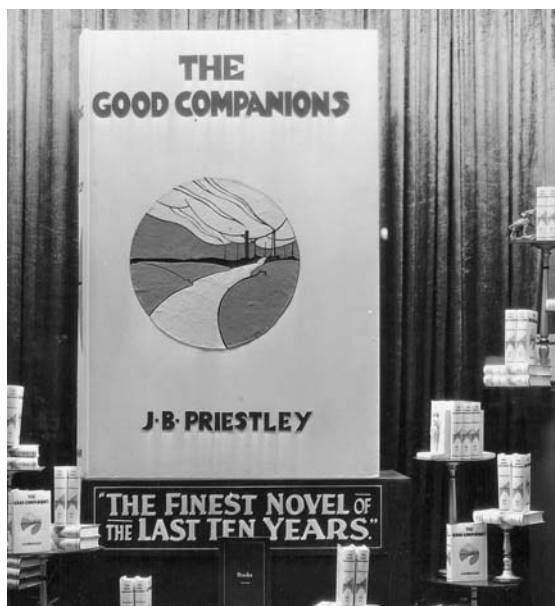
Image: Priestley in lance-corporal's uniform (PRI/21/2/1).



PRIESTLEY: A WRITER'S BEGINNINGS

Another important new addition to the J.B. Priestley Archive: unpublished sketches, verses and essays written by the young Jack Priestley before the Great War, pencilled into home-made notebooks. He was later critical of these early works, but they are a fascinating indicator of his future writing interests, particularly his passionate response to music hall and theatre.

RETURN OF THE GOOD COMPANIONS



J.B. Priestley's much-loved novel, "The Good Companions", first published in 1929, is a panoramic tale of three individuals who set out in search of a new life and join a musical troupe travelling around England. It is being republished as the second in the "Rediscovering Priestley" series by Great Northern Books.

Further details can be found on their web site:

<http://www.gnbooks.co.uk>

Image: Bookshop window display for "The Good Companions", 1929. (PRI 21/3/11).

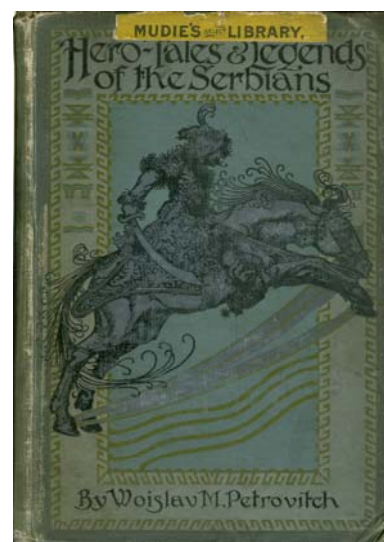
HAPPY RUBY ANNIVERSARY, RUSEES!

The University of Bradford celebrated its fortieth birthday in 2006. The Yugoslav Studies Unit, now known as RUSEES (Research Unit in South East European Studies), reached that milestone a little later, in 2007.

The celebrations included an exhibition and launch in the J.B. Priestley Library, celebrating both the history of the Unit and the continuing excellence in this area of study at the University.

Bradford remains internationally renowned for its library collections and research work on the Balkan region. Special Collections in this area include the Durham, Halpern, New Atlantis and Singleton Archives and many rare books in the Mitrinović and Yugoslav Collections.

Image: book cover from Mitrinović Collection.



NOW AVAILABLE TO READERS:

We have now catalogued two more of the Archives originally collected by Commonwealth Collection, an independent peace library located in the J.B. Priestley Library. The Archives are now in Special Collections.

1. THE HUGH BROCK PAPERS

Hugh Brock, peace campaigner and editor of "Peace News", played a key role in the growth of non-violent protest in Britain against atomic and hydrogen weapons and military bases during the 1950s and 1960s. The Papers include material on the Non-Violent Resistance Commission (later Group) and its offshoot, Operation Gandhi, the 1957 protests against British testing of H-bombs on Christmas Island, the Direct Action Committee, the Aldermaston Marches and the origins of the Nuclear Disarmament Symbol (peace sign), created by Gerald Holtom. The image shows a version of the symbol, from an Aldermaston March leaflet.



Web page: <http://www.bradford.ac.uk/library/special/cwlhbp.php>

2. THE HARDISTY PAX COLLECTION

PAX was formed in 1936 by a group of individuals who sought peace by practical application of Christian ethics. Its work during World War 2 included offering help to Catholic conscientious objectors. In 1971, the group merged with international Catholic peace group, Pax Christi. This collection of material relating to PAX and Pax Christi was created by David Hardisty in researching his undergraduate Peace Studies dissertation.

Web page: <http://www.bradford.ac.uk/library/special/cwlhardistyp.php>



THE COMMONWEAL STORY

Continuing the Commonwealth theme, Ellie Clement and Alison Cullingford have written an article on Commonwealth Collection and the Archives for online radical library journal "Information for Social Change". Ellie is a Commonwealth Trustee and Engineering Subject Librarian at the University of Bradford. Our article tells the remarkable story of David Hoggett, severely disabled, who founded Commonwealth as a postal library. After his death, the Collection came to Bradford, where Peace

Studies had recently been established as a department. Commonwealth continues to provide unique and important resources, and the article includes details of exciting plans for the future.

"A Library for Peace: the Commonwealth Collection". Information for Social Change no. 25 Summer 2007. Web page: <http://libr.org/isc/index.html>

CARING FOR THE COLLECTIONS: CLEANING

Books covered in dirt or dust are unpleasant to use, can pose a health hazard (e.g. to those with dust or mould allergies) and are more at risk of insect damage. Special Collections therefore have an ongoing programme of cleaning our rare books. To minimise damage, cleaning is done only by trained staff using conservation-quality equipment. We have just acquired this mini conservation vacuum, here shown fitted with a soft brush for book-cleaning.



NEW POSTCARDS

The images on this page can also be seen on the latest set of Special Collections postcards. They show J.B. Priestley encountering a unicorn (HAW/18/1/3/3/11) and the Reconciliation statue outside the J.B. Priestley Library. Collect your copies from the Reading Room, at any of our events, or ask us for one!

FURTHER INFORMATION

Special Collections at the University of Bradford: nearly a kilometre of rare books and archives. We are open to all: please contact us to arrange an appointment.

Special Collections
J.B. Priestley Library
University of Bradford. BD7 1DP.
Tel: +44 (0) 1274 235256
Fax: +44 (0) 1274 233398
E-mail: special-collections@bradford.ac.uk
Web site:
<http://www.brad.ac.uk/library/special>

We welcome feedback about this newsletter or any other aspect of our service. Text by Alison Cullingford. Digital photography and images by John Brooker. Text and images © University of Bradford. Not to be reproduced without permission.

If you would like to be kept up to date with future e-newsletters, new collections, exhibitions and events, why not join the Special Collections mailing list:

<http://www.brad.ac.uk/library/special/maillinglist.php>

