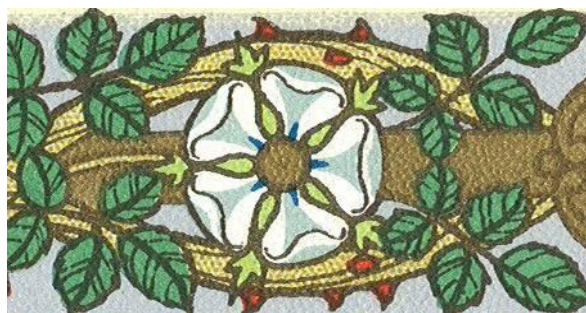
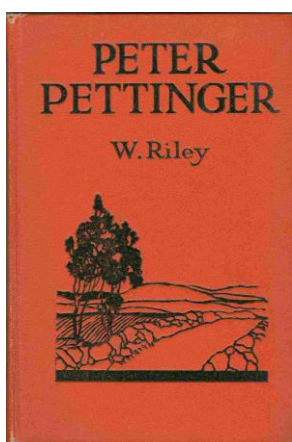


SPECIAL COLLECTIONS NEWS

Summer 2009



FROM BRADFORD MOOR TO SILVER DALE



One of the University of Bradford's research students, David Copeland, has recently completed his M. Phil. thesis, "From Bradford Moor to Silver Dale", on Willie Riley, the Bradford-born author of "Windyridge" and many other bestselling tales of Yorkshire life. Riley was extremely popular in his day, but is now little known. David has in essence rediscovered him, finding many more published writings, locating the author's archive, and writing a detailed biography and bibliography. The archive will now be donated to Special Collections at the University. David and the Special Collections staff

will work together to bring this heartwarming, life-affirming author to a wider audience. This blog entry links to local press coverage of David's work:

<http://specialcollectionsbradford.wordpress.com/2009/06/02/from-bradford-moor-to-silver-dale/>

PEGGY SMITH: DRAWING FOR PEACE

A fascinating glimpse at the personalities involved in 1930s politics, pacifism and the arts was on show at Gallery II at the University of Bradford in March 2009.

The exhibition featured pencil drawings made by Peggy Smith while she was working freelance for newspapers in the 1930s. The image shown is of Ellen Wilkinson, M.P. Peggy Smith was a dedicated peace campaigner, who worked for the League of Nations Union in the 1920s, was one of the first women to sign the Peace Pledge in 1936, and sold Peace News for many years.



ELLEN WILKINSON, M.P.

The exhibition, which was curated by Alison Cullingford, the Special Collections Librarian, was the first time most of these original sketches have been shown in public. The exhibition coincided with the PeaceJam youth peace conference at the University and we were delighted that Nobel Peace Laureate Shirin Ebadi was able to open the exhibition.

DID MR MINIVER READ PRIESTLEY?

Alison Cullingford, the Special Collections Librarian, recently presented a paper at a conference, "What did Mr Miniver read?", held at Senate House in London. The conference discussed "masculine middlebrow" culture. Priestley himself had plenty to say about the "culture wars" of the 1920s, asserting that "My friends and I are broadbrows", valuing that which is real, vivid and poetic in culture from music-hall to symphonies. Priestley can easily be seen as a masculine middlebrow writer but his work also appeals greatly to women, and transcends the genre. Alison's paper looked at surviving letters to Priestley or to his widow Jacquetta Hawkes, and concluded that if Mr Miniver was typical of these writers, he would perhaps have seen Priestley as a great man, with integrity and strong values, who had shared his own experiences in two world wars, and who was also a consistently humorous, enjoyable and profound writer.



The masculine middlebrow network runs conferences and other links for researchers in this area: <http://research.shu.ac.uk/middlebrow-network/>

A NEW ENGLISH JOURNEY



J.B. Priestley's English Journey was one of his most important and most admired works. It presents an unforgettable picture of the Englands of the 1930s: rural traditions, industrial misery, and the restless new world of the cinema and the motor-car. Great Northern, who are republishing many of Priestley's books, are producing a new edition to celebrate the 75th anniversary of this essential work, available in July 2009. Great Northern's web site: <http://www.gnbooks.co.uk/>

PAXCAT PROGRESS

The PaxCat Project, mentioned in previous e-news, will catalogue the Commonwealth Peace Archives. The Project Archivist, Helen Roberts, has now started work, and we are making great progress. You can follow PaxCat news via the PaxCat Blog <http://commonwealarchives.wordpress.com> and in our regular PaxCat newsletters in electronic and print form.

BRADFINDER IS COMING

This summer, the University of Bradford Library will be moving to a new Library Management System: the software that enables us to run the library, and, in particular, create our library catalogue. The new catalogue will be called Bradfinder. It will offer much more powerful search facilities and give us plenty of scope for improving our services to readers. Bradfinder goes live on 28 July.



CARING FOR THE COLLECTIONS: PRESERVING THE NEW ATLANTIS

Thanks to a generous donation, we are re-boxing the whole of the New Atlantis Archive. This large and intriguing collection of notes, correspondence and photographs of the 1930s intelligentsia was created by philosopher Dmitrije Mitrinović, pictured, and his supporters. The Archive arrived in some very sorry looking boxes, but we are now able to ensure the whole collection will be safely stored in archival quality folders and boxes to keep it safe for many

years to come.

CARING FOR THE COLLECTIONS 2: YORKSHIRE HERITAGE

The Yorkshire Rapid Response Network is a group of Yorkshire museums, libraries and archives co-operating to provide training and equipment for emergency response e.g. floods. We recently made a successful bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund to fund these activities. The equipment, to be stored at four sites around Yorkshire, has now arrived, and Alison Cullingford and John Brooker spent a couple of days recently at Harewood House learning about the material to be kept there. The equipment includes a vast array of useful things, from the obvious like protective clothing, gloves and boots, to the more unusual but potentially useful, such as a gazebo and a sledgehammer.

FURTHER INFORMATION

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Web site: <http://www.brad.ac.uk/library/special>



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