

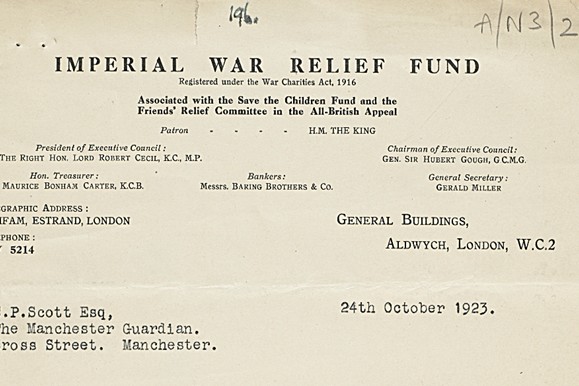
THE HUMANITARIAN

ARCHIVE

A permanent home for the endangered private papers of humanitarians, small organisations records, documents and cultural artefacts associated with humanitarian work from the 1960s onwards.

# WHAT IS IT? WHY MANCHESTER? COLLECTIONS

The Humanitarian Archive is a unique partnership between The John Rylands Research Institute and Library (Rylands) and the Humanitarian and Conflict Response Institute (HCRI). We are now at a critical time where humanitarians' work from the 1960s to the present day is at risk of being discarded and lost. The Humanitarian Archive will provide a permanent home for private papers, small NGOs and cultural artefacts associated with humanitarian emergencies overseas.

There is a long tradition of humanitarian activity in Manchester. Existing collections include slum clearance and poverty, the nineteenth-century anti- slavery campaigns, missionary activity, medical charities and disability rights. Under the editorship of CP Scott, the Manchester Guardian championed global humanitarian causes. Subsequent editors, such as William Crozier, supported refugees fleeing the Spanish Civil War and exposed the violence and antisemitism that lay at the heart of Nazi ideology

COLLECTIONS SECURED

1. Tony Redmond, medic & humanitarian (1980s - 2010s)
2. UK-Med (1988 - present)
3. Elizabeth Wilson, John Wilson (1943 – 2020)
4. The British Medical Team Saigon (1964 - 1973)
5. Roger Briotett, 1980s activist in Ethiopia

IN THE PIPELINE

1. Sean Sutton, photojournalist at MAG
2. The Mines Advisory Group (MAG), global humanitarian organisation that finds, removes and destroys landmines, cluster munitions and unexploded bombs from places affected by conflict.
3. The Norah Nyland papers (1986-2012) and the Antonio Donini papers (1980-2012). Both Nyland and Donini worked in Afghanistan for the UN.
4. The Ron Ockwell papers (1969-2012). Ockwell was in Biafra for UNICEF, Bengladesh and Cambodia and produced manuals for humanitarian aid in the 1980s and 1990s.
5. The Rousseau papers (1980-1992) focus on Thailand and Cambodia and the UN mission UNBRO

# CHALLENGES OPPORTUNITIES

1. Staffing resource: we need a dedicated archivist!
2. Space
3. These are modern records, so concerns regarding sensitive data, copyright, plus ethical considerations
4. Language: e.g. video interviews conducted in Karenni
5. Formats: vulnerable objects such as VHS tapes, floppy discs, and faxes.
6. Understanding records created by contemporary Humanitarians in the field (using WhatsApp and Telegram)
7. Digital records: need to develop strategies for periodic transfers of records from NGOs such as UK Med and MAG which are still operational
8. Teaching and Learning: can enhance existing taught and research programmes at the HCRI
9. Research: brilliant primary sources for MA and Doctoral studies. Will attract researchers and research funding to the JRRIL and University
10. Potential for a variety of placements and volunteering projects
11. International partnerships: e.g. our current collaboration with the Red Cross Museum Geneva for an exhibition on Elizabeth Wilson
12. Exhibitions and public engagement with Research: proposal for an exhibition with professor Bertrand Taithe in 2025 and scope for Impact Case Studies for next REF cycle
13. Engagement activities and work with migrant communities in Manchester – with advice and assistance of colleagues at the Race Centre

Professor Bertrand Taithe is the academic lead for the Humanitarian Archive

Click on the QR Code to find out more or contact Bertrand Taithe or Janette Martin:

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