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# **A LIBRARY IN GREEN FIELDS: A HISTORY OF THE CHESHIRE COUNTY TRAINING COLLEGE, CREWE, AND LATER MANCHESTER METROPOLITAN UNIVERSITY CHESHIRE CAMPUS LIBRARY SERVICE.**

**Sarah Webb and Margaret Roberts**

## **Introduction**

The library on the Cheshire campus of Manchester Metropolitan University at Crewe (see Plates IX and X) has been providing a service to students and academic staff since the site, as the Cheshire County Training College, opened in June 1912. While there have been revolutionary changes in how academic Library services are provided (computerisation and remote access being two such examples), the essential purpose has never changed. Its ethos has always been to help patrons to find information and enable people to learn and open their minds. At Crewe specifically, it was written of one student who came ‘from the back streets of Salford’ that ‘for the first time in his twenty-one years of his life he was meeting informed and cultivated people’.<sup>1</sup>

The planned withdrawal of Manchester Metropolitan University from its Cheshire campus in July 2019 has given the authors the opportunity to examine what remains of the original College archive as it relates to the Library service. The subsequent withdrawal and disposal of Library stock (following institutional guidelines) has allowed a look at the Library in the light of previous collection developments: from stock decisions, indications of collection ownership (such as bookplates, book stamps and date labels),<sup>2</sup> staffing and how it was viewed and used by its patrons. Given that the later history of the Library service follows national

developments in academic information provision, this article will primarily focus on the earlier aspects of the College Library's history. In doing so we hope to examine the claims made by one of the earliest historians of the Library service, who wrote that 'Our Library has from the outset been a necessary and significant part of the College provision for students' individual and independent work'.<sup>3</sup>

## **The Beginnings of the Cheshire County Training College Library Service**

In the earliest years of the twentieth century, the Cheshire Local Education Authority 'built many new schools in the County and was faced with the responsibility of training more teachers'.<sup>4</sup> Therefore, a training college was very much wanted and that it was eventually established 'was largely due to the enthusiasm of Dr (later Sir William) Hodgson, Chairman of the Cheshire Education Committee'.<sup>5</sup> While the planning of the new College got underway, a temporary home was found for the College in the Crewe Mechanics Institute for a small permanent staff, under the Principal Robert Delaney (1869-1944) and Vice-Principal Harriet Carson (1865-1954), and 26 male and 39 female students.<sup>6</sup> Similar but older institutions, for example Edge Hill College, were 'designed to be a national rather than a local institution'.<sup>7</sup> Crewe never had those ambitions and its students (with a few exceptions) were overwhelmingly from Cheshire and then from the North-West itself,<sup>8</sup> although this did not limit their eventual destinations and careers.<sup>9</sup>

It would appear that from its inception a library was at the heart of the new campus at its rural Crewe Green setting.<sup>10</sup> This might seem an obvious and necessary planning requirement but when Frederick Potter (who later taught at Crewe) took up a teaching position at Bolton Municipal Training College in January 1908 he found that this was not the case. The college buildings were modern and well built, but were suited more for the purposes of a school than a college. There was an assembly hall with good classrooms and

laboratories, but there were few amenities such as staff rooms and common rooms, and there was no library.<sup>11</sup> In contrast to Bolton, a space for the library was provided at Crewe even while the College was in temporary accommodation.

In July 1908, the Furnishings Sub-Committee was ‘empowered to order such books as are required, for the use of the students at the Mechanics Institute, on recommendation of the Principal’.<sup>12</sup> Unfortunately, there are no details of these books and this is a pattern repeated throughout the minutes dealing with the Library. In September of the same year the committee agreed to the purchase of two daily newspapers and permitted the Principal ‘to purchase such educational newspapers and periodicals as he sees fit’.<sup>13</sup> These were later detailed as *The Practical Teacher*, *School World*, *School*, *Daily Telegraph*, *Daily Graphic*, *Manchester Guardian*, *Daily News* and an ‘illustrated weekly paper as recommended by the Principal’.<sup>14</sup> In April 1909, the committee approved ‘Books for the library to be purchased as outlined by the Principal’<sup>15</sup> but again there were no further details. The gap in the committee minutes between 1911 and 1929 means that anything else must remain speculation.

The College divided the students by sex and accordingly the physical spaces of the College were also separated by sex with certain spaces and times that were shared. The ‘men and women students all dined together in the old Specification Room ... while we fed, many were the surreptitious glances that were exchanged’.<sup>16</sup> However, as the College was fitted into the Mechanics Institute, at least one space that would have been designated as a single-sex space had of necessity to be mixed. H.J. Dickenson recalled:

There was a glorious room in the Mechanics - the women’s commonroom [*sic*] - where we were allowed to obtain library books, and I know that most of the men were omnivorous readers in those days, and very careful and deliberate in their

selection of books - at least they very frequently needed to change their books.<sup>17</sup>

While the first cohort of College students were studying at the Mechanics Institute the new College campus was being built at Crewe Green, on land purchased from Robert Offley Ashburton Crewe-Milnes, 1<sup>st</sup> Marquess of Crewe (1858-1945) out of his Crewe estate. The Library stock specially purchased for the inception of the College and used by H.J. Dickenson and his cohort was then presumably transferred from its temporary home to the new site.

### **The New College Library**

The new College campus was opened in June 1912 by Charles P. Trevelyan, the Parliamentary Secretary, in place of the President of the Board of Education the Rt. Hon. J.A. Pease who had been ‘detained in London by the meeting of the Cabinet’.<sup>18</sup> Frederick Potter (lecturer in mathematics and education) recalled that the ‘change to our new surroundings was hailed with joy by staff and students alike’.<sup>19</sup> Within the new institution the importance of the Library was emphasised not just by its being constructed but by its position. It formed one end of the central teaching block (see Plates IX and X). Next to it sat the large assembly hall and beyond that was the laboratory.<sup>20</sup> They formed a suite of three impressive educational spaces. While a Library was integral to the Cheshire County Training College, the campus was specifically designed to be segregated by sex and to facilitate gendered behaviours and habits. However, the Library, in a repetition of what had happened at the Mechanics Institute, was a shared space and one where the sexes seem to have mingled with less oversight and chaperonage. Frederick Potter attested that the Library from its opening was ‘popular’ and while the professional and recreational books were a strong attraction, it would

also seem that this was a place where male and female students could meet outside their usual strict segregation.



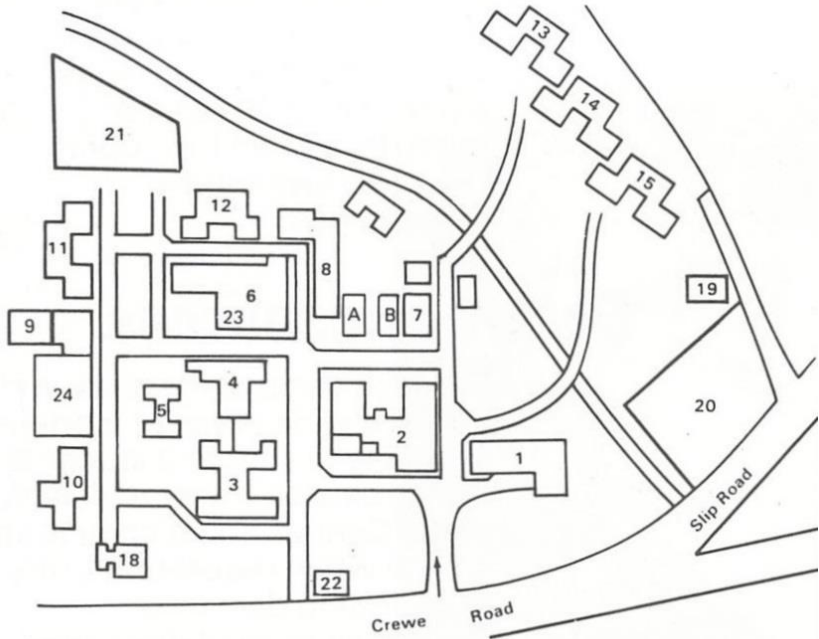
The College.

***Figure 1: A view of the main block of the original 1912 campus buildings taken from the 1942 College prospectus. At the extreme right-hand side, with two large windows, is the room that housed the original library until the 1960s. The central block, with five oval windows, was the assembly hall and on the left a laboratory. (Photograph courtesy of Manchester Metropolitan Cheshire campus archive).***

There was ‘a generous grant from the county council which enabled us to furnish the main buildings with good pictures and to equip the library’.<sup>21</sup> Early photographs (of the hall, Library and sitting-room of the women’s hostel) reveal that the pictures were primarily engravings, photogravures or photographic reproductions of popular pictures (and nothing too avant-garde as this was rural

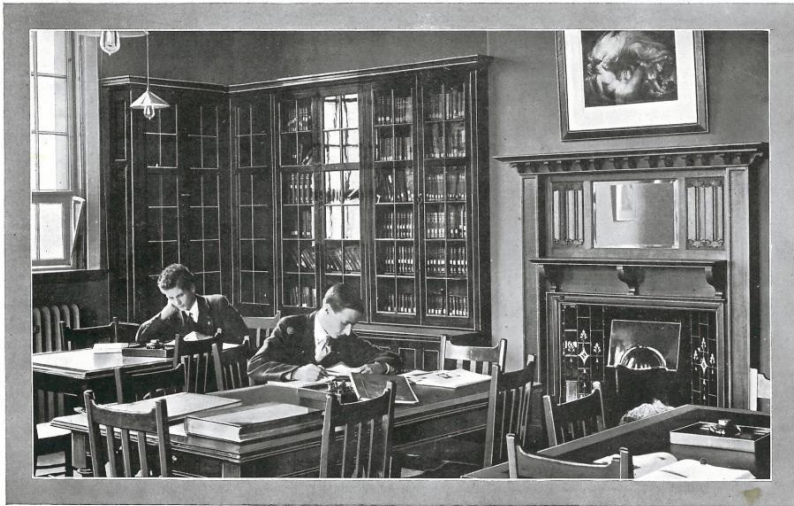
Cheshire). The Library was equipped with good quality bookcases (in oak), sturdy tables and chairs and an arts and crafts - inspired

## Crewe Campus



*Figure 2: A Crewe campus map reproduced from the Crewe + Alsager College of Higher Education 1982-83 College prospectus. The building numbered 3 is the Delaney building and this housed the original Library, opened in 1912. This was in the bottom right-hand corner of the Delaney outline. The 1962 Hodgson Library building (opened by Princess Margaret) is number 1 on the map. This is slightly inaccurate as it only shows the original building outline and does not show the later extension, built on the right-hand side of the outline.*

fireplace (see Figures 3 and 4). The bookcases had shelves and doors with glass panels that were lockable. Beneath were cupboards with one shelf each, doors that could slide to and fro and these too were lockable. These cupboards would seem to have been particularly suitable for oversized books.<sup>22</sup> An overall impression of the Library, made much later, was that it was ‘a typical grammar school library’.<sup>23</sup>



A CORNER OF THE LIBRARY.

*Figure 3: A view of the library taken from the 1913 College prospectus. This shows the library’s good quality oak bookcases, sturdy tables and chairs and an arts and crafts-inspired fireplace. (Photograph courtesy of Manchester Metropolitan Cheshire campus archive).*



There is only the briefest indication of what was on the shelves of the original Library and this comes from a profile written of the Library service in 1958. 'The original equipment of books still combines the core of such sections as English Literature where the red bindings of the Macmillan' *The English Poets* 'still strike a dominant



Library Interior.

***Figure 4: Another view of the Library taken from the Cheshire County Training College prospectus for 1942. The shows the same room and 1912 fixtures, fittings and furniture still in use. The photograph over the fireplace was of the first College Principal Robert Delaney. (Photograph courtesy of Manchester Metropolitan University Cheshire campus archive).***

note among the multi-coloured spines of Auden, Thomas and all that.<sup>24</sup> In the earliest days of the College the required reading outlined in the first prospectuses ‘had been provided free’.<sup>25</sup> These set textbooks included Palgrave’s *Golden Treasury of English Songs and Lyrics*, Peacock’s *Selected English Essays*, Tennyson’s *Selected Poems*, Ruskin’s *Sesame and Lilies*, Carlyle’s *Heroes and Hero-Worship*, *The Open Air* by Richard Jefferies ‘plus a play by Shakespeare and Milton’.<sup>26</sup> There were also some very interesting donations ‘reaching the College in the early days from a yet more remote past’ and these gave the Library

the nucleus of a museum section, featuring such items as *The Polite Lady, or a course of Female Education* wherein the young person of 1775 is instructed in the proprieties relating to ‘Dress, fashion etc.’, ‘Diversions, gaming etc.’, ‘Modesty, prudery, coquetry’ and finally ‘Religion’.<sup>27</sup>

Frederick Potter recalled that the ‘library was a pleasant and popular room, well furnished with books of a professional and of a recreational character’.<sup>28</sup> Given that Mr Potter, in his memoir, did not indicate that he borrowed books from the Library for his own professional development, the books ‘of a professional ... character’ were perhaps more focused on the students starting out on their teaching careers.<sup>29</sup> Catherine Burke, writing of E.F. O’Neill of Prestolee, thought it ‘likely that, while training at Crewe College, O’Neill was introduced’ to pedagogical ideas ‘with a particular focus on the material and physical arrangement of the classroom’ and the writings of the educationalist John Dewey (1859-1952).<sup>30</sup> One student, Ernest K. Venables, of the 1912-14 cohort, remembered:

the effect of the College course was ... to wake up our ideas, not only by hearing new things from our tutors, and seeing them in library books to which we then had access, but by the encouragement that was given to us to go and find out things for ourselves.<sup>31</sup>

Using other evidence we can perhaps almost see what was on the Library shelves in the early years. Frederick Potter remembered:

In addition to the annual field excursion to Llanberis and Snowdonia, numerous more local excursions were arranged and there were outings to such places as the disused copper mines at Alderley Edge, Delamere Forest, Eddisbury Hill, and Moreton Old Hall, and other local historic interest.<sup>32</sup>

These activities would have necessitated some Library material to support them, although it is rather frustrating that the only surviving report from a 1922 Llanberis excursion has no citations or bibliography.<sup>33</sup> Interestingly, the Cheshire excursions were aided by one J.O. Thomas, a local H.M.I., 'who was keenly interested in Cheshire history and antiquities, and had published under the *nom de plume* of Oswald Estry (he hailed originally from Oswestry) a most useful *History of Cheshire* for schools'.<sup>34</sup> There must therefore have been at least one copy of Estry's book in the Library as well as other histories of Cheshire and its geography and development. This section of the Library eventually and unsurprisingly included the three-volume folio edition of George Ormerod and Thomas Helsby's *The History of the County Palatine and City of Chester* (London: George Routledge and Sons, 1882) although unfortunately we have no firm accession date.<sup>35</sup>

Overall, with its fixtures and fittings, and books on the shelves, the Library exuded a pleasant and welcoming ambiance. This is attested to as late as the 1950s when it was the space used to welcome returning ex-students to their annual reunion.<sup>36</sup> What is challenging is how little can be recovered about how this Library was run and used. The earliest photograph of the Library (Figure 3) from the 1913 College prospectus shows two male students at work on assignments. Although admittedly staged by a local photographer, it probably reflected something of their real lives, although the Library

would surely have been busier as before the outbreak of the Great War there were 119 students enrolled.<sup>37</sup> No evidence survives for the Library's opening hours nor what kind of record was kept of the books patrons borrowed. The campus archive (incomplete though it is) does not indicate that any person at this stage was employed as a librarian or even a library assistant to keep track of books borrowed or the collection in order.<sup>38</sup> This in itself was not unusual; while libraries were usually part of new educational institutions' plans, their creation, housing and maintenance were often haphazard and inconsistent. Frequently a member of the academic or clerical staff was co-opted to oversee the Library service.<sup>39</sup> There was, however, some order to the collection, as each of the books on the shelves appears to have had some kind of spine label and this is an indication of the employment of a classification system.

Looking at the surviving copies of the early College students' magazines reveals students engaged in multifarious literary activities.<sup>40</sup> A brief selection includes references to Byron, the Irish poet Charles Wolfe, *The Land of Heart's Desire* by W.B. Yeats, Wordsworth, W.S. Gilbert, Sir Walter Scott and Saint Artemas of Lystra.<sup>41</sup> One would expect that while some of the students brought and used their own books, some of these activities, at least, were supported by stock borrowed from the College Library.<sup>42</sup> A retrospective of the Library, written in 1958 by Eleanor Reader, mentioned - as noted above - that the Library contained a set of *The English Poets: selections with critical introductions by various writers*. These were one of the many re-issues of a work that contained a general introduction by Matthew Arnold (1822-88), was edited by Thomas Humphrey Ward (1845-1926) and was published by Macmillan. The particular edition on the shelves at Crewe was published in 1907. Although its accession date is uncertain the edition would fit with being amongst some of the earliest acquisitions for the Library.<sup>43</sup> The earliest surviving books still in existence are two rather worn volumes of a three-volume set of the 1918 *A History of American Literature* edited by W.P. Trent, John Erksine, Stuart P.

Sherman and Carl van Doren and presented to the College Library 'by the Senior Students 1919.'<sup>44</sup> These books contain what must be the earliest College Library stamp, a rectangular stamp with the legend in capitals 'CHESHIRE TRAINING COLLEGE, CREWE, LIBRARY' in black ink.<sup>45</sup>

One undoubted source of books was those titles written by academic staff; as Walter Benjamin wrote 'Of all the ways of acquiring books, writing them oneself is regarded as the most praiseworthy'.<sup>46</sup> Frederick Potter began to publish educational text books just after the First World War. His *Common-sense Arithmetic*, *Common-sense English*, *A New English Treasury* and other such titles were very popular and undoubtedly found a place on the Library shelves. Another early academic with books to his name was Herbert Valentine David Davis (1881-1940). Amongst the titles he published was *The Science and Art of Teaching* (Hyde, Manchester, 1930) with an introduction by Crewe's Principal Robert Delaney, and *A Guide to Snowdon and the Vale and Pass of Llanberis* (Wistaston, 1936).<sup>47</sup> In addition,

Purchases of the '20s are represented in our Reference Library by such perennial series of the original Cambridge History of English literature, and squat shapes of sturdy reference volumes like Hastings *Dictionary of the Bible*.<sup>48</sup>

## **The Library in the 1930s and 1940s**

Robert Delaney had been Principal from 1908 until 1929 and on his retirement the new Principal (1930-42) Frank Herbert Cecil Brock (1881-1957) took up position. We are fortunate that the Cheshire Education Committee, Higher Education Committee, Training College sub-committee minutes begin again in 1929 and within them we can trace developments for the Library service. Mr Brock was given permission for the 'purchase of some additional books for the library' but there was no number, cost or any titles mentioned.<sup>49</sup>

Given that ‘the country was in the throes of the Great Depression, with its resulting cuts in national expenditure on education’,<sup>50</sup> it was decided that from September 1930:

students are to supply their own text books and stationery. The savings made to be applied to replenishing the Library. Immediate sanction is given to purchase £60 of books for the library’.<sup>51</sup>

This decision was perhaps related to the fact that there was no Library employee to oversee the collection and keep track of what was borrowed, lost and not returned. By September 1930, there is the first mention of an actual book title. The previous September the Board of Education had donated a work

called *Book of Gymnastics for Boys*, which was introduced to the College last September [and] was used as a basis for the Course in Physical Education at College. The course itself was widely praised by the Board of Education.’<sup>52</sup>

The minutes from 1931 and 1932 give some more tantalising glimpses of how the Library was arranged. In February, a ‘tender from Mr J. Charlesworth of £32 for the construction of a History Bookcase for the library and a woodwork cupboard for the Manual workshop, in oak, was approved’.<sup>53</sup> This would seem to indicate that the collection was growing a little (as extra shelving was needed) and that books were grouped by subject. It also indicated overall a relatively small collection that could still be accommodated in the original room. By the following year of 1932 the Principal was given permission, and this seems to have been a regular pattern, ‘to devote some expenditure to the replenishment of the library as in previous years’.<sup>54</sup> At the same meeting Mr Brock suggested ‘that the library should be re-catalogued’ and this was ‘approved and the cost of material and labour is to be £5’. Clearly the collection needed some attention and Mr Williams, the librarian at the Crewe Mechanics Institute, helped with this

project. The minutes later recorded that thanks were sent to Mr Williams for his assistance in cataloguing the College Library.<sup>55</sup> This was a case of borrowing a librarian's expertise in ordering the collection but what form the catalogue took is uncertain. Mr Williams catalogued the Library collection in just under a month; Mr Brock suggested the plan on 19 September and Mr Williams was thanked on 17 October. Either Mr Williams was an especially gifted and speedy cataloguer or the collection was relatively small. The catalogue itself was probably not a card catalogue but a ledger listing the books either by author, subject or both.<sup>56</sup> Once Mr Williams had finished his work the Library went back to being (as far as the scanty documentary evidence reveals) unattended and unprotected by any staff.

The losses from the Library continued and throughout the 1930s there were attempts to rectify this. In 1933, an 'entrance fee' of £1 was to be introduced on the acceptance of a student to the College. This was 'retained as "Caution Money" for the use of the Library, the balance, if any to be returned to the student at the end of the College course.'<sup>57</sup> The next year the committee found it necessary to approve the purchase of another bookcase for the History Library at a cost of *circa* £8. In actual fact the costs came in at £12 10s.<sup>58</sup>

By 1935 there were further problems caused by the lack of any Library staff. At the committee meeting in July, Mr Brock reported that the 'globe in the library that was broken by accident' required replacing. The request was approved. This suggests that, for this breakage to have taken place, students were allowed in the Library unsupervised. In addition, there were further losses of Library books and this amounted to the value of £15.

The books are to be replaced using the students caution money viz £10 from the outgoing students and £5 to be debited from the current balance of the first year students caution money. The balance of the caution money to be refunded to the outgoing students.

This was a rather unfair collective surcharge because not every College student could have been careless about what happened to the books. Then interestingly the committee approved the 'supply of forms for issuing Library books'.<sup>59</sup> Such a request had not been mentioned before in the minutes so perhaps this was an innovation. Who was to fill in these forms was not addressed in the minutes and there was no mention of employing a professional in the Library.<sup>60</sup> Measures to recoup the cost of lost Library books were repeated by the committee with depressing regularity almost every year afterwards.<sup>61</sup> Although the last mention (in the incomplete College archive) of this arrangement was in the 1942 College prospectus, a similar system continued into the 1980s.<sup>62</sup>

Although the repeated additions to the Library stock were recorded, very few details of titles have survived.<sup>63</sup> Library resources were mentioned in the Board of Education's *Report on Inspection* for 1931-32. Here is the first indication of the Library's opening hours and they were limited to when the main teaching block was open for lectures, between 9.30 and 4.30 in the afternoon.<sup>64</sup> Each subject discipline had a bookcase in which to keep their own subject-specific books. There were some '600 books in the English section'. While there had 'been a tendency in the past, perhaps to add books of criticism rather than texts ... the students have available here a very fair selection of books'.<sup>65</sup> Similarly, the Geography section 'contains a good selection of reference books and authoritative works on special areas, and is well used by the students. There is, however, a deficiency in collections of statistics which might well receive attention.'<sup>66</sup> There was 'a very fair selection of more advanced text-books, and some works on more general aspects of Mathematics in the College Library, and some of the students appear to make good use of them'.<sup>67</sup>

Other collections of books not housed in the Library were available on campus. 'A fair supply of up-to-date reference books is available on the shelves of the laboratory and good use is being made of set text-books.'<sup>68</sup> The lectures on the principles and practice of



teaching, given by the Principal and Vice-Principal, and the students' response, impressed the inspectors.

The students' reading in the subject is carefully directed by the lecturers: from evidence provided by the students' essays, which are a prominent feature of the Second-Year Course, it is clear that this reading, though ranging widely over many books, is neither uncritical nor vague in its results.<sup>69</sup>

Wider reading for the two Gardening students was also 'encouraged' with the result that the students 'show some knowledge of standard works of reference as well as of good text-books'. The two male students were also 'encouraged to consult original papers in research journals on such aspects of the work as fruit culture'.<sup>70</sup>

Not all wider reading material could be provided by the Library with its limited resources. In the discussion of mathematics books it was noted that 'further additions will doubtless be made as and when the Library funds permit'.<sup>71</sup> Additional or wider reading was often provided by the Cheshire Public Library service. In praising a 'good history library being built up little by little', mention was made of 'evidence that many students do a good deal of reading off the beaten track'.<sup>72</sup> This was only possible because of 'the County Librarian ... [and] the trouble he takes to secure new and expensive books which are beyond the purse of the College'.<sup>73</sup> The music students would have had to use the local library service as the inspectors found the Library's 'provision of suitable books meagre and should be increased'.<sup>74</sup> Cheshire Public Libraries must have also provided the multiple copies of sheet music for the 30 students 'who meet once a week for the rehearsal of madrigals'.<sup>75</sup>

The same patterns of loss and replacement seem to have continued into the wartime years. Some Colleges of Education were requisitioned as war began. Edge Hill was vacated on 4 September 1939 and it 'was to share a college at Bingley at Yorkshire'<sup>76</sup> for the

duration of the war. Crewe was originally ‘designated as a “hospital for war casualties”’, although in the event the expected holocaust of World War I did not recur’.<sup>77</sup> The 1940s saw three successive Principals appointed and a fundamental change to the focus of the College. In 1941 there were ‘nine full-time members of staff and seventy students’<sup>78</sup> with the numbers of male students dwindling rapidly. The loss of male students because of wartime conscription threatened the continued existence of the College and the Board Of Education, on 6 May 1942, ‘informed the Cheshire Training College Sub-Committee of its intention to close the College at the end of the academic year’.<sup>79</sup> In response, Mr Brock suggested that the College become a women-only institution and this was later supported by Frederick Potter (then Director of Education for Cheshire County Council). The proposal was approved by the Board of Education in April 1942 and Mr Brock (as a male Principal) ‘being eligible for retirement, was released from his duties at the end of July 1942’.<sup>80</sup> Valentine Norah Hall was appointed as acting Principal and she was in post (still only acting Principal) until 1946 when she resigned to take up the Principalship of Ripon Training College in Yorkshire.

The nadir of this constant pattern of losses, compensation and replacement was apparently reached in the early 1940s, dubbed the Library’s ‘Dark Age’.<sup>81</sup> During this period the Library suffered its ‘own war casualties in the disappearance of a certain number of books including all but two volumes of the Cambridge Mediaeval History’.<sup>82</sup> The Library was in need of greater oversight and care and, once peace had come, its recuperation and revitalisation began. The formidable Margaret Jane Potter Laurence (1909-91) was appointed Principal in September 1946 and she remained at the helm of the College until her retirement in 1971. Under her Principalship the College (and its Library service) were guided through much needed consolidation during the post-war austerity to expansion in the late 1950s and early 1960s.

## The Library after the Second World War

The 1944 Education Act ‘raised the school leaving age to fifteen and made secondary education compulsory ... this would entail an increase in the number of teachers required’.<sup>83</sup> Approximately ‘50,000 new teachers would be needed’<sup>84</sup> and to meet this need the Alsager Emergency Training College, just over six miles away from Crewe, opened in 1947. The new institution initially only took ex-servicemen for a one-year teaching training course and ‘351 original students were enrolled’.<sup>85</sup> The ‘Emergency scheme ran for three consecutive years at Alsager’<sup>86</sup> but the new college continued after it had ended with more conventional teacher training and the admission of female students.<sup>87</sup> While the establishment of Alsager was not initially seen as a threat, its continuation could have been interpreted as a potential issue and while both institutions developed in different ways there was always the shadow of ‘that “other place” a few miles down the road’. Despite that Crewe College

always regarded itself as senior, ‘THE’ Cheshire College, superior in both status and academic standing ... The Alsagerians on the other hand regarded Crewe as genteel, antiquated, out-of-date - something of a nunnery. The different management styles of the two principals tended to reinforce these perceptions. Certainly the ethos at Crewe was much more formal and polite than at Alsager where staff and students tended to be on much more familiar terms.<sup>88</sup>

The most noticeable change in the Library at Crewe, as shown in a prospectus photograph from the 1950s (see Figure 5), was the addition of a photograph of the second Principal Mr Brock to hang above the fireplace with that of Mr Delaney.<sup>89</sup> It is hard to disentangle what the photographer arranged from how the Library looked on a daily basis. One table has a handsome set of books arranged on it, although this cannot have been a usual occurrence as it would have made the table awkward to work at. While a book lies open on another

table there is an attractive flower arrangement in a contemporary vase on the table near the fireplace but no change in furniture or fittings (given wartime economies this would not have been likely).

The state of the bookshelves themselves is intriguing. While there are gaps (good as indicative of regular usage), they are untidy and sloppy and this was not good for the books physically, putting strain on their bindings and pages. One noticeable change was the use of small wooden plaques on the top of the bookcases. These undoubtedly indicated what was housed on the shelves below (possibly for example, subjects such as English, Geography and perhaps the Museum collection) although unfortunately it is impossible to decipher the text. They were not present in the earliest photograph of the Library so were clearly a later innovation to help users navigate the stock. It was this Library that was seen and commented on in the H.M.I report of 1951-52. While the report fills in the many gaps in the practicalities of how the Library was run, the inspectors' general disappointment could not be disguised.

The 'main Library' as it was called was found to be 'a pleasant room', echoing the photographic evidence, 'which provides seating for about thirty people, and serves also as reading-room and librarian's workroom'.<sup>90</sup> The stock was 'of some 2,726 books' and the librarian was 'the recently appointed History Lecturer'. While she had 'inherited from her predecessor responsibility for the general oversight of the Library, she has had no specific training or experience which would help her in her task'. Responsibility was given to individual lecturers 'for the selection and arrangement, according to individual notions, of the books in their sections'. This was personal academic whim rather than a reliable system for organising and then finding information. The inspectors concluded that the collection had 'neither a logical system of classification nor any readers' catalogue other than a simple author index'. That made finding a book on a particular subject particularly frustrating and a patron would have had to set aside a considerable amount of time to browse this index. In



LIBRARY

*Figure 5: The College Library in a photograph taken from the Cheshire County Training College prospectus for 1957. The original library furnishings are still in use and some of the bookcases are in need of straightening. Photographs of the first and second Principals are above the fireplace and the fresh flowers are a rather nice touch. (Photograph courtesy of Manchester Metropolitan Cheshire campus archive).*

contrast to modern university and college libraries students were ‘not at present given instruction in the use of a Library either for their personal education or as a tool in teaching’. Given the uneven scheme of organisation, it was perhaps impossible to arrange, much as it was needed.

Ordinary books could be borrowed ‘for a specified period, after which a daily fine is payable’. Books in great demand were placed ‘temporarily by the lecturer on a Reference shelf, from which they may not be taken out of the Library’. In a continuation of the pattern indicated in the 1931-32 Inspectors’ report above, the Library was only open ‘during the hours of Lectures, when the bookcases are unlocked by the students on duty’.

Students do library duty in turn for a half-day at a time; they record borrowings in a simple register, return books to the shelves, and are expected to check one-tenth of the stock each day. They receive no tuition in their simple duties and do not always understand them.

Outside the hours of lectures, including evenings and weekends, the bookcases were locked. The inspectors commented that this appeared ‘to be designed rather to prevent the loss of books than encourage their use’. Given the ‘Dark Age’ of the 1940s and the stock depredations, this was perhaps understandable.

Although there was no Library committee at this time, the Library budget for books and periodicals amounted ‘to about £100 in a year, though by no means all the books bought are to be found in the main Library’.<sup>91</sup> Smaller collections were maintained elsewhere in other departments.<sup>92</sup> The inspectors especially admired the ‘students’ Fiction Library ... a separate entity, supported by the students’ Union with a grant of about twenty-five shillings a year which the Principal is occasionally able to supplement’. Housed in the residential hostel it

was administered by the students themselves, although there was ‘no list of books, but it appears to be a most valuable collection in providing the bulk of the students’ private reading’.<sup>93</sup>

In conclusion, the inspectors found that for the Library to reach its full development it needed ‘more space, the services of a tutor with adequate time to give to it, and more books’.

Until these are forthcoming, its usefulness could be very much increased by improvements in organisation, some of which are already contemplated by the lecturer at present in charge. The task is a formidable one, but it ought to be put in hand as soon as possible.<sup>94</sup>

Each of these recommendations was eventually acted on by the Principal, Margaret Laurence. More space in the shape of a newly-commissioned Library building would have to wait but organisational improvements were soon under way.

How much progress had been made can be judged by the short article by Eleanor Reader (1913-2006), a lecturer with oversight of the Library who gave the first account of the Library in 1958. Her article, simply entitled ‘The Library’, was one of a number of contributions by academic staff to the College’s *Jubilee Book: 1908-1958*. On numbers alone the Library had improved as the stock had nearly doubled in six years, ‘at well over 4000’ books.<sup>95</sup> There was ‘an almost equal number of books’<sup>96</sup> in the other campus collections, ‘the separate Fiction Library, Music Library, Children’s Library, and the various subject school practice libraries’.<sup>97</sup> A Library committee had been established which managed the Library. It consisted of the Staff Librarian (in this case Miss Reader) and student members. The students ‘arrange and participate in Library duties and give help and advice in matters of borrowing, but all students in some measure play their part in duties and management’. Thus the system criticised in the

1951-52 report was still maintained but perhaps with greater direction and training.<sup>98</sup>

One concern of the inspectors that had not been addressed was that of 'more space'. The disquiet over space must have been about accommodating the increased numbers of students wishing to use the Library. Compared to the intake 1929-31 of 57 students, the numbers for 1958 were 'over 150 and when building extensions have been completed, the College will reach its maximum capacity of 200'.<sup>99</sup> This must have put great strain on the Library as a study space. However, Miss Laurence's ambition, stated early in her time at Crewe, was eventually for 'a completely residential College of 500 women'.<sup>100</sup> Expansion, as Miss Laurence clearly understood, was the only viable answer to questions about the smallness of the College.<sup>101</sup> Perhaps one of Miss Reader's most interesting and forward-looking comments was that several book collections on campus were 'all eventually scheduled for assimilation to the Main Library when expansion of our present buildings allows'.<sup>102</sup>

## **The New Library**

On Thursday 28 June 1962 Her Royal Highness Princess Margaret (1930-2002) opened the new buildings built on the Crewe Green campus and this included the new Hodgson Library.<sup>103</sup> The new Library was 'named after the Founder Chairman of the College',<sup>104</sup> Sir William Hodgson (1854-1940), who had been Chairman of Cheshire County Council (see Figure 6). The occasion was covered in the local press and even some of the national newspapers. Some newspapers covered the story because of the mystery of the catering staff being locked in the kitchens by an unknown gaoler and thus missing their opportunity to see Princess Margaret. Miss Laurence was suspected but denied the accusation.<sup>105</sup>

The couple of photographs held by the campus archive (and the more extensive photographic record held by the University of



London, in their architectural collections) show a brand new 1960s Library (Figure 6). As in the original Library, everything from shelves, tables, chairs to students' desks and book display units were new and designed to harmonise together. While practicality dictated that the Library itself was placed on the first floor of the new building (and staff offices beneath on the ground floor) this also ensured the Library was full of light and appeared spacious. The buildings were 'erected to the design and under the supervision of the County Architect, Mr E. Taberner, A.R.I.B.A.' and the Library was built by the firm of A.V. Shenton, Ltd, of Longton, Stoke-on-Trent.<sup>106</sup> One development prior to the planning and erection of the new Library was the appointment in 1958 of the first qualified librarian, Margaret Tye,



*Figure 6: The College library's new home and identity as the Hodgson Library. This illustration is taken from the 1962 programme when H.R.H. Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowden, opened the new administrative buildings, including the new library. (Photograph courtesy of Manchester Metropolitan Cheshire campus archive).*

to work on the campus as a tutor-librarian; her work divided between overseeing aspects of the Library and work in the English department.<sup>107</sup> This began the practice of the employment of professional Library staff that continued until the Library closed in 2019.<sup>108</sup> However, throughout the 1950s and 1960s Library responsibilities were shared between Miss Tye and other teaching staff; Miss Tye, for example, had responsibility for ordering children's books while one of the lecturers, Miss Turnbull, produced a guide for ordering books for the Education department and other academics had responsibility for book orders for their disciplines.<sup>109</sup>

No minutes from the Library committee have survived. However, we can glimpse something of what was happening in the Library, and how staff viewed it, from the Education Committee minutes that survive from the 1960s. At the meeting of October 1962 'Books for the Library' formed part of the discussions. The librarian was not always present at these meetings so academic staff had to then liaise with the Library. One aspect of interest was the request that a member of the teaching staff, the aforementioned Miss Turnbull, 'would prepare a typed catalogue of all the books on education in the college library so that each member of the staff might have one'.<sup>110</sup> She also 'asked that notes of any books considered to be out of date should be given to her' and then 'the committee could then determine at a subsequent meeting how these books should be dealt with'.<sup>111</sup> The Library budget for the financial year of 1962 was £250 with £50 outstanding. Requests for book suggestions were solicited, not exceeding the £50 and those suggestions were to be submitted to the Principal Miss Laurence 'in order that she might consider whether all these books might be ordered this year'.<sup>112</sup>

Miss Turnbull's task (it was described later in the minutes as a 'colossal task'<sup>113</sup>) does give us a glimpse of how much stock there was in the new Library. At the February 1962 meeting, she stated 'that the list of books on education in the college library would be ready by the end of this term'.<sup>114</sup> This proved to be unduly optimistic, but finally at

the September meeting, ‘Miss Turnbull gave each member a complete list of books in education which had been catalogued to date, with the promise that additional sheets would be added from time to time’.<sup>115</sup>

The mention of books that had been catalogued gives the impression that with the new Library there was not only an amalgamation of old and new stock but a reorganisation too. The catalogue entries of books would have been recorded on small index cards which in turn were housed in wooden card cabinets. They were organised as author indexes and then subject indexes and a user searched through them to find relevant book titles and their shelf locations. From the few survivals from this period it would appear that once classification had been introduced, the College Library has always used the Dewey Decimal classification system.<sup>116</sup> How many books a student could borrow at one time is not known.

In addition to book stock there continued to be newspapers and some periodicals. Looking at the minutes of the Education Department there were questions about how pamphlets were accessed: ‘would it be possible to keep articles in indexed box files, of easy access, in the library?’<sup>117</sup> Miss Tye responded at a later meeting that yes she ‘preferred to keep them in the library. Periodicals already indexed quarterly’.<sup>118</sup> How best to communicate and publicise recent additions to Library stock was just as much a concern then as it is now. In 1963 the Committee ‘felt that a list of additional books to the library stock could be listed monthly’. This would have been a continuation of Miss Turnbull’s task but it is not certain if it was pursued.<sup>119</sup>

One fascinating document about stock has survived in the archive and this is a small green-covered exercise book. Within was recorded Library donations 1948-1965, with a list of contributors and the books they donated: from the old Library and into the life of the new Library.<sup>120</sup> The earliest donations were from Miss Barlow, Chairman of the Governors. Her donations (and they would appear to

have been personal donations rather than by her on behalf of the Governors) were primarily good reference books, for example *Concise Dictionary of National Biography*, David C. Douglas *English Historical Documents*, C.W. Previt -Orton *Shorter Cambridge Mediaeval History* and Elizabeth Gidley Withycombe's *Oxford Dictionary of English Christian Names*.

Members of the teaching staff donated books and these presumably filled in gaps in Library stock. Miss Organe (who taught Infant and Nursery Education, Practice and Theory) donated several monographs such as Richard Glazier's *Historic Textile Fabrics: a Short History of the Tradition and Development of Pattern in Woven & Printed Stuffs*, Albert Sautier's *Italian Peasant Rugs*, Mildred Stapley's *Popular Weaving and Embroidery in Spain* and John T. Taylor's *Cotton Weaving and Designing*.<sup>121</sup> Similarly Dorothy Tomkins, who taught Biology and Rural Studies, donated many books, including some suitable for her students, such as Sydney Ashmore's *Flower Beds and Bedding Plants*, Harry Roberts's *English Gardens* and T.W. Briscoe's *Hardy Border Plants*. Her other donations added to the Library's fiction and non-fiction stock such as Paul Gallico's *The Snow Goose*, Aldous Huxley's *Brave New World*, Margaret Lane's *The Tale of Beatrix Potter* and Stephen Spender's *World within World*.<sup>122</sup>

Following in Frederick Potter's footsteps, academics who were also authors donated copies of their work to the Library. The Principal, Margaret Laurence, gave copies of her children's series entitled *Happy Families Readers*.<sup>123</sup> Nora Grisenthwaite gave copies of her four-volume series *Pegasus: An Anthology of Verse* and another four-volume series for junior schoolchildren *Poetry for Life*, with teacher's companion. Liba Taconis donated a copy of her anthology of children's verse *Lean out of the Window* (Oxford, 1959), illustrated by Joan Kiddell-Monroe (1908-72).<sup>124</sup> Students also donated to the Library both individually and as groups. In May 1963 one student donated three monographs (on Iceland, Norway and Finland) while at

the same time second-year Dance students donated five monographs on dance.<sup>125</sup>

The developments listed above (new building, professionalization of staff and stock development) were all referenced in the brief description in the 1965 prospectus:

The Hodgson Library, named after the Founder of the College, was opened in 1962 and provides pleasant study facilities and generous arrangements for the borrowing of books. The stock, which is being constantly increased, represents all College subjects and includes some recreational reading. A qualified staff is available to help students.<sup>126</sup>

There were also indications of a continued relationship between the College Library and the Cheshire County Council Public Library service.<sup>127</sup> The student handbook for 1967-68 gave details of the Public Library in Prince Albert Street, Crewe, and ‘in addition to an adult lending library, it includes Reference, Gramophone Records and Children’s Library Sections with a Periodicals Room and an Exhibition and Lecture Hall’.<sup>128</sup> Students were thought to be particularly attracted to ‘individual study carrels in the Reference Library Section and also the large selection of books and gramophone records maintained for lending purposes’.<sup>129</sup> The emphasis on study carrels is interesting and indicates a demand for individual privacy for study purposes. The campus Library, while being ‘a pleasant place to work’, also highlighted that the carrels ‘can be booked for a week at a time’.<sup>130</sup>

### **An expanded Library service**

In September 1970, the ‘number of students stood at exactly 900’. This included some first-year male students and ‘men were in the majority on the staff; almost imperceptibly we were becoming a mixed community’.<sup>131</sup> A similar pattern of the inclusion of male

students and the increase of male staff had been noted a decade earlier at Edge Hill by Fiona Montgomery. The expansion at Edge Hill 'meant a *reduction* [Montgomery's italics] of employment opportunities for women academics'.<sup>132</sup> At Crewe this pattern was found in the make-up of the library staff; after the first tutor-librarian Margaret Tye left in 1971 she was replaced by a male librarian. By 1975 the expanded library staff was dominated by men at the top of the hierarchy with women filling all the clerical roles.<sup>133</sup>

Margaret Laurence had retired in 1971 and was succeeded as Principal by Bronson Patricia Rose Ward (1932-2012).<sup>134</sup> It was Miss Ward who oversaw the full admission of male students to the Crewe College later that year.<sup>135</sup> This decision to accept co-education returned the mix on campus to something similar to that at its opening and male and female students mixed rather more freely in the new Library than in the old Library. The Hodgson Library building would later acquire an extension 'and was approximately doubled' in 1969.<sup>136</sup> On the first floor, this doubled the amount of space available for books and journals and comprised 'a lecture/exhibition room' and on the ground floor 'a purpose built AV library with a listening room on one side and a viewing room on the other side'.<sup>137</sup> The necessity for more space was because of the

introduction of diversified degrees in the early/mid 70s. This meant that the institution was no longer solely concerned with the study of Education, but gradually introduced a range of degrees in other subjects, the first of which was the Arts.<sup>138</sup>

Validated by the Council for National Academic Awards (CNAA), the new degrees

must have made considerable demands on the library as now the collection had to support a wide range of subjects to degree level and these included subjects which required quite

complex provision e.g. Music needed gramophone records and scores; Drama needed play sets etc.<sup>139</sup>

The CNAA validation ensured that ‘the library was now subjected to quite rigorous inspection by academic staff from other institutions’.<sup>140</sup> However, when the usage was monitored it was so poor that the ground floor space was appropriated for Miss Ward’s office, a boardroom and a committee room.<sup>141</sup>

Miss Ward eventually oversaw the amalgamation of the colleges at Crewe and Alsager in 1974 and their re-emergence as the new Crewe and Alsager College of Higher Education.<sup>142</sup> Other pens have dealt with this important educational development while we focus on the impact on the Library service. The union ensured that Miss Ward had oversight of two libraries within the same institution. The two libraries had different names - the Hodgson Library at Crewe and the Dr Annie Parkes Library at Alsager - and while they shared a new bookplate, they had different identities.<sup>143</sup> The new amalgamated College employed its new coat of arms and motto, ‘Doce ut discas’ (teach in order to learn) on its new bookplates. Each Library developed ‘collections appropriate to the subject specialism of each site, so that students are able to satisfy most of their Library needs on the site where they are studying’.<sup>144</sup>

Developments at both libraries echoed many themes discussed in this article. The two libraries had slightly different opening hours. However, in contrast to how the Crewe campus Library operated in its earliest days, opening only ‘during the hours of Lectures’,<sup>145</sup> both the Hodgson and Dr Annie Parkes Libraries opened at weekends. At Crewe, Sunday opening was ‘staffed by student volunteers’,<sup>146</sup> another resonance of earlier (and less effective) operational habits at Crewe. In contrast to the early 1950s when there was no Library instruction, ‘Guides to the use of the libraries’<sup>147</sup> were available. A joint Library newsletter was also produced to inform patrons of services and developments.<sup>148</sup> Books were issued ‘for periods of one term, but are

subject to recall at any time'.<sup>149</sup> While this was generous, books had to be returned 'to the library from which they have been borrowed before the final week of the academic year'.<sup>150</sup> While useful in terms of housekeeping (banishing the risk of another 'Dark Age' for the service), it meant staff were swamped with thousands of books being returned while at the same time issuing books 'for use during the summer vacation'.<sup>151</sup> This system of annual renewals was sensibly abandoned in the 1980s.<sup>152</sup> Matching developments in other academic libraries there were 'Audio-visual materials to supplement the printed word in study and teaching'.<sup>153</sup> In March 1976 the

total stock of academic books, children's books and audio visual material approaches 150,000, the Crewe & Alsager College Library is one of the largest academic libraries in the area, apart from the university libraries.<sup>154</sup>

By the early 1980s the combined bookstock of both libraries had reached '200,000 volumes, 1,000 current journal subscriptions and substantial collections of microfilms and of audio-visual materials both for undergraduate use and for use in practical teaching'.<sup>155</sup>

The merger of Crewe and Alsager with Manchester Metropolitan University in 1992 had several implications for the Library service.<sup>156</sup> The combined University Library service then consisted of seven separate campus sites, each with their own Library.<sup>157</sup> Students gained access to many thousands more books and the reservation service ensured that a student in Cheshire could borrow books from Manchester and vice versa, with regular deliveries of books between the individual libraries. Similarly there was a rapid expansion in the provision of online information. From humble beginnings, encapsulated in a 1980s prospectus assuring applicants that the 'College is rapidly developing its computing facilities, particularly in the area of micro and mini computers',<sup>158</sup> the provision of online material expanded exponentially throughout the 1990s and into the twenty-first century.



One development to be regretted (perhaps only for historians) was the simplifying of the individual Libraries' names sometime after the merger. The Hodgson Library became simply Crewe Library and Dr Annie Parkes Library became Alsager Library.<sup>159</sup> This was obviously done to simplify such matters as directional enquiries. It has been repeated as recently as 2018 when (again for reasons of clarity) the Sir Kenneth Green Library on the All Saints campus in Manchester was renamed the All Saints Library.<sup>160</sup> While this is understandable, something of the history of an institution can be lost with such name changes. Even now, issues considered in previous iterations of the Library service have interestingly re-emerged to be of importance. In September 2017 a system of rolling renewals was introduced. Books are initially issued for two weeks, and unless recalled they are continually renewed automatically for the borrower. This is a scheme similar to (but far more user-friendly than) the termly issues once operated at Crewe and Alsager. In April/May 2018 there was a *Your Library* survey in which students were asked to vote on what the Library study space reservation policy should be. One of the options was for study spaces to be reservable for up to 30 minutes.<sup>161</sup> The old Crewe College Library had operated just such a system, although it was later disbanded. In an echo of students 'do[ing] library duty in turn for a half-day at a time',<sup>162</sup> the All Saints Library now employs students as IT Rovers to help their fellow students with IT issues and student shelvers to help Library staff re-shelve returned books. Based in the Library, they are both trained and paid.

## **Conclusion**

Although the Crewe campus Library closed at the end of June 2019, parts of the Crewe Library collection, chosen to support subject disciplines being transferred, were rehoused in the All Saints Library building in Manchester. Indeed, while the closure is sad and to be regretted, the Library service at Manchester Metropolitan University will continue Crewe Library's work and continue to serve its patrons.

The centrality of the library to universities (despite the many challenges and changes in how information is provided) remains unchecked. The words of Eleanor Reader, the lecturer who had oversight of Crewe Library, written in 1958 still encapsulate the ethos of any modern university library's mission statement and Manchester Metropolitan University's in particular: 'Our Library has from the outset been a necessary and significant part of the College provision for students' individual and independent work.'<sup>163</sup>

## References

<sup>1</sup> The student was E.F. O'Neill (1890-1975) and the quotation is from G. Holmes, *The Idiot Teacher: a Book about Prestolee School and its Headmaster E.F. O'Neill* (Nottingham, 1977). It was quoted in N. Grisenthwaite and E. M. Reader, *A College in Green Fields. The Story of Crewe College of Education 1908-1974* (Burslem, 1974), p. 6.

<sup>2</sup> Like many university libraries which use self-issue systems, Manchester Metropolitan University's books now no longer require date labels. Due dates are printed on receipts produced by the self-issue machines. Ownership is indicated by discrete stamps placed internally within the books.

<sup>3</sup> E.R. [Reader], 'The Library' in V.P. Talbot, ed., *The Jubilee Book 1908-1958: Cheshire County Training College, Crewe, Cheshire* (Sandbach, 1958), p. 22. The author was Miss Eleanor Mary Reader (1913-2006), lecturer in history and social studies who also looked after the Library.

<sup>4</sup> Grisenthwaite and Reader, *A College in Green Fields*, p. 1.

<sup>5</sup> Grisenthwaite and Reader, *A College in Green Fields*, pp. 2-3. Dr Hodgson was 'an Alderman of Crewe and a well-known Liberal' (p. 3).

<sup>6</sup> Grisenthwaite and Reader, *A College in Green Fields*, p. 1.

<sup>7</sup> F.A. Montgomery, *Edge Hill College: A History 1885-1985* (No place of publication, 1985), p. 21. Despite this ambition, looking at the origins of students from 1887 to 1918 Montgomery concluded that Edge Hill 'was essentially a College of the North-West: less than 10% came from outwith this narrow catchment area.'

<sup>8</sup> In its earliest years there was one exception to this local pattern. According to an article called 'The History of the College 1908-1930' by an anonymous contributor in *The Jubilee Book*, p. 7, 'A contingent of men from Somerset came annually, by arrangement with their L.E.A., and they brought a

welcome variety into the human resources of the College'. After around 1921 students came from all over the UK although they were still in minority.

<sup>9</sup> The *Souvenir of the 21<sup>st</sup> Anniversary* (Nantwich, 1929) and *The Jubilee Book* recorded the then current addresses of former students. This reveals some fascinating career destinations. Of those who entered College in 1912, Roy E. Parry gave his address as the Education Service, Kampala, Uganda. Ernest K. Venables gave a Japanese address. Elsie Elizabeth Moreton (1899-1987) from Cheadle entered College in September 1917. After her graduation in 1919 Elsie went to Africa. Her time at College, as she described in a 1929 letter, were 'two glorious years' of her life. 'When the opportunity came for me to work in West Africa, I felt impelled to take it, by the remembrance of the words of wisdom of those lecturers who were constantly telling us students to widen our experience; not to get into a rut in one's home town; and even to go abroad if the chance offered itself.' She was for 'four busy happy years ... Principal of the Girls' high school in Bathurst' [then the capital of The Gambia, it has since been renamed the City of Banjul]. She married Wilfred James Gordon in 1927, and gave up teaching but concluded about her time in Africa, to 'have trodden, literally, in the steps of Mungo Park, I feel is adventure and achievement indeed'. Elsie's letter, entitled 'A College Woman in West Africa', was included in the Old Students' Association *Coming of Age Magazine*, 18 May, 1929, p. 40. These students were of course exceptions.

<sup>10</sup> A Library was present in every iteration of the campus design now held at CALS.

<sup>11</sup> F.F. Potter, *Educational Journey* (London, 1949), p. 61.

<sup>12</sup> Cheshire Education Committee, Higher Education Committee, Training College sub-committee minutes [hereafter Training College minutes], 10 July 1908. The primary documents in this article, unless otherwise stated, come from the Crewe campus archive. Currently, there is no finding aid and none of the documents have reference numbers. Once the Crewe campus has closed the archive (and this includes material specific to the Alsager College too) will be sent to the All Saints Library of Manchester Metropolitan University, under the care of the Special Collections. It will join the archives gathered from the other closed colleges e.g. Didsbury, Elizabeth Gaskell, that formed an original part of the University. At some point in the future it is envisaged that all of these collections will be listed properly and made accessible.

<sup>13</sup> Training College minutes 21 Oct. 1908.

<sup>14</sup> Training College minutes 25 Jan. 1909.

<sup>15</sup> Training College minutes 24 Apr. 1909.

<sup>16</sup> H.J. Dickenson 'The Good Old Days' in the Old Students' Association *Coming of Age Magazine*, 18<sup>th</sup> May, 1929, p. 35. Mr Dickenson met his wife, Helen Blankley a fellow student, at the College.

<sup>17</sup> Dickenson, 'Good Old Days', p. 35.

<sup>18</sup> Grisenthwaite and Reader *A College in Green Fields*, p. 5. Mr (later Sir) Charles Trevelyan, 3<sup>rd</sup> baronet (1870-1958), was a member of the Liberal party and later the Labour party. He gave his ancestral home Wallington in Northumberland to the National Trust in 1942.

<sup>19</sup> Potter, *Educational Journey*, p. 75-76.

<sup>20</sup> Contemporary photographs in the Crewe campus archive show that the assembly hall also contained a small theatre at one end with a proscenium arch. It is still there, although now the hall is a lecture theatre with the seating facing away from the stage.

<sup>21</sup> Potter, *Educational Journey*, p. 76.

<sup>22</sup> The authors examined the surviving bottom cupboards of the original bookcases still *in situ* in the old Library (Delaney building room 0-2). Conclusions were drawn about the original bookcases from looking at similar bookcases in the original Principal's office (Delaney building room 0-4) and the original Vice Principal's office (Delaney building room 0-8A, part of the lecture room 0-8).

<sup>23</sup> *Crewe + Alsager College of Higher Education: The College Library*, January 1st 1975, p. 1.

<sup>24</sup> E.R., 'The Library', p. 22.

<sup>25</sup> Grisenthwaite and Reader, *A College in Green Fields*, p. 14.

<sup>26</sup> The students were also expected to read a book called 'Stories from mythology and legend' but it has not been possible to trace an exact title for this work. This information is taken from a document called 'Notes on Old Prospectuses Cheshire County Training College, Crewe. Not dated, but includes examinations of 1913 and 1914.' The copy used for this research was produced from a carbon copy and there are no indications of who assembled this document.

<sup>27</sup> E.R., 'The Library', p. 22. *The Polite Lady, or a course of Female Education* was written by Charles Allen (1728?-92).

<sup>28</sup> Potter, *Educational Journey*, p. 76. After leaving the College Mr Potter began his research to create (p. 165) 'a series of new English class-books for schools' so he needed to find suitable extracts for children to study. He

‘traversed the whole range of children’s books, old and new, which were available’ and he ‘was fortunate in having at my disposal the resources of the excellent Cheshire County Library, together with the expert advice and ready assistance of the County Librarian, A. H. Gillgrass, who has built up such an excellent library and library habit in Cheshire’.

<sup>29</sup> A student with a particularly advanced interest in a subject beyond what was offered by the College would either have to use the Cheshire County Library system or provide their own books. A fascinating example of this kind of student would be the socialist student Harry Tricket (1890-1967), who excelled at languages (including Russian, not a subject that formed part of the curriculum offered by the College).

<sup>30</sup> C. Burke, “‘The school without tears’: E. F. O’Neill of Prestolee’, *History of Education*, XXXIV, iii (2005), p. 265. A fascinating debate took place on professional development in the 1917 issues of the students’ magazine, *The Sheaf*. In an issue (not in the campus archive) a student called G.L. wrote an article entitled ‘The Teacher and his Equipment’. G. L.’s article was replied to in *The Sheaf*, new ser., I, no. 5, by an anonymous male student (he had completed ‘two years of ... taken up by Military Service’). For this student the key was ‘The answer is “Books, books, books” and a rational study of certain sections of the Free Press’ (p. 9).

<sup>31</sup> E.K. Venables, ‘Greeting From Japan’ in the Old Students’ Association *Coming of Age Magazine*, 18 May 1929, p. 36.

<sup>32</sup> Potter, *Educational Journey*, p. 72.

<sup>33</sup> A field trip to Llanberis with lecturer Valentine Davis was a regular feature of the timetable and, according to Potter, *Educational Journey*, p. 70, this ‘only lapsed, some years after the first world war, owing to changes in the curriculum’. Students were expected to produce a detailed report of their visit afterwards. The authors have been fortunate to have seen one surviving example of a field trip report entitled ‘A Week’s Field Work in Snowdonia: the Land of Eagles’ written by Carrie Lloyd (later Parkinson). She enrolled at College on 20 Sept. 1921 and after graduating she went into teaching; the 1966 Old Students’ magazine recorded that she was a headmistress of a junior school in Crewe. ‘A Week’s Field Work in Snowdonia’, submitted in May 1922, is detailed and illustrated by picture postcards, photographs, records of the ascent of Snowdonia and maps drawn and coloured by Carrie Lloyd. Unfortunately, she did not mention any particular books (possibly in the College Library) which she had used in her report, although she must have consulted several published sources as well as being instructed by Mr

Valentine Davis. The original report was discovered in a second-hand bookshop and was transcribed by Rosalyn White, with image scanning by Philip M. Coops and image enhancing and editing by Mike Grose in 2018; all are members of the Broughton District History Group.

<sup>34</sup> Potter, *Educational Journey*, p. 72.

<sup>35</sup> The curriculum emphasised 'History - stress on local history. Geography - reference to geographical study of area visited during week of field work'. This is taken from a document called 'Notes on Old Prospectuses Cheshire County Training College, Crewe. Not dated, but includes examinations of 1913 and 1914'. See note 26 above.

<sup>36</sup> See as an example *The Torch: the Magazine of the Cheshire County Training College, Crewe*, for 1954, pp. 24-23, for a report of the Old Students' Association's Annual General Meeting, 1953. The 1953 Reunion took place on 3 Oct. and (p.25) 'Morning coffee was provided and Miss Laurence received the old students in the Library'.

<sup>37</sup> This figure is derived by combing the figures for the year intakes of 1912 and 1913 published in the *Souvenir of the 21<sup>st</sup> Anniversary* (Nantwich, 1929).

<sup>38</sup> For example at Bedford College, London, the service developed gradually. In its earlier iteration 'the bookcases were kept locked and volumes could only be obtained on application to the Librarian, who was not always at hand'. By 1886 there 'came to be more students and more books it was found that this freedom led to some disorder and confusion, and new rules were drawn up under which books could only be obtained from the Librarian or Sub-Librarian'. Eventually these stringent regulations were relaxed and 'access to the shelves is open to students, who have to sign a register or slip giving particulars of the book removed': M.T. Jukes, *A History of Bedford College for Women 1849-1937* (London, 1939), p. 268.

<sup>39</sup> For example at Bedford College, London, 'A Librarian was first appointed in 1872, in the person of Miss Rachel Notcutt, with the modest salary of twelve guineas a year. The Library, we remember, was not her sole charge, as she took part in the teaching and in the supervision of resident students': Jukes, *History of Bedford College*, p. 268.

<sup>40</sup> The authors have only been able to access three extant copies of the students' magazine in the campus archive. These date from 1915, 1917 and 1919.

<sup>41</sup> For the Charles Wolfe reference see *Cheshire County Training College Magazine* for 1915, edited by Miss H. Hutchinson and Mr H. Redler, p. 9. For the Byron, *The Land of Heart's Desire* by Yeats, Wordsworth, W. S.

Gilbert and Sir Walter Scott references see *The Sheaf* for July 1917, new ser., I, no. 5, edited by Mr E. Brocklehurst and Miss A.M. Woodbridge, pp. 3, 7, 10, 13.

<sup>42</sup> *Cheshire County Training College Magazine*, Apr. 1919, p. 7, recorded a humorous observation about ‘Why a certain person prefers to carry a dictionary about her rather than a handbag?’.

<sup>43</sup> E.R., ‘The Library’, p. 22.

<sup>44</sup> The authors are grateful to Stacey Brown, Project Records and Information Officer on the Crewe campus, Manchester Metropolitan University, for sharing this recent discovery made in the Frances Wood building. The inscription ‘Presented by the Senior Students 1919’ is written in volume one while volume two has the following inscription (in the same hand) ‘Presented by the Students 1917-19.’ Volume three is missing from this set.

<sup>45</sup> This identification is also based on the design of the stamp itself. In volume one it is hidden under a library bookplate for Dr. Annie Parkes Library, Alsager. A succeeding stamp (in blue or black ink) was oval in shape with the outer wording of ‘CHESHIRE COUNTY TRAINING COLLEGE’, the inner designation being ‘LIBRARY. There was a later oval stamp with the outer wording ‘CHESHIRE COLLEGE OF EDUCATION CREWE’, with the inner wording of ‘LIBRARY’ at its centre. However, we should treat these developments with care as there was probably not a definitive cut-off period. In fact, both the latter Library stamps were found in some books, for example in the reprint of Ronald Gray’s *Brecht* (Edinburgh, 1962). When the book was new it received the older Library stamp and then when returned from the binders it received the new Library stamp. There is no explanation for this except perhaps economy (why throw away good Library stamps?) or a harassed member of the Library staff receipting book deliveries just needing a stamp or any stamp on a particular day to record ownership.

<sup>46</sup> W. Benjamin and H. Zohn (trans.), *Illuminations* (London, 1992), p. 63.

<sup>47</sup> *A Guide to Snowdon and the Vale and Pass of Llanberis* was given a positive review in *The Education Outlook*, XIII-XIV (1936), p. 150. Mr Valentine Davis was described by the reviewer, S. Birch, as a ‘well known writer on Education and as an authority on Snowdonia, [who] has prepared an interesting and unusual guide-book to the district’. However, another reviewer, J.H.R., in *The Geographical Journal*, LXXXVIII, no. 5 (Nov. 1936), p. 462, did not look fondly on this book, commenting: ‘A man -

apparently a geologist - who has been up the mountain over a hundred times can surely produce a better book on it than this.'

<sup>48</sup> E.R., 'The Library', p. 22.

<sup>49</sup> Training College minutes, 20 Jan. 1930. There is no indication why there was a need for more books. Student numbers were fairly steady and in line with the first intake of students. According to *The Jubilee Book*, pp. 45-46, the numbers for the intake 1929-31 were 19 male and 38 female students and for the intake 1928-30 were 24 male and 34 female students. Perhaps the additional book stock was necessary to fill gaps (or match developments) in the curriculum.

<sup>50</sup> Grisenthwaite and Reader, *A College in Green Fields*, p. 15.

<sup>51</sup> Training College minutes, 17 Feb. 1930.

<sup>52</sup> Training College minutes, 15 Sept. 1930. From information on the COPAC database, it is possible that this book was in fact an edition of *Gymnastics for Boys: a Five-Years' Course of Twenty-Five Tables For Boys In Schools Aged 11 To 18 Years, with Exercises Suitable for Boys' Clubs* by Vagn Brøchner and John Watson. According to a COPAC record the latter was a lecturer at the Scottish School of Physical Education. On its homepage, COPAC describes itself as 'bringing together the catalogues of over 100 major UK and Irish libraries (and growing)'. This includes 'the UK's national libraries (including the British Library), many University libraries, and specialist research libraries'.

<sup>53</sup> Training College minutes, 16 Feb. 1931.

<sup>54</sup> Training College minutes, 19 Sept. 1932.

<sup>55</sup> Training College minutes, 17 Oct. 1932.

<sup>56</sup> The earliest books to have survived, the two volumes of *A History of American Literature* edited by W. P. Trent, John Erksine, Stuart P. Sherman and Carl van Doren, could possibly provide further evidence of how the Library stock was recorded. Mr Brock had suggested 'that the library should be re-catalogued', so it had previously been catalogued (or simply listed). On the title pages of each volume there is a number written in neat black ink; volume one has the number 1058 whilst volume two has the number 1059 (and the missing volume three would have taken the number 1060). Whether this was an accession number (i.e. attached on acquisition) or just an inventory number attached while an audit was taken is uncertain. At some later point the books were again audited and received new numbers on their inside boards in pencil. This reveals an increase in stock and volume one was given the number 1315 while volume two was numbered 1316. Pencil



markings perhaps argue for an inventory, possibly a ledger, that the creator (perhaps Mr Williams) knew would be subject to change with a further increase in stock in the future.

<sup>57</sup> Training College minutes, 19 June 1933.

<sup>58</sup> Training College minutes, 18 June 1934 (approval of the new History bookcase). The July minutes noted that the actual cost came in at £12 10s.

<sup>59</sup> Training College minutes, 15 July 1935.

<sup>60</sup> Training College minutes, 21 Oct. 1935.

<sup>61</sup> In 1936 they were even anticipating what was to be charged for students who left the following year. The committee (minutes 20 July 1936) decided that '2/6 to be deducted from the entrance fee of every second year student to cover their share of lost Library books during the past two years and a sum of £2 debited against the entrance fee of the students leaving College in 1937 - in respect of their share of the loss of books during the present year'. The College prospectus for 1942 (a reprint of the previous year's prospectus with inserted typed additions), contained the following information on p. 6 under the heading 'FEES': 'An entrance fee of £1 is charged when students enrol their names; this fee is forfeited if the student fails to enter college, but otherwise is retained as caution money for the use of the Library.' When this practice ended is not certain but there is no mention of it in the *Cheshire County Training College, Crewe* (Nantwich, 1957) prospectus.

<sup>62</sup> We are grateful to Dr Margaret Robinson, former Faculty Librarian for the Cheshire campus for her comments on this subject. Dr Robinson arrived at the Alsager campus in 1985. At the end of their teaching practice 'students had to return all items and had to have a form signed by the library to confirm that this had been done. Although this made for several frantic days for library staff, it did mean that items were returned promptly as students didn't get their travelling expenses until the completed form was submitted to Finance'. In an echo of the debates that took place in the 1930s, 'a similar form had to be signed before the student [on non-teaching courses] left the College and they did not get their "contingency" money returned until it was done. This too was effective. The system of termly loans did not encourage students to return books and without this process I suspect many more books would have been lost'. (Email from Margaret Robinson to SW, Senior Assistant Librarian, Manchester Metropolitan University, 29 Jan. 2019.)

<sup>63</sup> E.R., 'The Library', p. 22, wrote that '30s seem to have been particularly prolific in Education books'. Training College minutes, 19 June 1939,

approved 'books for [the] Library Teaching of History at a cost of £5'. It is not clear if that was a generic description or the title of a series of books.

<sup>64</sup> Board of Education *Report of Inspection of Cheshire County Training College, Crewe. Held in the Session 1931-32*. The inspection was carried out by Mr H. Hartley 'assisted by other Inspectors'. The limited opening hours are revealed in a discussion of male students who did not live on campus. The financial constraints on the College had meant a male Hostel (mirroring the female Hostel) had never been built. Consequently 'most of the men live at home, but fourteen live in registered lodgings, two in each house. 'The loss to the men due to this deprivation of full collegiate life is obvious.... classes beginning at 9.30 go on continuously, except for the mid-day break, until 4.30. at this hour, the Teaching Block is normally closed: it is conceivable that many men, living in lodgings or at home, in the neighbourhood of the College, would appreciate the privilege of doing their evening studies in the College buildings, particularly in the Library or various work-rooms' (p. 4).

<sup>65</sup> *Report of Inspection, 1931-32*, p. 8.

<sup>66</sup> *Report of Inspection, 1931-32*, p. 9. The inspection of Geography teaching noted some deficiencies in the classrooms, 'neither of which provides facilities for the display of maps and diagrams or for specimens to illustrate special aspects of Geography which are being dealt with'. It was also noted that 'there is a fair supply of instruments for elementary survey work, but there is a lack of wall-maps and sheets of the Ordnance and Geological Survey maps, some of which should be obtained and suitable drawers for their storage provided. There is no globe nor a collection of pictures illustrating typical geographical features.' There was a magic lantern 'but no collection of slides and no room which can be darkened during the day for the use of a lantern'.

<sup>67</sup> *Report of Inspection, 1931-32*, p. 11.

<sup>68</sup> *Report of Inspection, 1931-32*, p. 12.

<sup>69</sup> *Report of Inspection, 1931-32*, p. 6.

<sup>70</sup> *Report of Inspection, 1931-32*, p. 12.

<sup>71</sup> *Report of Inspection, 1931-32*, p. 11.

<sup>72</sup> *Report of Inspection, 1931-32*, p. 8. Further evidence of the gradual growth of the Library's history collection can be found in 1937 (according to Training College minutes 13 Dec.) when approval had been given for the

purchase of books for the Library to support ‘the new course in World History ... at a cost of £4:10s’.

<sup>73</sup> *Report of Inspection, 1931-32*, p. 8. This relationship between the Public Library service and the College mirrored the equally rewarding relationship between Frederick Potter and that service too. The inspector added the rider ‘It is desirable, however, that some of these books should be added to the College Library’.

<sup>74</sup> *Report of Inspection, 1931-32*, p. 14.

<sup>75</sup> *Report of Inspection, 1931-32*, p. 14. The inspectors also thought that ‘these and the rest of the Music students would learn much to their advantage if they had adequate opportunities of attending first-class concerts where the best Music and a high standard of performance would be ensured’.

<sup>76</sup> Montgomery, *Edge Hill College*, p. 56.

<sup>77</sup> Grisenthwaite and Reader, *A College in Green Fields*, p. 17. They do not give a reference for the source they quote.

<sup>78</sup> Grisenthwaite and Reader, *A College in Green Fields*, p. 17. The impact on student numbers (and the sex of those students) can be seen in the figures assembled in *The Jubilee Book*, pp. 51-52. The 1939-41 cohort consisted of 21 men and 23 women, the intake of 1940-42 was 17 men and 27 women whilst the intake for 1941-43 consisted of just 30 women. The last figures were perhaps skewed a little, according to Grisenthwaite and Reader, *A College in Green Fields*, p. 17, because the Board of Education was only prepared to ‘to recognise the Cheshire County Training College as a centre for the training of teachers during the season 1941-42, provided no men students were admitted’.

<sup>79</sup> Grisenthwaite and Reader, *A College in Green Fields*, p. 17.

<sup>80</sup> Grisenthwaite and Reader, *A College in Green Fields*, p. 17.

<sup>81</sup> E.R., ‘The Library’, p. 22. After the outbreak of the Second World War, the minutes for 1940 are a little more forthcoming about purchases for the Library. Training College minutes for 19 Feb. 1940 approved the purchase of *Land Forms and Life: Short Studies on Topographical Maps* by the Reverend (?) Clement Cyril Carter at a cost of 7s. 6d. and *Science in Everyday Life* at a cost of 5s. 0d. along with the periodical *Discovery* at a cost of 1s. 0d. per month. *Science in Everyday Life* was actually the title of a series of education books issued by Sir Isaac Pitman & Sons Ltd., London. It comprised such titles as *The Marvels of Electricity* by A.T. McDougall, *Nature's Mystic Movements: Heat, light and Sound* by A.T. McDougall, *Science and the*

*Weather* by W.B. Little, *Science in the City* by W.B. Little and *Nature's Wondrous Laws: Properties of Matter* by A.T. McDougall.

<sup>82</sup> E.R. 'The Library', p. 22.

<sup>83</sup> Montgomery, *Edge Hill College*, p. 61.

<sup>84</sup> J.A.F. Christie, *Oaks from Acorns Grow: An Informal History of Alsager Training College Between 1947-1960*, (No place of publication, no date), p. 1.

<sup>85</sup> Christie, *Oaks from Acorns Grow*, p. 6.

<sup>86</sup> Christie, *Oaks from Acorns Grow*, p. 6.

<sup>87</sup> Christie, *Oaks from Acorns Grow*, p. 12. From its inception Alsager admitted more students than Crewe. According to Christie, p. 12 'there were 32 staff to 315 students in 1960 and the Two-Year Certificate of Teacher Training endured from 1949-1960'.

<sup>88</sup> G.D.C. Doherty, *A Marriage of Convenience: a Case Study of the Amalgamation of Crewe + Alsager Colleges of Education* (Alsager, 1981), p. 11.

<sup>89</sup> Although removed from their frames, these two original photographs still exist in the campus archive.

<sup>90</sup> Ministry of Education, *Report by H.M. Inspectors on Cheshire County Training College, Crewe. Inspected in the Session 1951-52*, p. 8. All other quotations in this section are taken from this page unless otherwise stated.

<sup>91</sup> The Library Committee had come into effect at some point after the 1951-52 inspection where it was recorded (p. 8), 'There is no library committee'. Mentions of the Library committee can be found in the Minutes of the Education Department Meeting from the 1960s.

<sup>92</sup> *Report by H.M. Inspectors, 1951-52*, p. 14, mentioned 'a special Music and Speech Library, under the care of the [English] lecturer, which contains some useful books'. On p. 23 it was noted that the 'Music Room is also used as a students' Common Room; it contains the nucleus of a useful reference library'.

<sup>93</sup> *Report by H.M. Inspectors, 1951-52*, p. 9. By 1957 the campus had acquired two separate fiction libraries distinct from the Library itself. According to the *Cheshire County Training College, Crewe* (Nantwich, 1957) prospectus, p. 3, 'Residence for students at present consists of two halls of residence on the College site. Both halls are well-equipped with individual study-bedrooms, common room, library, workroom and general purpose rooms'.

<sup>94</sup> *Report by H.M. Inspectors, 1951-52*, p. 9.

<sup>95</sup> E.R., 'The Library', p. 22. Eleanor Reader wrote that 'the number of books in the Reference Library now stands at well over 4000' and this must refer to the main campus Library.

<sup>96</sup> E.R., 'The Library', p. 23.

<sup>97</sup> E.R., 'The Library', pp. 22-23. The Music Library had its own separate oval-shaped ownership stamp. Green ink was used in all surviving examples and the wording read 'CHESHIRE COUNTY TRAINING COLLEGE' in the outer circle while the centre read 'MUSIC LIBRARY / NOT TO BE TAKEN AWAY / CREWE.' This stamp was found in such books as Erik Routley *Keys to the Keyboard: A Book for Pianists* (Oxford, 1950), Andor Foldes *Music, Sacred and Profane: Occasional Writings on Music, 1950-1958* (1960), and Zoltán Kodály *Folk Music of Hungary* (London, 1960).

<sup>98</sup> There was also an ongoing relationship between the campus Library and the County Library service. E.R., 'The Library', p. 23, notes 'the kindness and help we have received in many ways from the County Librarian and his staff who have enabled us to augment our own resources by extensive borrowings of class sets of books and have also periodically given advice in cataloguing'.

<sup>99</sup> *The Jubilee Book*, p. 4, 'Foreword by the Chairman of the Governors' Frances W. Barlow.

<sup>100</sup> Grisenthwaite and Reader, *A College in Green Fields*, p. 30.

<sup>101</sup> Montgomery, *Edge Hill College: A History 1885-1985*, p. 61 commented that the Board of Education's McNair Committee of 1942 was critical of teacher training colleges and to 'some extent this was due to their smallness; in 1938 more than sixty colleges had less than 150 students and only five more than 200.'

<sup>102</sup> E.R., 'The Library', pp. 22-23.

<sup>103</sup> This information is drawn from the illustrated programme of the *Cheshire County Education Committee Opening of the New Buildings at the Cheshire County Training College, Crewe by Her Royal Highness The Princess Margaret accompanied by the Earl of Snowden, 2.45 pm Thursday, June 28<sup>th</sup>, 1962.*

<sup>104</sup> Prospectus of *Cheshire College of Education, Crewe* (Nantwich, no date); it has a pencil notation of '1965', p. 14.

<sup>105</sup> Daily Mail Reporter, 'Click! 30 Women Locked Away From Princess', *Daily Mail*, 29 June, 1962, p. 1; 'Locked in for Royal Visit', *Aberdeen Evening Express*, 29 June, 1962, p. 1.

<sup>106</sup> *Opening of the New Buildings at the Cheshire County Training College, Crewe by Her Royal Highness*, p. 2. The ‘new halls of residence were by Whitchurch (Salop) Contractors, Sherry Mill Hill, Whitchurch, Salop, and the additional administrative, [the new Library was on the first floor of the new admin block] teaching and communal accommodation was built by A. V. Shenton, Limited, 25, Pitsford Street, Normacot, Longton, Stoke-on-Trent. The total cost of the extensions was £355,000.’

<sup>107</sup> Interestingly, Stephen Tillyard had been appointed as tutor-librarian at Chester College in 1959: G.J. White, *On Chester On: A History of Chester College and the University of Chester* (Chester, 2014), p. 124. According to the staff register in the campus archive, Margaret M. Tye had a degree in English and she became an Associate of the Library Association in 1956. Amongst other aspects of her career, Margaret Tye was a contributor to *Twentieth-century Children's Writers* (London, 1978) with entries on Bruce Carter (Richard Alexander Hough), Dorothy Clewes, Mary O’Hara (Mary O’Hara Alsop) and Glen Rounds. She left Crewe in 1971 and became Tutor Librarian at Padgate College of Higher Education, Warrington, Cheshire.

<sup>108</sup> In a report dated 1 Sept. 1975 of *Crewe + Alsager College of Higher Education: The College Library*, p. 1 tribute was paid to Margaret Tye’s contribution to the Hodgson Library. ‘It was amongst the earlier college to appoint a full time professional librarian, in 1958, and the present library owes much to her twelve years in office.’

<sup>109</sup> Education Department Meeting 25 Sept. 1967. Miss Turnbull’s guide to ordering books included the instructions that ‘Specialist tutors are still asked to be responsible for books in their particular field, e.g. Mr Young: Psychology, Miss Ball: History of Education, Mr Evans: Sociology’.

<sup>110</sup> Education Department Meeting 2 Oct. 1961.

<sup>111</sup> Education Department Meeting 2 Oct. 1961. The current Manchester Metropolitan University Library collections policy for withdrawing out-dated or unused material is available online here:

<<[<sup>112</sup> Minutes of the Education Sub-Committee 2 Oct. 1961.](https://libguides.mmu.ac.uk/usracademic/withdraw.>>.</a></p></div><div data-bbox=)

<sup>113</sup> Minutes of the Education Sub-Committee, Thursday [no date of the month] Sept. 1962.

<sup>114</sup> Minutes of the Education Department Meeting, 27 Feb. 1962.

<sup>115</sup> Minutes of the Education Department Meeting, Thursday [no date of the month] Sept. 1962. One intriguing question that has proved difficult to answer is where the books added to Library stock were acquired. In the

Minutes of the Education Sub-Committee for 5 July 1963 there were some interesting points by Mr Eaton who lectured in sociology. He explained ‘the case for giving the students a wide spread of books in this subject, and in increasing the number of cheaper paperbacks to give the wide interest’. It was decided ‘that he should give the III yr lecturers the list this term, so that orders could be arranged, and lecturers to be responsible for their own groups. The order would then be forwarded in bulk by Mr Eaton to Smith’s.’ There was (and still is) a branch of W.H. Smith’s located in Crewe. Miss Turnbull’s 1967 guide for book ordering (see note 109) recorded that ‘orders ... will be sent, with others, to the Students’ Bookshop in Hanley’.

<sup>116</sup> A library manual from Crewe Library still exists in the campus archive. It was handwritten in biro by at least two different and anonymous staff members and housed in a 9” x 7” red Linson binder bought from W.H. Smiths & Son for 29 ½ pence. Its last dated entry was for ‘Stock Check Summer ’75’, in the ‘Miscellaneous Information’ section. It contains other dated entries for 1972 and 1973. The manual confirms that the Library was using Dewey Decimal classification system and it had been in use for some period before. The earliest surviving books from the Crewe Library, the two volumes of *A History of American Literature* (1918), have Dewey classifications inscribed in white ink on their spines. However, given that they were moved from Crewe Library to Alsager Library it is not reliable evidence for Crewe employing Dewey from its earliest days.

<sup>117</sup> Minutes of the Education Department Meeting 5 June 1963.

<sup>118</sup> Minutes of the Education Department Meeting, 5 July 1963. The discussion at this meeting seems to have centred on articles removed from various publications and kept in box files perhaps for research or discussion. Fortunately, some articles have survived for examination in a bundle in the campus archive. Many of these were taken from *Teachers World* and specifically the column called ‘Learning Library Corner’ written by J.C. (John Colton) Gagg (author of *Modern Ways of Teaching*, London, 1955) and *Learning to Learn*, Leeds, 1957, etc.). These articles were ‘intended to give suggestions for suitable books for the “Learning” section of the class library. It will also deal with matters concerning the classroom use of factual books’ (*Teachers World*, 13 May 1959, p.11). The latest article in this bundle was from *The Teacher* for 10 Nov. 1972, and an article entitled ‘We send them to the library - but is what they want there?’ by Philip Curtis.

<sup>119</sup> Aside from stock added to the Library there was an ongoing development of smaller departmental collections. In a discussion of 11 Jan. 1963 the

Education Department Meeting 'felt that more orders could be placed for books concerned with the teaching of reading & after some discussion it was felt that such books concerned the Education Dept. and not the English Dept. - books of stories & poetry were a quite different matter.' This discussion was returned to later at a committee meeting of 21 May 1963 when there was a suggestion that 'Sets of books - should be left in the dept. to aid lecturers'. But were those books loanable? One member of staff 'wished such sets not be loaned out to students - a sample to be left in the dept, probably coming under educational purposes rather than library allowances'. There might have been a tussle over this subject as the Education Department meeting on 5 June 1963 recorded that 'Miss Tye is willing to give sets back into the dept, to be kept'. Miss Tye's reluctance was perhaps centred on the potential for loss of oversight and loss of valuable stock.

<sup>120</sup> We are also fortunate that a second handwritten copy has also survived the ravages of modern time.

<sup>121</sup> Although we cannot be certain of the actual publication dates of Miss Organe's donations, they were not hot off the printing presses but were clearly what she considered classics and necessary. Glazier's book was printed in 1923, Sautier's title was published in 1923, Stapley's in 1924 and the last and 6<sup>th</sup> edition of Taylor's book was published in 1919.

<sup>122</sup> Professional bodies also donated to the Library. The Geographical Association gave Newman's *Mr Kennedy's America* and a volume of *The Times Atlas*. The Television Conference (held on campus in March 1962) donated Hilde T. Himmelweit, A.N. Oppenheim and Pamela Vince's *Television and the Child: an Empirical Study of the Effect of Television on the Young* (London, 1965).

<sup>123</sup> According to the COPAC record Margaret Laurence's series included the titles *Mr. Bun the Baker, Mr. Bones the Butcher, Dr. Knowall the Schoolmaster, Mr. Daub the Painter, Mr. Thread the Tailor, Mr. Soot the Sweep, Mr. Pulpitt the Vicar, Mr. Pill the Doctor, Mr. Snip the Barber and Mr. Garland the Gardener*.

<sup>124</sup> Other examples of donations by academic staff include Ian Sime's novel *Venturer, Top Secret* and *Art and Craft in the Primary School* by Joan Dean.

<sup>125</sup> A student, Miss J. Gan, donated Ólafur Hansson's *Facts about Iceland*, Olav Hove's *An Outline of Norwegian Education* and Niilo Kallio's *The School System of Finland*. The Dance students donated Sybil Clark's *English Folk Dancing for Schools*, the English Folk Dance and Song Society's *Community Dances, manuals 1 to 5*, W.S. Porter, Marjorie Heffer and Arthur



Heffer's *The Apted Book of Country Dances. Twenty-four Dances from the Last Years of the Eighteenth Century with Tunes and Instructions*, Cecil Sharp's *An Introduction to the English Country Dance* and Patrick Shuldham Shaw's *Holland as seen in the English Country Dance*.

<sup>126</sup> Prospectus of *Cheshire College of Education, Crewe* (Nantwich, 1965), no date but it has a pencil notation of '1965', p. 14.

<sup>127</sup> Interestingly, Miss M.J. Preece (County Councillor) was listed as a member of the College governing body. Miss Preece was also Chairman of the County Libraries Sub-Committee.

<sup>128</sup> *C. C. E. C. 1967-8 Student handbook*, p. 17.

<sup>129</sup> *C. C. E. C. 1967-8 Student handbook*, p. 17. Presumably this point was made in the advisement either because of increased numbers of students and pressure on College study spaces and resources or for the convenience of those who were not resident students and resided at home in Crewe. The *Cheshire County Training College, Crewe* (Nantwich, 1957) prospectus, p. 3 described them as 'A minority whose homes are within reach of the College may live at home for part or whole of the course by permission of the College authorities'.

<sup>130</sup> *Students Union Handbook, Crewe College of Education 1971-72*, p. 10.

<sup>131</sup> Grisenthwaite and Reader, *A College in Green Fields*, p. 36. The same passage explained that in September 1970 'Men students were now admitted to the first year of the Certificate [in Education] course within certain main subjects'. Miss Laurence perhaps did not embrace this development wholeheartedly and she certainly did not mention it in her welcome letter in the *Students Handbook, Crewe College of Education 1970-1971* (see below).

<sup>132</sup> Montgomery, *Edge Hill College*, p. 64.

<sup>133</sup> In a report dated 1 Sept. 1975 of *Crewe + Alsager College of Higher Education: The College Library*, there was a detailed breakdown of Library staff (after the amalgamation of both colleges). Based at the Dr. Annie Parkes Library, Alsager was W.G. Heath the College Librarian, S.H. Middlemiss the Tutor-Librarian (with responsibility for the Teaching Practice Library), with R.R.H. English as Sub-Librarian (Periodicals and cataloguer) and M.J. Phillips as Assistant Librarian. At the Hodgson Library, Crewe, J. B.B. Roberts was Tutor-Librarian, Mrs M.M. Watson was Assistant Librarian (cataloguing) and Mrs C.E. Jenkins Assistant Librarian who worked half her time at Crewe and half at Alsager. Other factors (too many to discuss here) were of course behind such changes as examined by Elizabeth Edwards in *Women in Teacher Training College, 1900-1960: A Culture of Femininity*

(London, 2001). While women's colleges were often 'praised ... [they were] subjected to the same criticisms of narrow outlook and illiberal attitudes' (p. 170). She commented generally that 'Middle-class mores, even as late as 1960, still required women to regard themselves as subordinate to men, and therefore to cede political and administrative authority to them' (p. 161) once they were admitted to an institution.

<sup>134</sup> Bronson Ward had been severely injured in the Farnborough Air Show disaster of 6 Sept. 1952. According to her *Daily Telegraph* obituary (14 June 2012), 'the demonstration of the prototype De Havilland 110 fighter went terribly wrong. The aircraft had just broken the sound barrier when, during a second low-level fly-past, it disintegrated, showering the spectators below with debris. One engine ploughed into Observation Hill, where there was a dense crowd ... [Bron Ward] had her left leg blown off and her right leg badly broken. She was taken to the Cambridge Military Hospital in Aldershot, where she would spend months undergoing operations to save her right leg, treatment which ultimately proved successful.' The pilot of the plane, the on-board flight test observer as well as 29 spectators were all killed while 60 people were injured. Despite her disability, she studied for her Diploma in Education at Birmingham University and was awarded a Masters at Manchester University in 1967. She pursued her career in education with determination and in 1971, she was appointed Principal of Crewe College of Education. She was a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts and was appointed a Commander of the British Empire in 1982.

<sup>135</sup> Miss Laurence's retirement on 31 Aug. 1971 brought to an end nearly 30 years of single sex higher education at Crewe. According to local people, under Miss Laurence's direction, the College had the reputation of something akin to a good finishing school for young women. The change in times (and the admission of male students) is neatly expressed in the *Students Handbook, Crewe College of Education 1970-1971*. In her rather delightful welcome letter, Margaret Laurence wrote on the theme of 'If I were your fairy godmother at this time I should make three wishes for you' (p. 8). These were all very sensible: 'a sense of adventure', 'stickability to persevere in the difficulties that make the way of teaching, and of preparing for teaching, hard, interesting and rewarding' and 'that you will make friends among students and staff who will be your friends lifelong'. By way of contrast, Mo Lloyd (Entertainments Chairman) wrote about what to look forward to on campus (p.15): 'Wherefore art thou Romeo? was last year's cry - well, gals, it looks as if our prayers have been answered or at least

minimised. With this term's intake of fellas it seems we'll be hotfootin' it around campus.'

<sup>136</sup> *Crewe + Alsager College of Higher Education: The College Library*, 1 Jan. 1975, p. 1. The whole passage reads: 'New accommodation was provided in 1962, unfortunately planned for student numbers of about 200, and was approximately doubled by the extension of 1969. The rapid expansion (to a roll of 900) in the 60s was accompanied by generous book fund grants (£9,000 in 1968-69, a figure not surpassed until 1972-73), so that the bulk of the stock is of recent date.'

<sup>137</sup> Email from John Whalley to SW, Senior Assistant Librarian, Manchester Metropolitan University 30 July 2018. A photograph of the whole of the first floor of the Hodgson Library (including the extension) was included in Grisenthwaite and Reader, *A College in Green Fields*, p. 37.

<sup>138</sup> Email Dr M. Robinson to SW, 29 Jan. 2019.

<sup>139</sup> Email Robinson to SW, 29 Jan 2019.

<sup>140</sup> Email Robinson to SW, 29 Jan. 2019.

<sup>141</sup> Email Whalley to SW, 30 July 2018.

<sup>142</sup> Details of the amalgamation are provided by Doherty, *Marriage of Convenience* and Manchester Metropolitan University, *The Long March. Crewe + Alsager: from College of Higher Education to University Faculty 1971-1992* (Manchester, 1992). In the marketing and branding of the College the 'and' between Crewe and Alsager was replaced not by an ampersand but a plus sign; perhaps a play on the ideas of addition and union. Prior to this, Cheshire County Training College was renamed Crewe College of Education in 1970.

<sup>143</sup> Crewe + Alsager College of Higher Education, College Library Newsletter, May, 1976, p. 3 in a small article called 'Parkes and Hodg', gave biographical details of Dr Annie Parkes (1900-1973) and Sir William Hodgson. 'Dr Annie Parkes is still remembered by her former patients in the town of Crewe, where she was a G.P. for many years. She was also a Cheshire County Councillor and was Vice-Chairman of the Governing body of Alsager, where she was affectionately known by both staff and students as "Dr Annie". She was a forthright person, not afraid to advise students - and tutors - as to their diet, health and general moral state; advice offered with such gusto and good humour that it was always listened to, though not invariably acted upon. Whenever she visited the College at Alsager she made a point of visiting the Library, and she also presented books to the Library, including a complete set of the Manchester Guardian History of the Great

War. It was very appropriate, therefore, that when the octagonal section of the Library was opened by Princess Margaret in May 1968 the opportunity was taken to commemorate “Dr. Annie’s” services to the College - as well as to a much wider community - by naming the new Library after her, the Dr. Annie Parkes Library.’

<sup>144</sup> *Crewe + Alsager College of Higher Education, Handbook 1975-76*, p. 51. The *Crewe + Alsager College of Higher Education: The College Library*, 1 Jan. 1975, p. 1 referred to ‘The exchange of stock following site specialisation is likely to bring about a net numerical loss in Crewe of up to 10,000 adult volumes, but much of this will be offset by the addition of a large part of the Alsager Teaching Practice Library’. This movement is neatly illustrated by the ownership history of the oldest surviving books from Crewe Library, the two volumes of *A History of American Literature* (see notes 44, 56 and 116 above for more details of this work). They were originally in the Crewe campus Library (and stamped accordingly). At some point they were sent over to Alsager, to support American Studies, where bookplates for Dr Annie Parkes Library were gummed on their inside boards. The last return date on the Alsager date label was for 16 Mar. 1988. This label has ‘WITHDRAWN’ stamped across it. How they ended up again on the Crewe campus is a mystery. If they were returned to Crewe Library stock they should at least have had Crewe date labels inserted inside. Perhaps these books were withdrawn at Alsager and acquired by an academic who kept them in his or her office (at Crewe) until they were discovered again and added to the campus archive.

<sup>145</sup> *Report by H.M. Inspectors, 1951-52*, p. 8.

<sup>146</sup> *Crewe + Alsager College of Higher Education, Handbook 1975-76*, p. 51.

<sup>147</sup> *Crewe + Alsager College of Higher Education, Handbook 1975-76*, p. 52. Some form of instruction or Library guide must have been made available earlier than this, given the improvements made in the 1950s under the Principal, Margaret Laurence. In illustration 7 on the left-hand side of the photograph is a display entitled ‘Know your Library’ and this was perhaps some kind of guide of using the service.

<sup>148</sup> A College Library Newsletter was produced in March 1976. This announced (No. 1, p. 1) that it ‘will appear periodically, whenever it is thought that there is enough news to fill an issue.’ The campus archive contains issues for March, May and June 1976 and January 1977.

<sup>149</sup> *Crewe + Alsager College of Higher Education, Handbook 1975-76*, p. 51.

<sup>150</sup> *Crewe + Alsager College of Higher Education, Handbook 1975-76*, p. 52.

<sup>151</sup> *Crewe + Alsager College of Higher Education, Handbook 1975-76*, p. 52.

<sup>152</sup> This was at the initiative of the then College Librarian, Dr Margaret Robinson.

<sup>153</sup> *Crewe + Alsager College of Higher Education, Handbook 1975-76*, p. 52. See for example similar developments at Chester in *White On Chester On*, pp. 124, 190.

<sup>154</sup> *Crewe + Alsager College of Higher Education, College Library Newsletter*, No. 1, March 1976, p. 1.

<sup>155</sup> *Crewe + Alsager College of Higher Education, Prospectus for 1982 & 83*, p. 8.

<sup>156</sup> Following the *Further & Higher Education Act of 1992* all Polytechnics were given University status and at that time the new Manchester Metropolitan University adopted Crewe and Alsager into their university family. The two campuses were never part of Manchester Polytechnic. The campus was officially branded MMU Cheshire in August 2003.

<sup>157</sup> The sites were the Crewe and Alsager ones in Cheshire and then the Manchester sites which comprised the All Saints campus Oxford Road, Elizabeth Gaskell College of Education, Aytoun, Hollings and Didsbury sites.

<sup>158</sup> *Crewe + Alsager College of Higher Education, Prospectus for 1982 & 83*, p. 9.

<sup>159</sup> The brass name plaque of the Hodgson Library was removed, taken to the gardeners' shed on the Crewe campus and subsequently lost. We are grateful to Mike Grose for sharing this anecdote with us on the evening on 3 April 2019.

<sup>160</sup> Sir Kenneth Green (1934–2010) was the Vice Chancellor of Manchester Metropolitan University.

<sup>161</sup> Email from Matthew Lloyd, Library Marketing and Engagement Officer, Manchester Metropolitan University Library, to SW 8 Jan. 2018. There was a Your Library survey in March 2017 where students were asked 'If the Library had more space, what would you want in it?'. In April/May 2018, the Your Library survey 'asked students to vote on what the Library study space reservation policy should be. Students were given three options and a sticker wall was used to collect feedback over the first three weeks of term (16 April- 6 May).' There were three options. 'Option 1: Library provide cards for you to reserve a space up to 30 mins. If you're not back after that or if you leave your desk without a card, another student can use the space ... Option 2: Library staff put cards on unattended desks allowing a 30 minute

break period. If you're not back at your desk within this time another student may use the space ... Option 3: We keep everything the way it is'. By an overwhelming majority students voted to keep everything as it was.

<sup>162</sup> *Report by H.M. Inspectors, 1951-52*, p. 8.

<sup>163</sup> E.R., 'The Library', p. 22.