

## “If you know your history...” The Everton Collection

The Everton Collection Charitable Trust with Liverpool Record Office as the key partner was successful with its application to the Heritage Lottery Fund. The decision was made at the HLF North West Committee meeting on 20 September 2007. The total project cost for acquiring the collection and fully promoting it is £2.1 million with a grant from HLF of just under £1 million.

This is an outstanding collection of archives and artefacts relating to the history of Everton Football Club. It dates from the 1880s onwards and includes over 8,000 programmes, minute books, accounts, contracts, correspondence, tickets, photographs, trophies, shirts, caps, medals, and news-cuttings. Expert valuers have described the part of the collection built up by David France as the finest and most comprehensive collection of its type relating to a single club. Academic historians have confirmed the significance and vast potential research value of the collection. It offers enormous possibilities for life-long learning and wide-ranging research not only into football, sport, and leisure, but also local, national, social, business, advertising, and economic history.

The project involves uniting The David France Collection with the Everton F.C. Collection, which the club has kindly donated to the Trust. Both collections will now be integrated as one 'Everton Collection', after being deposited in Liverpool Record Office.

The Everton Collection Charitable Trust has been established as a registered charity to secure the collection, to ensure long-term preservation, access and educational use of the collection, and to continue to acquire key items. The Trust believes that uniting the collections in the public domain will be a first in this country.

The grant is paying for the employment of project staff, particularly a Project Officer and a Creative Learning Officer for three years. The staff will unite the two collections and conserve and catalogue the material to archival standards. The grant also allows for a large range of items to be digitised and online access to be provided. Throughout the course of the project, staff will provide outreach, audience development, lifelong learning, and educational activities, and supervise voluntary work and oral history recording, with an emphasis on engaging new audiences, especially young people.

Material from the collection will be exhibited in due course by National Museums Liverpool, the National Football Museum, Everton FC and Liverpool FC. A major exhibition of the collection is planned for 2009 at Liverpool Central Library.



## Liverpool on Film

Liverpool Record Office was a partner with the North West Film Archive, North West Vision and Media, and the Culture Company, in producing a special DVD entitled "Liverpool on Film 1897 - 1967". This was part of the celebrations to mark the 800th anniversary of Liverpool's first letters patent in 2007 and one of many of the contributions of the Record Office to the Year of Heritage.

The film was premiered at the Liverpool Odeon on 22nd August 2007. It features a compilation of compelling archive film footage that tells the story of this extraordinary city, with narration by Roger Phillips of BBC Radio Merseyside. This includes footage of the spectacular pageant in 1907 to mark the city's 700th "birthday." It also presents a trilogy of striking films commissioned by Liverpool City Council Public Relations Department in 1967 evoking the attitudes and aspirations of the city at that time. Entitled "Turn of the Tide", "Liverpool Sounding" and "Rates for the Job", they show the industry, culture, life and services of the city in the 1960s. There was no surviving copy of "Turn of the Tide" which had retained its full, original colour. The North West Film Archive therefore brought in one of the world's most respected restoration experts to carry out specialist full colour digital restoration of the film. The process is explained on the DVD and, at the time of writing, the project was waiting to hear if it had succeeded in winning a prestigious award for restoration for which it had succeeded in being nominated to the final stages, The Federation of Commercial Audiovisual Libraries (FOCAL) International Awards for 2008. The initial run of 5,000 copies of the DVD sold extremely fast and a further supply was soon needed. Copies at £9.99 can still be purchased from the Record Office and many retail outlets.

## Young Cultural Curators

The Record Office successfully applied for funding and support to set up a project as part of the Museums Libraries and Archives Council's Young Cultural Creators scheme. One of our archivists, Helena Smart, worked hard on making the necessary links and co-ordinating the project with a range of organisations. The project itself was based on the history of Stanley Park and involved a group of young people at the Liverpool Lighthouse in Anfield. They looked at archives on the park and learned about its history. They then explored the park with Park Rangers using a camera and making sketches and notes. With the guidance of a graphic designer, rap facilitator and artist they produced postcards, poems and raps. The work was put on display and also performed at a showcase event. This built on a previous event and Young Roots project which the Record Office supported. All concerned were pleased with the outcome and would like to participate in this type of activity in the future.



## Exhibitions

Selected material from the large collection of Merseyside Jewish Community Archives held here was displayed at an event in Central Library to commemorate The Jewish Holocaust Experience through arts, performance and literature. This moving event was part of Liverpool's contribution as the national focus for Holocaust Memorial in 2008.

The discovery of a file in the Lord Mayors' archives about the detailed planning and arrangements for the 1964 civic reception for The Beatles and the northern premiere of their first feature film "A Hard Day's Night" provided the foundation for a very popular exhibition. This combined correspondence and documents from the file with press coverage and film footage. The exhibition was memorably launched in the Picton Reading Room with live music by the original "Fourmost" and special guests including Julia Baird, John Lennon's sister, Tony Barrow, Beatles press officer for many years, and Mark Lewisohn, Beatles historian. The event was compered by Spencer Leigh, BBC Radio Merseyside presenter, who also used the file as the basis for a special programme broadcast over Christmas. Special thanks are due to Kevin Roach and Simon Whitby for their work on this exhibition, which also led to a request for material to be copied for display in Liverpool, Australia.

The Record Office stand received many visitors at The Big History Show, which combined a major local history fair and academic history conference at St. George's Hall over the weekend of 14th to 16th September 2007 attracting over 3,000 visitors. An illustrated talk was given by the Manager on the city's royal charters as part of a programme of lectures.

Many images were used for the presentations, films and displays for the opening weekend events in January for Liverpool's year as European Capital of Culture.

## Liverpool in Print

This project will provide an accessible, comprehensive and indispensable portal for everyone interested in the city's rich history. Excellent progress has been made with inputting all of the data from the fragile and unique local studies sheaf catalogue and developing it into a significant online resource. An impressive range of reader guides has been researched and mounted on the Record Office website pages during the year.



The project is a partnership with the School of History at the University of Liverpool and it is funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council Resource Enhancement Scheme. The grant provides for project staff and computer hardware. The online catalogue will go live from autumn 2008 and work will continue on providing reader guides and additional bibliographical information.

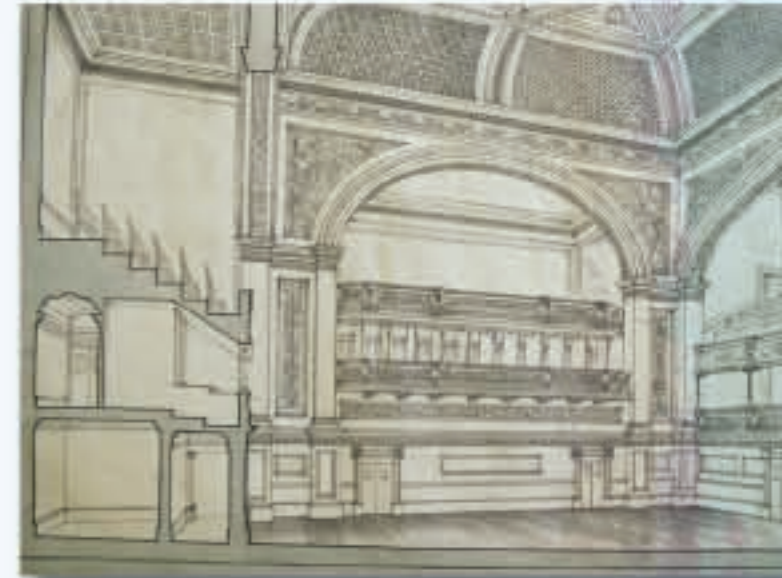


## Conservation

Good progress continues to be made with the general packaging and repackaging of collections.

There is now a team of six volunteers who come weekly. It has also been possible to accommodate three interns from Liverpool John Moores University again this year. Four of our volunteers have been working hard repackaging part of the City Engineer's photographic collection. This work will facilitate the long term preservation of these items. The new packaging will also mean that these photographs are easier for Record Office staff to access from the strong room, and easier for our customers to use. Our interns and remaining two volunteers specifically come to gain conservation work experience, and our Conservator Sharon Oldale has been happy to provide this through training, discussion and practical work. Over the year we have treated many archival items, one of which was:

- A drawing on paper: (see below) 'Interior drawing of the old philharmonic hall', by CP Barrett. (Binns A 74, ACC 560) which was very dirty and at risk of snapping due to a brittle backing. The drawing was surface cleaned; the backing and adhesive residues removed; flattened; repaired and encapsulated.



## Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Archive

This extensive archive, including minutes, programmes, correspondence, autograph books and photographs, was made fully accessible to the public for the first time from February 2008 on the completion of cataloguing. Vincent McKernan, the RLPO archivist, completed this project which was supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund and the Record Office. A team of thirty dedicated volunteers helped with indexing.

Vasily Petrenko, RLPO conductor, Vyn Tyndall, former volunteer RLPO Archivist and Vincent McKernan, RLPO archivist, with schoolchildren looking at the archives.