



## 25a The Shap Archive • an overview - April 2018

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### A. Access to the archive and contact details

The Bodleian Library in the centre of Oxford is, as you might expect, very well organised when it comes to taking care of archives of all kinds and making them accessible to researchers. It has special areas for confidential material and for personal detail lists. Researchers are brought the material to a special research room as required and by prior arrangement. As well as the archives of the Shap Working Party, those of the British Association for The Study of Religions, which began in 1954, are now lodged there and are being added to with new bodies of material as appropriate.

Anyone who is interested in researching the history and work of Shap and its place within educational history at large should contact **Department of Special Collections and Western Manuscripts, Weston Library, Bodleian Library, Oxford OX1 3BG** giving full professional details, the project they are researching and the times that they can be in Oxford.

Relevant e-mails: Reading room bookings and orders.  
[specialcollections.bookings@bodleian.ox.ac.uk](mailto:specialcollections.bookings@bodleian.ox.ac.uk). Phone. +44 (0)1865 277150.

Who's Who in Special Collections.

Keeper of Special Collections: **Chris Fletcher**

**Special Responsibility for Shap materials:**

**Michael Hughes, Senior Archivist, Bodleian Library**

[Michael.hughes@bodleian.ox.ac.uk](mailto:Michael.hughes@bodleian.ox.ac.uk) / [Modern.papers@bodleian.ox.ac.uk](mailto:Modern.papers@bodleian.ox.ac.uk)

### B. Bringing the archive together

In November 2004 we were pleased to be able to hand over the first instalment of materials about the activity of the Shap Working Party for safe keeping - and cataloguing - in the Bodleian Library in Oxford.

Those archive materials covered a period of 35 years; they point to the significant contribution made to RE and RS in Britain by the Working Party's members during that time. It was our intention to add to the archive as more of the older materials were contributed and new ones became available. This has now been done.

The second instalment of materials will be handed over this year - 2018 - and in advance of Shap's Jubilee celebration. We believe the final collection of materials will be an important source for anyone who wishes seriously to research the history of RE; it will also be important for those who research to biographies and work of some of its more illustrious members! Here we wish simply to alert readers to some of the key areas the archive covers. In addition to the named areas below the archive contains two overview pieces 'A Brief History of Shap' (to 2004) by Mary Hayward (also on the website) and an undated piece, added in 2018, called 'Unknown Shap' by Ursula King.



### **C. The range of materials**

We gathered the initial collection of materials together under a number of broad headings - and in 2004 handed over some 70 plus folders. (See list already circulated, dated November 2004). In 2018 there are a further 5 large boxes of materials; each box will have on the top a very detailed list of contents; lists of all we have placed with the Bodleian will also be handed over separately.

Here we draw attention to **key areas** covered in the Shap Archive *as a whole*, but it is important to note that these may change if the materials are further sorted and catalogued by staff at the Bodleian.

#### **1. 'Foundation' and early documents/activities**

This proved one of the most interesting sections of the archive to gather and sort! It includes, for example, a range of papers and correspondence from 1969 and the early 1970s, the period of Shap's formation; materials about Shap 'sub-groups' which operated in different parts of the country; early booklists on different religious traditions - it is hard to recapture the excitement now of actually discovering new books and compiling such lists - and especially of finding items for use in school! There are also copies of BJRE, then 'Learning for Living' (January 1972; May and September 1973 and BJRE Summer 1981) to which Shap contributed a news page, but also took on whole issues.

#### **2. Files of agendas, minutes and related papers**

The initial deposit covered the years 1982 - 2003 and more recent papers have been added in 2018. Shap customarily updated its list of members annually, and we collected some lists which go back to an earlier period than some of the minutes. The Bodleian will not of course release papers with addresses of members - observing a 50 year ruling on this - so we provided lists of members just by name (and institution where possible) for the earlier years.

#### **3. The 'Shap Mailing' and World Religions in Education**

Shap's annual publication started as 'Shap News' in the early 1970s comprising news of festivals (as a supplement) and offering embryonic examples of teaching 'world religions' and resource lists. By 1976 this became known as 'Shap Mailing' - comprising a Journal and Festivals Calendar - although it was the Journal (till the final one of 2009 which was electronic only) which continued to carry the title of 'Shap Mailing' until it was re-named World Religions in Education (WRIE) in 1986. The 2004 section of the archive holds the 'Mailing' from 1976 - 1985, and WRIE from 1986 to 2004. A December 1971 copy of Shap News was added in 2018 as well as copies of WRIE from 2005-2009.



#### **4. Shap Calendar of Religious Festivals**

Here we have 3 Supplements of festival dates and then almost a complete collection of Calendars from 1973 through to the present though if anyone has a copy of the Calendar for 1978/79 we should be delighted to have it donated to the archive. There are wall charts only for 2013/14 and 15/16. 2004 marked the launch of the Shap Pictorial Calendar and this is also represented in the archive to 2011. Later materials online can be accessed at:

[www.shapworkingparty.org.uk](http://www.shapworkingparty.org.uk)

#### **5. Publications**

One of Shap's early ventures was to produce a Handbook for teachers - a mine of useful articles and resource lists for teachers newly venturing into the field of 'world religions'. 1972 marked the first publication of a Handbook; a second appeared in 1976 and went through several editions and a third in 1987. Each of these was published by CRE (or its predecessor); in 1993 Heinemann published a new handbook *Teaching World Religions* edited by members of Shap. The Handbooks provide insight not only into teaching, but into the resources available to teachers for their own study and that of their pupils.

The popularity of the calendar of festivals led Shap to produce the book *Festivals in World Religions*, its first edition published by Longman; a later edition (1988) in a new format, ed. Peter Woodward and published by RMEP/ Canterbury Press has now been added to the archive. Shap marked its 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 1989 with a Conference and from this came a book of papers edited by Brian Gates: *Freedom and Authority in Religion and in Religious Education* published by Cassell. *Religions and Education: Shap Working Party 1969-1989* edited by Angela Wood - drew on articles from earlier journals; a German edition of this was later produced.

Two further books, added in 2018, date from the early years of Shap. The first, *Comparative Religion in Education* edited by John Hinnells, Ninian Smart and Geoffrey Parrinder, rose out of the conference which has come to mark the beginning of Shap in 1969 and the second out of one of its early conferences at the Shap Wells Hotel, *Hinduism* edited by John Hinnells & Eric J. Sharpe.

#### **6. Conferences: fliers, programmes and reports**

There are simply too many conferences to list here by topic - Shap held its earliest conferences at Shap Wells Hotel in the Lake District in 1969 and others at that venue which date from 1970-1977; Manchester (1974) ; South Coast (later) Southern Shap at (Goldsmiths College, London (1972 and 1976); Chichester, 75; 81; 82; 88; 89 and 93. York Shap papers exist in full from 1983 through to 1991 - with conference publications for most



of those years. Other venues represented in the archive include Oxford and Lancaster. (North West Shap) 77; 78; 79; 80; 84; also The Anniversary Shap Conference of 1989.

### **7. Chichester Project on Teaching Christianity in Secondary Schools**

This project was an offshoot of Shap and sought to address specifically ways in which Christianity might be addressed in secondary schools - it published 10 books for schools and a book for teachers. Later two handbooks for primary teachers were published by Longman - these addressed world religions in the primary school. Many of the Chichester Project books are available in the archive and the archive has a rich collection of documents relating to the project's consultations and resources, as well as explorations of possible video project.

### **8. European Association for World Religions in Education**

The material in this area, added in 2018, is now extensive and was donated by Brian Gates. It moves from a German Shap conference in 1985 to papers and some photographs relating to meetings, discussions and publications from 2002 through to 2009.

### **9. Financial and Legal Papers**

These include the Memorandum and Articles of Association and full audited accounts to 2010 and financial reports for 2011 to 2016.

### **10. Computer printouts of documents**

These provide material which sometimes overlaps with the original hardcopy collection outlined above, but also includes material drawn from the website.

### **D. Areas of Shap's activity under represented in the archive**

Among these the work of the Scottish Working Party on World Religions and North West Primary Group immediately come to mind. We had some materials for the first in 2004 and hoped more would come, but nothing has materialised to date. For the latter we had a dearth of material - if there are teachers, especially in Liverpool, Chester and Manchester, who recall working with Vida Barnett and producing packs of materials - we would still welcome any materials that may be out there. Shap educational tours abroad which were led by Peter Woodward and Vida Barnett are also not represented in the archive at present.

**Mary Hayward and Peggy Morgan**  
**Spring 2018**