

ORAL HISTORY ON DISPLAY:
The Presentation of Testimony
in Museums, Publications and Multi-Media

Annual Conference of the Oral History Society



at the Talbot Campus of Bournemouth University
Saturday 12th June to Sunday 13th June 2004

PROGRAMME INTRODUCTION

Oral history has come of age in the public's consciousness: personal testimony is recognised as a valuable element of contemporary historical interpretation and an incomparable educational and artistic resource. The secondary presentation and interpretation of oral testimony, the objective of many oral history projects, raises practical, technical and ethical issues.

ORAL HISTORY ON DISPLAY sets out to investigate the implications and opportunities raised by using oral testimony in different environments such as museums, archives, libraries, galleries, multi-media, publications, performance, artwork, landscape and the built environment, schools and outreach activities.

By gathering together a diverse collection of papers and presentations the conference will provide opportunities to reflect on the challenges of using oral testimony in public display.

An exhibition including displays from museums, archives and community projects will accompany the conference and will offer an opportunity for delegates to explore first-hand the websites, virtual displays and software referred to by speakers. Conference delegates wishing to bring a display or poster illustrating their own projects or organisations are welcome to do so. Please contact the organisers at the address below.

In addition to presentations an informal discussion forum will focus on issues of interest to recipients of and applicants for Heritage Lottery funding for oral history projects. The interim results of research into the outcomes of HLF funded oral history projects in the last five years will be presented. The HLF will support a limited number of places at this session – see the conference website (www.oralhistory.org.uk/conferences/) for further details, or contact the organisers at the address on the right.



SPEAKERS WILL INCLUDE:

STUART DAVIES, Museums, Libraries and Archives Council.

ANNETTE DAY, Curator, Oral History and Contemporary Collecting, Museum of London: *London's Voices*

ALAN DEIN, oral historian and presenter of documentaries for BBC Radio 4 and

MARK BURMAN, BBC Radio Producer: *Don't Hang Up: a sonic leap forward for oral history or the end of the line?*

JEFF FRIEDMAN, Assistant Professor in the Dance Department, Rutgers University, New Jersey: *Muscle Memory: a performance work based on the LEGACY oral history project.*

ANNA GREEN, University of Waikato, New Zealand.

DEBORAH HAASE, Museum Manager of the People's Palace Winter Gardens, Glasgow: *The Holocaust, Remembering for the Future.*

STEVE HUMPHRIES, Director of Bristol based 'Testimony Films': *A review of Oral History in Broadcasting since 1980.*

MARY INGOLDBY, Manager, Oral History Archive, British Empire and Commonwealth Museum, Bristol: *Commonwealth FM And History On Air.*

BIRDIE JOHNSON, Project Consultant, Exmoor Oral History Archive: *Keeping The Archive Alive.*

GRAEME MILLER, Audio Artist: *Linked: Art, memory and environment.*

BECKY NEWELL, Project Officer, Moor Memories, Dartmoor National Parks Authority: *Moor Memories – The Evolution of Dartmoor's Oral History Project.*

JONNIE ROBINSON, Project Worker, British Library Sound Archive and
ROB PERKS, Curator of Oral History, British Library Sound Archive: *The Way We Speak: a map-enabled website of accents and dialects.*

CORDELIA ROGERSON, Lecturer in Textile Conservation, University of Southampton: *Message in the Medium: Oral Testimony of Artist Jewellers to Inform Display and Preservation of Contemporary Jewellery.*

PAM SCHWEITZER, Founder and Artistic Director of Age Exchange and coordinator of UK and European Reminiscence Networks: *Incorporating interviews and visitor contributions into exhibitions.*

LORRAINE SITZIA, Tutor, Centre for Continuing Education, University of Sussex: *Catching stories: from tape to text.*



Speakers will address such issues as:

- the role oral history can play in the preservation and conservation of contemporary artefacts;
- the ethical dilemmas encountered in the selection and editing of oral history in the context of broadcast entertainment and museum display;
- the implications of incorporating memories of the living in long term displays;
- how oral history can be used to increase access to museums collections and to explore the diversity of cross-cultural audiences;
- the acceptability of re-scripting or re-recording poor quality interviews;
- the implications of advances in sound recording technology for the use of reminiscence and oral testimony in musical composition.

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION will commence from 9.00am Saturday 12th June, 2004.

■ The Oral History Society **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING** will take place at lunchtime on Saturday 12th June, 2004.

The conference dinner (not included in the cost of the conference) will take place aboard the Bournemouth Belle and includes a cruise along the coast of Dorset. All welcome.

The conference will end at 1.00 pm on Sunday 13th June, 2004.

Details of the final **PROGRAMME** can be found on the conference website at www.oralhistory.org.uk/conferences/

REGISTRATION FORM

I would like to register for the **ORAL HISTORY ON DISPLAY** conference and have ticked the appropriate boxes below and provided the necessary payment herewith (one copy of the form per person)

CONFERENCE FEE Your conference fee covers all conference sessions, light refreshments and Saturday lunch. Please note that there are no single-day rates. Please tick the appropriate category:

- £80 standard fee
- £60 fee for Oral History Society Members (joining now entitles you to the reduced conference rate, in which case please include an additional payment of £15.00 per person made payable to the Oral History Society)
- £40 fee for full-time students/unwaged/pensioners
- £25 fee for conference dinner on the Saturday night

ACCOMMODATION: A list of selected conference hotels may be found at www.oralhistory.org.uk/conferences Delegates are urged to book early to avoid disappointment. Further suggestions including bed and breakfast accommodation can be found at www.bournemouth.co.uk/accommodation If you would prefer to receive a list of accommodation in the area please tick box

I enclose a cheque for £_____ made payable to the Oral History Society to cover my conference fee/ my conference fee plus new membership fee/ conference dinner (delete as necessary)

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Tel: _____ Fax: _____

Please tell us if you have any special access, mobility or dietary requirements and contact the conference administrator if you require further information.

Please retain a copy of this form.

Please return this form by the Friday 21st May 2004 to:
**SAMMANTHA ELSEY, 6TH FLOOR, ROYAL LONDON HOUSE,
CHRISTCHURCH ROAD, BOURNEMOUTH BH1 3LT.**

Any queries please contact selsey@bournemouth.ac.uk

Confirmation of your booking will be sent at the beginning of June.

Final programme information and a map will be available from the beginning of June on the conference website.

If you require programme information and map to be sent by post please tick here:



BOURNEMOUTH

Situated on the south coast of England in the county of Dorset, Bournemouth boasts seven miles of safe, clean, sandy beaches and over 2000 acres of award winning parks and gardens. The town has a cosmopolitan atmosphere which blends the traditional with the contemporary. Neighbouring Poole also offers miles of sandy beaches and the historic Poole Quay area, with numerous restaurants and bars, and plenty of yachts to watch! For those preferring the quiet of the

countryside, the newly designated World Heritage 'Jurassic' coastline and the New Forest are close by, and the area abounds with historic houses, acclaimed gardens and picturesque villages.

Getting to Bournemouth is straightforward, whether by road rail or air. Virgin Trains connect the town with all main stations to Liverpool, Glasgow and Aberdeen, and London Waterloo is a two hour journey. By road, the M3/M27 provide good access from London and the North. Whilst the east/west rail and road routes are less developed, the delightful rural scenery provides ample

compensation for the slower journey time! Ryanair fly direct to Bournemouth from Dublin & Glasgow, whilst nearby Southampton airport extends the range into mainland Europe.

Bournemouth University's origins can be traced to the early part of the 20th century with the foundation of the former Bournemouth Municipal College. Its modern history began in the early 1970s with the creation of

the Bournemouth College of Technology. Construction of the new buildings on what was the largest farm in Talbot Village was completed by September of 1976. Renamed the Dorset Institute of Higher Education following a county-wide education review, it was re-designated Bournemouth Polytechnic in 1990. Under the Higher & Further Education Act of 1992, the Polytechnic became Bournemouth University. Throughout its life, Bournemouth University has developed a strong reputation for

offering a wide range of opportunities for undergraduate and postgraduate study, research and consultancy. The number of students attending the University has risen to almost 13,000 within a quarter of a century. Inspired by an entrepreneurial spirit, the University continues in the development of unique teaching and learning opportunities and is amongst the leaders in the UK for graduate employment.

ORAL HISTORY SOCIETY

The Oral History Society is a registered charity which publishes a twice yearly journal *Oral History*, organises an annual conference and operates a comprehensive regional advice and information network for members using oral history in schools, colleges, with older people, in libraries, museums and communities. Individual membership costs £15 per year, and benefits include reduced rates for conferences and publications, the illustrated journal, and mailings of activities of interest to members.

■ **FOR DETAILS** contact Rob Perks, The British Library Sound Archive, 96 Euston Road, London, NW1 2DB, tel 020 7412 7405. Website: <http://www.oralhistory.org.uk>