

The Labour MP Hugh Dalton confided the truth of the matter to the privacy of his diary:

On Thursday night I dined with Ponsonby at the House, and he told me all about the sad case of Lord Beauchamp, who has had a persistent weakness for footmen, and has been finally persuaded by Simon and Buckmaster to sign an undertaking not to return to England. The King didn't want a scandal because he was a Knight of the Garter!¹³

Thereafter Beauchamp lived a somewhat pathetic peripatetic existence. According to one account he told his children that suicide was the only way out.¹⁴ He hoped that the arrival in 1936 of a new king, Edward VIII, with supposedly enlightened views, might enable him to end his exile.¹⁵

It was not to be. He died of cancer in New York on 15 November 1938. His wife had died in 1936, but he was survived by two of his three sons and by four daughters. His title passed to his eldest son, who had been elected as Liberal MP for Norfolk East in 1929 and who held junior office in the National Government. Perhaps Beauchamp's most lasting legacy was the assumed por-

trayal of his family tragedy in Evelyn Waugh's novel *Brideshead Revisited*.

Notes:

1. J. Vincent (ed.), *The Crauford Papers* (Manchester, 1984), p. 159.
2. E. David (ed.), *Inside Asquith's Cabinet* (London, 1977), p. 121.
3. David, *Inside Asquith's Cabinet*, p. 229.
4. M. and E. Brock (eds), *H.H. Asquith: Letters to Venetia Stanley* (Oxford, 1982), p. 452. In Asquith's private code Beauchamp was, rather dismissively, styled as 'Sweetheart'.
5. To make way for Lord Morley who was anxious to leave the India Office.
6. Beauchamp and others to Asquith, 29 January 1914, cited in R.S. Churchill, *Winston S. Churchill: Young Statesman 1901-1914* (London, 1967), pp. 676-77.
7. J.A. Pease, diary 2 August 1914.
8. David, *Inside Asquith's Cabinet*, p. 180.
9. M. Gilbert, *Winston S. Churchill 1914-1916* (London, 1971), p. 454.
10. D. Dutton (ed.), *Odyssey of an Edwardian Liberal* (Gloucester, 1989), p. 54.
11. Beauchamp to H. Samuel, 17 December 1928, enclosing letter to Mrs Runciman, Samuel MSS A/155/vii/43.
12. G. Ridley, *Bend'Or, Duke of Westminster: a Personal Memoir* (London, 1985), p. 173.
13. B. Pimlott (ed.), *The Political Diary of Hugh Dalton 1918-1940, 1945-60* (London, 1986), pp. 148-49.
14. K. Young (ed.), *The Diaries of Sir Robert Bruce Lockhart 1915-1938* (London, 1973), p. 223.
15. N. Smart (ed.), *The Diaries and Letters of Robert Bernays, 1932-1939* (Lampeter, 1996), p. 257.

The numerous collections now held include several of potential interest to Liberal Democrat party historians. Indeed, the first collection of any size to be received, in 1933, was the archive of the nineteenth-century polymath and Radical MP, *Thomas Perronet Thompson* (1783-1869).

Born in Hull, the son of a wealthy local merchant and banker, this extraordinary man enjoyed several different careers. He graduated in mathematics at Queen's College Cambridge in 1802, and then had periods in the navy and the army. Close family connections with William Wilberforce led to his appointment in 1808 as governor of Sierra Leone, from where he was recalled in apparent disgrace within two years, having tried to change too much too fast. He rejoined the army, and was involved in disastrous campaigns in the Gulf (including the evacuation of Ras-al-Khyma in July 1820), leading to his court martial.

Returning home, he threw himself into Radical politics, met Jeremy Bentham, and made the first of many contributions to *The Westminster Review*. Inheriting his father's fortune in 1828, he spent most of it on his life as a political journalist (he immediately bought *The Westminster Review*) and Radical politician. His two most significant publications, pamphlets on *The True Theory of Rent* and *Catechism on the Corn Laws*, appeared in 1826 and 1827.

In the 1830s he took up the cause of Catholic emancipation, and his pamphlet on the subject quickly sold 40,000 copies. He was a strong supporter of the Reform Act of 1832, and soon sought a more active political role by standing for parliament himself, winning a by-election for Hull in 1835 as a Radical, in which capacity he was one of only six MPs to sign the original People's Charter in 1837, calling for a wider franchise and parliamentary reform. He also became active in the Anti-Corn Law League, and following victory in 1846 was publicly praised by Richard Cobden for his support. In 1847 he won Bradford for the Radi-

Archives

Liberal and Related Archives at the University of Hull

Brian Dyson, Hull University Archivist

The University of Hull's Brynmor Jones Library (BJL) has been collecting political archives and manuscripts ever since the foundation of the university, initially a college of London University, in 1928. It literally started with one item, a John Stuart Mill document donated by Professor Harold Laski of the London School of Economics.

cals, holding it until 1852, regaining it in 1857 and holding it until his retirement in 1859. The surviving papers of this life-long supporter of free trade and social justice are quite extensive, and a valuable source for Radical/Liberal politics during the early to mid-nineteenth century.

The BJL also holds the surviving papers of *H.B. Lees-Smith*. Lees-Smith (1878–1941) was born in India but brought up in London and graduated from Queen's College Oxford in 1899. He joined the Fabian Society, and his first employment was at Ruskin Hall. He was appointed a lecturer at the LSE in 1906, and to a chair of public administration at Bristol in 1907. In January 1910 he was elected as one of two Liberal MPs for Northampton. Like many other Liberals of the time, his eventual switch to the Labour Party came via his opposition to secret diplomacy and membership of the *Union of Democratic Control*, the general council of which he later joined (and the archives of which are also held in the BJL).

He served as a private soldier in the army during the First World War, being invalided out in 1917. He continued to support a negotiated peace, and in December 1916 was the first to mention the idea of a League of Nations in the House of Commons. At the general election of 1918 he stood as an Independent Radical and lost. He then joined the Independent Labour Party, and was returned as Labour MP for Keighley in 1922, losing to a Liberal in December 1923. He regained the seat in October 1924, and in June 1929 was made Postmaster-General in the second Labour government, moving to become Minister of Education in February 1931. When Labour joined Churchill's coalition in 1940 he remained outside the government, becoming Chairman of the Labour Party and, effectively, leader of the opposition. He died in December 1941.

The small collection of his papers in the BJL includes correspondence, 1919–41 (including letters from

Arthur Ponsonby and Winston Churchill), speeches, press cuttings, articles and other papers.

Another leading figure to make the switch from Liberal to Labour was *William Allen Jowitt* (First Earl Jowitt of Stevenage, 1885–1957). After graduating from New College Oxford, he enjoyed a brilliant legal career, taking silk in 1922. He was a Liberal from an early age, winning the Hartlepool seat in 1922 as an independent Liberal. In 1929 he was returned for Preston and immediately offered the position of Attorney-General in the Labour Government. Having accepted, he resigned and sought re-election as a Labour candidate, increasing his vote. After the 1945 election he was made Lord Chancellor. He was knighted in 1929, ennobled in 1945 and created an earl in 1951. The BJL holds a small collection of papers collected by J. Peart-Binns whilst producing a biography of Jowitt, including photocopied correspondence (1905–51), and speeches (1940s).

Moving closer to the present, *Eric Lubbock* (b. 1928) was a successful businessman prior to his stunning by-election victory for the Liberals over the government candidate at Orpington in March 1962, a seat which he held until his defeat in the 1970 general election. He was the Liberal Whip in the House of Commons between 1963–70, before succeeding to the peerage as fourth Baron Avebury in 1971. His political papers in the BJL include over 3,000 case files for the 1962–70 period, plus subject files on topics such as metrication and fluoridation.

Finally, the BJL holds papers assembled and donated by the secre-

tary of the *Beverly & Haltemprice branch of the Social Democratic Party* in East Yorkshire between 1981 and 1989. There are some 245 items in the collection, and they reflect the sometimes frenetic activities of the group during that period, particularly in relation to fund-raising, recruitment, policy matters (at local, regional and national level), and relations with other parties, notably the Liberals. The collection sheds as much light on regional and national matters as it does on local issues, with many papers of the SDP's various councils and conferences, plus numerous policy pamphlets and leaflets produced under the auspices of the Council for Social Democracy.

Availability

All the above collections are fully catalogued and available to researchers, whether or not they are members of the University of Hull. The HUMAD2 computer system allows direct access to catalogues or lists of most of the collections, and is available via the World-Wide Web (address below). Original documents may be consulted in the BJL. Written application is required before a first visit, but thereafter appointments can be made by telephone or email.

The opening hours for archives are basically 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. and 2 – 5 p.m., Monday – Friday, with occasional Monday evening and Saturday openings. For further details contact: The University Archivist, The University of Hull, Brynmor Jones Library, Hull, HU6 7RX; telephone: (01482) 465265; email: archives@acs.hull.ac.uk; web address: <http://www.hull.ac.uk/lib/archives>.

Help Needed!

The Liberal Democrat History Group will be having an exhibition stand at the Liberal Democrat conference in Harrogate (19–23 September), in order to increase membership, sell copies of the *Journal*, the *Dictionary of Liberal Biography* and the new *Dictionary of Liberal Quotations*, raise our profile and make new contacts. We would like to hear from any member who would be able to spare an hour or two helping to look after the stand; if you can help, please contact the Editor (see page 2 for contact details).