

LIBERAL HISTORY NEWS

AUTUMN 2012

Neville Masterman (1912–)

On 28 November 2012, a link will be reaffirmed with a brilliant architect of Edwardian Liberalism at its glorious high noon. On that day, Neville Masterman, former Senior Lecturer in History at Swansea University, celebrates his hundredth birthday.

He is the son of Charles Frederick Gurney Masterman (1874–1927), one of the most powerful intellectuals of the New Liberalism of social reform after the turn of the century. A disciple of F.D. Maurice, after a double first at Cambridge he wrote several influential works, of which the most notable was *The Condition of England* (1909). In effect a Christian Socialist analysis of British society, it depicted the stark gulf between the ostentatious ‘conquerors’ in suburban villadom and the social destitution of ‘the prisoners’ in city slums. As late as 1920 he wrote two eloquent works, *The New Liberalism* and *How England is Governed*.

But Masterman was also an important political practitioner as well as an author. He worked very closely with Lloyd George on the land clauses of the Finance Bill and was a key figure in devising the National Insurance Act of 1911. He became Financial Secretary to the Treasury in 1912 and was given Cabinet office in early 1914. However, bad luck struck him; he lost his seat at Ipswich at the subsequent by-election and resigned from the Cabinet in February 1915. Thereafter he and Lloyd George drifted apart.

He worked on British propaganda during the war, stood as an anti-Lloyd George Liberal in 1918, and was briefly Liberal member for Manchester (Rusholme) in 1923–24. He became, however, again a close policy associate of Lloyd George at the Summer Schools of the 1920s and worked to prepare the ‘Yellow Book’ on economic recovery. He famously observed

that ‘when Lloyd George returned to the party, ideas returned to the party’. After some years of declining health and morale, he died prematurely in 1927. He had married another remarkable highly gifted Liberal, Lucy Lytton, much admired by Lloyd George, who wrote a fascinating life of her husband, and died in 1977 at the age of 93.

Neville was born during the industrial troubles of the autumn of 1912. A distinguished scholar himself, he kept up the family’s intellectual concern with Christian Socialism and the post-Gladstonian Liberal Party. Some years spent in Hungary (where he learnt the language) gave him an additional interest in cultural nationalism. These interests were reflected in two fascinating books, a volume on the pioneer welfare reformer and Christian Socialist, *John Malcolm Ludlow, The Builder of Christian Socialism* (1963) and *The Forerunner* (1972), a study of the ideas and career of Tom Ellis, the Welsh nationalist-Liberal who became Liberal chief whip under Rosebery in 1894. He has also written more widely on the New Liberals, notably J.A. Hobson.

Neville has flourished in Swansea over many decades, and remains full of life and inexhaustible intellectual curiosity. I learnt a great deal from him myself when sharing an office with him in Swansea. His academic work, supplementing his father’s distinguished career as government minister, Liberal politician and political philosopher, is enduring testimony to the creative achievement of a fine Liberal dynasty. His century will be greeted with acclaim and affection by Liberals and socialists everywhere. Happy birthday, Neville! Penblwydd hapus iawn!

Kenneth O. Morgan

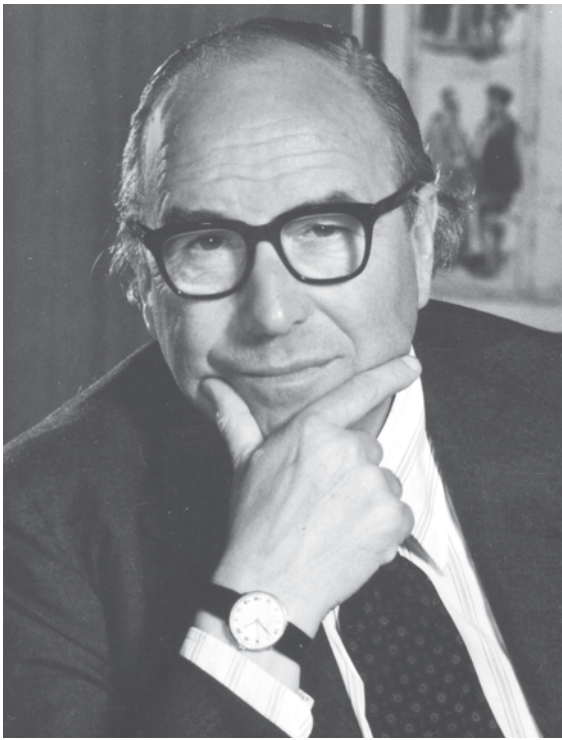
New online resources at the Bodleian Library

One of the current cataloguing projects at Oxford’s Bodleian Library is the papers of Roy (later Baron) Jenkins (1920–2003). The papers reflect Jenkins’ professional career as a politician, author, and Chancellor of the University of Oxford. The papers will be accessible when the cataloguing is complete, at: www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/bodley/library/special/projects/roy-jenkins

Available online now, however, are the proceedings of two seminars focusing on the Jenkins papers. On 6 February 2012, John Campbell spoke about his research for his forthcoming biography of Jenkins. Campbell’s talk, and the documents he chose to illustrate

C. F. G.
Masterman
(1873–1927)





Roy Jenkins
(1920–2003)

it – an extract, dated 22 October 1979, from the original typescript of Jenkins' European Diary describing his interview with the Conservative Prime Minister, Mrs Margaret Thatcher and diary entries for 14–20 October 1968, 9 June 1975, 26 November 1979, and 22 October 1979 – are accessible at: <http://www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/bodley/library/special/seminars/authorship,-memory-and-manuscripts-2012>

On 13 February 2012, Charlotte McKillop-Mash, archivist for the Roy Jenkins papers, outlined progress with the project, which began at the end of 2011. The session opened with the photograph featured on the cataloguing project webpage and continued with an opening from the diary of Roy Jenkins' father, Arthur Jenkins (1882–1946) for 2–3 September 1939; Roy Jenkins' letter to Prime Minister James Callaghan, 10 September 1976; a campaign poster for (what may be) the 1948 Southwark Central by-election; a list of speeches in the winter/spring of 1989; and a list of books Jenkins read in October 1991. The talk and the documents referred to are accessible at <http://www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/bodley/library/special/seminars/authorship,-memory-and-manuscripts-2012/roy-jenkins-archive>

Helen Langley

LETTERS

Island residents

I've only just got round to reading this excellent edition (*Journal of Liberal History* 75, summer 2012).

In the article on The Isle of Wight, the writer names some interesting residents, permanent and temporary, from the Victorian period. He could also have mentioned the Russian novelist, Ivan Turgenev, who wrote most of his iconic and still frequently read novel *Fathers and Sons* whilst living in Ventnor in 1860, during one of his long periods of (largely self-imposed) exile. Amongst other things, it has wonderful descriptions of the Russian countryside – but nothing at all about the writer's residence at the time!

Mike Falchikov

Campbell-Bannerman:

I am currently writing a new biography of Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman, with a view to publication sometime in 2013–14. If anyone is willing to read and comment on one or more of my early draft chapters for the period from 1880 to 1908, will they please contact me. Copies of my current synopsis can also be supplied on request.

My contact details are 1 Pantoch Gardens, Banchory, Kincardineshire AB31 5ZD; (01330) 823 159; s.waugh.bnchry@btinternet.com.

Dr Alexander (Sandy) S. Waugh

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