The researcher into local history, and especially the history of landed families, will naturally look for primary source materials in the appropriate county record offices. In the case of the North-West of England, however, there is another resource of equal, and in some instances greater, importance – the John Rylands University Library of Manchester. Long before record offices had been established in Lancashire and Cheshire, the then independent John Rylands Library had a reputation for acquiring, listing and making available such archival material. In 1923, shortly after the Library had acquired the Mainwaring and Jodrell muniments as the first of such collections, the Librarian, Dr Henry Guppy, invited further donations or deposits:

...we venture to offer not only the hospitality of the library for the housing, but to be responsible for the safe custody of any such collections of documents, especially those relating to the North of England, or in the possession of families connected with that area... and for which they are no longer able to provide suitable housing accommodation. We also offer the services of the staff in caring for, arranging, and calendaring such collections without expense to the owners, whilst they remain in the custody of the library.

These documents, Guppy observed:

form part of the essential source material for the history of the families and counties to which they relate, and are invaluable to the students of our local history and customs, as well as to the ever increasing number of scholars engaged in this description of historical investigation.1

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1 R. Fawtier, *Handlist of the Mainwaring and Jodrell Manuscripts* (Manchester: John Rylands Library, 1923), 5-6. This finding aid has been reproduced on microfiche as part of Chadwyck-Healey’s on-going project *National Inventory of Documentary Sources in the United Kingdom* (hereafter, NIDS UK) where it is numbered as document 0.063.177.

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* I am indebted to Dr Peter McNiven for commenting upon an earlier draft of this paper. It should be noted that certain categories of North-Western sources have been deliberately omitted from consideration because they are dealt with by other contributors to this issue of the Bulletin; this is particularly true of resources for Nonconformity (Field), science, technology and medicine (Pickstone) and Manchester University (McNiven).
During the following half century or so, the Library has acquired, by gift, deposit or purchase, the collections of over twenty North-Western gentry families, as well as many other significant collections relating to the social, economic and industrial history of the region. The main purposes of this article are to provide a general survey of these collections; to give an idea of their value not only to the historian and genealogist, but to students of a wide range of academic disciplines; and to give some hint of the wealth of research material which still lies largely undiscovered among them.

It is particularly fortunate that the historic county of Cheshire, whose boundaries before the 1974 re-organization of local government extended to within little more than six miles of the Library, was perhaps the best endowed of all English counties with the landed gentry whose family muniments form such a vital source of historical evidence. Names familiar to all students of Cheshire such as Arderne, Bromley, Davenport, Egerton, Legh, Leycester, Mainwaring, Massey, Stanley, Tatton and Warburton figure prominently among the muniment collections. It is not surprising that families from the old hundred of Bucklow, the region lying immediately to the south of Manchester, are especially well represented. These families and their neighbours throughout the county were the leaders of medieval and early modern Cheshire society, and in many cases they were figures of national importance. The records of their activities and their intricately interwoven political and personal relationships are central to an understanding of the social, administrative, economic and legal history of both Cheshire and the country as a whole. In terms of their extent and their potential for providing research material, the most outstanding among these collections must include the muniments of the Bromley-Davenports of Capesthorne, the Cornwall-Leghs of High Legh near Knutsford, the earls of Stamford and Warrington of Dunham Massey, the Leghs of Lyme Park, the Leycesters of Toft, near Knutsford, the Mainwarings of Peover, and the Leicesters of Tabley. By comparison, the muniment collections for Lancashire are numerically less impressive, but they include two particularly important collections: the papers of the Clowes and Chetham families, mainly relating to south-east Lancashire but especially to the Manchester area, and those of the earls of Ducie, containing material relating to the family of Strangeways and much early Manchester material. The archives of the Byrom family of Kersal and Manchester are also of value for the student of the city's history, while it should be noted that the Leghs of Lyme, as the title of their descendant Lord Newton indicates, had important interests in south Lancashire. Derbyshire is not conventionally included in most surveys of the 'North-West', but a passing mention must be made of two very important collections relating to that county: the muniments of the Bagshawes of Ford Hall, and those of the Coke family generally known as the Crutchley Manuscripts.
MEDIEVAL PERIOD

Many of the Library's muniment collections date back to the medieval era, and it is therefore with that period that a broadly chronological survey of the Library's North-Western historical resources may begin. In relation to the total amount of material in the Library's muniment collections, the quantity of medieval material is small, but it is of the highest quality. An excellent introduction to this and later material is provided by Dr Frank Taylor in *The Charter Room in the John Rylands Library* (1947) and *Court Rolls, Rentals, Surveys and Analogous Documents in the John Rylands Library* (1948). Documents dating back to the twelfth century are to be found in the Arley, Bromley-Davenport, Legh of Lyme, Mainwaring and Stanley of Hooton collections; to the thirteenth century in the case of the Brooke of Mere, Cornwall-Legh, Leycester of Toft, Mascie of Tatton, Roundell, Stanley of Alderley, Tatton of Wythenshawe, Clowes and Ducie muniments; and to the fourteenth century in the case of the Dunham Massey, Egerton of Tatton, Jodrell and Pike House collections. Some of the finest early documents are to be found in the Arley Charters, which include important monastic records and feature many fine seals. When the late Professor Geoffrey Barraclough published his *Facsimiles of Early Cheshire Charters* in 1957, seven of the thirty carefully selected examples were Arley charters. The antiquary William Beamont published a list of the entire Arley collection in 1866, but, as Barraclough noted in a different context, Beamont cannot always be relied upon, and a review of his work might prove profitable. Two further examples in Barraclough's *Facsimiles* came from the Library's Mainwaring Manuscripts. A collection of the charters of the great Anglo-Norman earls of Chester made by Barraclough over a long period of time has recently been published posthumously. It includes original charters from several of the Library’s collections. One of the most important is the famous 'Amicia' charter which provoked the intense controversy in the seventeenth century between the rival antiquaries, Sir Peter Leycester and Sir Thomas Mainwaring, over

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3 See F Taylor, *Handlist of the Crutchley Manuscripts* (J.R.L, 1951 and NIDS UK, 0.063.022).
4 NIDS UK, 0.063.014.
5 NIDS UK, 0.063.015.
7 *A Calendar of Ancient Family Charters Preserved at Arley Hall, Cheshire* (London: McCorquodale, 1866 and NIDS UK, 0.063.116).
9 *Facsimiles*, 11-12, 29-30.
10 *Charters*, 180-1, 346-7, 405-7 (Bromley-Davenport); 190-1, 198-9, 229-30, 249-50, 396-7 (Mainwaring); 285-6 (Cornwall-Legh); 50-1, 144-5, 176, 199-200, 351 (Rylands Charters); and 419-20 (Latin MS).
whether Amicia was the illegitimate daughter of Earl Hugh II of Chester. It is interesting that both these men are represented in their families’ muniment collections in the Library. All the collections named above contain a wealth of material from the later Middle Ages. Although most of these items are individually of no great significance, together they allow a picture to be drawn of the political, social and economic life of some of the most prominent gentry families of the area. Most of the documents concern land transactions and therefore comprise deeds, final concords, rentals and land surveys, but there are also records of bonds, pardons, arbitration awards, marriage settlements, wills and the proceedings of local courts.

A number of these family muniment collections have been listed, some before they came to the Library. There are published lists for the muniments of the Mainwarings, Jodrells, Stanleys of Alderley and Stanleys of Hooton. Unfortunately, however, a number of lists of important collections have not been published and therefore the material is often not well known to scholars. For example, substantial lists, as yet unpublished, are available in the Library relating to the following Cheshire collections: Cornwall-Legh (J.P. Earwaker made a manuscript calendar of a large proportion of the collection in the 1890s, and the documents which were omitted from that list have been recorded by the Library); Leycester of Toft; Mascie of Tatton (containing many documents dating from the thirteenth century); and Tatton of Wythenshawe (containing a large number of thirteenth-century deeds for the area around Northenden). For Lancashire there are substantial, unpublished lists available in the Library of the Clowes and the Ducie collections. Among the Clowes Deeds there are a number of fine medieval documents, most notably those which relate to the manors of Butterworth, Crompton, Moston and Nuthurst. As well as the usual deeds, the collection contains some interesting arbitration awards and marriage settlements. The Ducie Muniments contain a large number of particularly notable fourteenth-century deeds which allow us to visualize the early street patterns of Manchester. Of the remaining muniment collections relating to the

11 ibid., 198-9.
12 NIDS UK, 0.063.177. See above n. 1. There is also an unpublished supplementary Mainwaring list, NIDS UK, 0.063.178.
13 Rylands Charters 776-913. For nineteenth-century material on this family see English MSS 722, 1092-7, described in Bulletin [of the John Rylands Library], xxvi (1941–42), 249-50. See Rylands Charters 1263–1890, passim; and Bulletin, xviii (1934), 16.
14 NIDS UK, 0.063.152-3 and 0.063.077.
15 NIDS UK, 0.063.152-3 and 0.063.077.
16 NIDS UK, 0.063.053.
17 NIDS UK, 0.063.080.
18 NIDS UK, 0.063.151, especially nos. 1-52.
19 NIDS UK, 0.063.052.
20 NIDS UK, 0.063.119.
21 NIDS UK, 0.063.052, especially nos. 31–44, 243–82, 720–8, 869–74.
22 See NIDS UK, 0.063.119, 51-4.
North-West which contain an appreciable quantity of medieval documents, there are provisional lists for a number of Cheshire families, namely the Bromley-Davenports,\textsuperscript{23} Egertons of Tatton\textsuperscript{24} and Roundells.\textsuperscript{25} An index compiled in the nineteenth century accompanies the Legh of Lyme Muniments.\textsuperscript{26} Whilst this contains adequate calendars of deeds and similar documents of a later period, the medieval documents are merely described as 'old deeds'. There are several hundred such documents which mostly concern the holdings of the family in Newton, Lancashire.\textsuperscript{27} Also from Lancashire are the Pike House Deeds, which contain a large number of fourteenth- and fifteenth-century documents relating to the manors of Butterworth, Huddersfield and Rochdale. The Library has a manuscript calendar of this collection.\textsuperscript{28} There are two major Cheshire collections which remain unlisted. The muniments of the Brooke family of Mere are extensive, and a sizeable proportion of the collection consists of thirteenth- and fourteenth-century deeds, some with interesting seals attached. The Dunham Massey Muniments are a recently deposited collection which also remains largely unsorted and unlisted. A preliminary inspection of this collection suggests that there are a substantial number of deeds, bonds and marriage contracts dating from the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries.

Manorial court records for the medieval period are well represented in the Library's collections. Again Cheshire records are more numerous. For example, among the Mainwaring Manuscripts are a number of fifteenth-century court rolls, rentals and accounts, dealing especially with the family's main manor at Peover. Particularly important are the records of the halmote court held at Peover.\textsuperscript{29} Similar records, some dating from the fourteenth century, are found among the Jodrell Muniments. The most notable items relate to the proceedings of the manor and forest courts of Macclesfield.\textsuperscript{30} For Lancashire there are only a small number of medieval rentals, but they are particularly important: one relates to Cockersand Abbey in the 1450s,\textsuperscript{31} and three are late fifteenth-century rentals of lands in Preston owned by the Harrington family.\textsuperscript{32}

EARLY MODERN PERIOD
The Library's holdings, both in its muniment collections and in

\textsuperscript{23} \textit{NIDS UK}, 0.063.118.
\textsuperscript{24} \textit{NIDS UK}, 0.063.079.
\textsuperscript{25} \textit{NIDS UK}, 0.063.081.
\textsuperscript{26} 'Legh Estate Index to Muniments', not in \textit{NIDS UK}.
\textsuperscript{27} ibid., especially 31, 40, 61, 89, 148–9, 154.
\textsuperscript{28} \textit{NIDS UK}, 0.063.180.
\textsuperscript{29} F Taylor, \textit{Court Rolls, Rentals, Surveys and Analogous Documents in the John Rylands Library} (J.R.L., 1948), 11.
\textsuperscript{30} ibid., 9.
\textsuperscript{31} Latin MS 400.
\textsuperscript{32} Rylands Charters 1759–61.
supplementary individual items, become far more extensive for the Tudor and Stuart periods. As well as an increase in the quantity and range of the collections already mentioned, the sixteenth century sees the beginning of the collections of Aston, Tabley and Warburton deeds and papers, and the first of the records in the collections accumulated by the Lancashire and Cheshire Antiquarian Society and the Society of Genealogists; while the seventeenth century adds the Astle and Thomson Byrom collections. Diversification of material from the predominance of charters and deeds to personal and estate correspondence and records is almost universal from this era. For example, for the years 1581 to 1841 the large collection of correspondence among the Legh of Lyme Muniments is an excellent source. This correspondence was used by Evelyn, the wife of Thomas Wodehouse Legh, 2nd Baron Newton, for the writing of two books: The House of Lyme (1917), and Lyme Letters, 1660–1760 (1925). Lady Newton explicitly disclaimed any pretensions to academic scholarship, and she did not exhaust the source material. Most of the correspondence was sorted and listed by the Library in the 1970s. The collection is of value to the national as well as the local historian. For example, among the correspondents are Robert Dudley, earl of Leicester, the favourite of Elizabeth I; John Bradshaw, the judge who presided at the trial of Charles I and signed his death warrant in 1649; Thomas Chicheley, father-in-law of Richard Legh, lord of Lyme, a staunch royalist who became chancellor of the duchy of Lancaster under Charles II; and for the eighteenth century a large number of distinguished peers and gentlemen who influenced the national and local political scene, such as John Brereton, 4th Baron Brereton, George Cholmondeley, 2nd earl of Cholmondeley, William Stanley, 9th earl of Derby, Sir Thomas Davenport, Daniel Finch, 2nd earl of Nottingham, and George Booth, 2nd earl of Warrington. The Mainwaring Manuscripts also contain a particularly good collection of personal papers dating from the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, and again the national as well as the local historian will find them of interest. For example, there are items which relate to the state of the navy in the later seventeenth century, including three letters from Samuel Pepys. More important is the large amount of correspondence and other papers of the Whitley family. This family was connected by marriage with the Mainwarings, and some of their papers survive among the Mainwaring Manuscripts. The large number of references to members of the Whitley family in the Calendars of State Papers Domestic between the 1640s and the 1700s shows the prominent role they occupied both nationally and locally, particularly in Cheshire and Wales. For example, in 1682

33 Unpublished list, NIDS UK, 0.063.120.
34 NIDS UK, 0.063.177, 40.
35 ibid., 39–46.
Colonel Roger Whitley and his son Thomas attended upon the duke of Monmouth when he progressed through the city of Chester. Unfortunately, the published *Handlist* to the Mainwaring Manuscripts does not contain an index, and it is not generally known that the collection contains much more than just the papers of that Cheshire family.

Individual items relating to local administration in the sixteenth century include the bailiff's accounts for Warmingham, Northrode, Blacon and Ashton in Cheshire (1503–05);\(^{36}\) duchy of Lancaster treasury receipts including several for the collection of subsidies and other taxes (1541–1633);\(^{37}\) and the West Derby hundred subsidy roll for 1585.\(^{38}\) Among items of interest to the student of Cheshire genealogy are a set of notes dating from 1580 described as 'Cheshire Pedigrees', containing genealogical data and extracts from armorials.\(^{39}\) Of both religious and social relevance is a collection of letters and papers concerning Roman Catholic affairs and containing private correspondence relating to the Lancashire families of Hoghton of Park Hall, Dalton of Thurnham and others.\(^{40}\) Although these relate mainly to the seventeenth century, they date from 1578 and extend to 1764. The 177 items making up this collection were bound into one volume in the nineteenth century; the compiler of the volume produced a useful index to the letters and papers.

For the early modern period there is also Robert Hassall's commonplace book.\(^{41}\) Most of the entries in this volume were written by Hassall during the years 1580–1612, although a few items were written in the 1560s and 1570s. Robert Hassall was presumably a member of the family which held the manor of Hassall in Nantwich hundred. A large number of entries relate to the history of Cheshire. For example, Hassall compiled a list of the mayors and sheriffs of Chester for the years 1326–1612.\(^{42}\) There is also a lengthy piece on the Stanleys of Lathom in Lancashire. Members of the Stanley family were prominent both nationally and in Lancashire and Cheshire. For example, Thomas Stanley, 2nd Lord Stanley was justice of Cheshire, 1461–1504, and following the major part which he played in the victory of Henry Tudor at the battle of Bosworth in 1485, he was created 1st earl of Derby. Hassall's biased interpretation of such events only enhances the interest of his account of a family which still in his time effectively ruled the palatinates of Lancashire and Cheshire. In addition to such items of regional interest, the commonplace book

\(^{36}\) Latin MS 383.

\(^{37}\) Latin MS 425.

\(^{38}\) English MS 509.

\(^{39}\) English MS 99. For later Cheshire genealogical material see English MSS 716–20, 922–5, 982.

\(^{40}\) English MS 213.

\(^{41}\) English MS 202.

contains many entries relating generally to the customs of the time, including several verses of rhyme.

Administrative and legal records are even more abundant from the seventeenth century onwards. Among the muniment collections, the group of court records in the Legh of Lyme Muniments is especially noteworthy. Papers for the Lancashire manor of Newton range from the late seventeenth to early nineteenth centuries, and include a court book for 1678-86; there is similar material for Hesketh with Becconsall (1782-1826), Tarleton (1795-1824) and Bretherton (1803-24) in the same county. For Cheshire there are court records for the manors of Handley, Lyme Handley and Norbury, each covering the period from the 1730s to the 1820s.43 Among the Egerton of Tatton Muniments there are records of the court leet and the view of frankpledge for the manors of Knutsford and Tatton, c.1700-58. Also in this collection are over one hundred constables’ presentments dating from the early years of the eighteenth century for various places in Bucklow hundred.44 There are also court records among the Mainwaring Manuscripts, notably for the manors of Barnshaw (various dates from 7 Hen. VII to 1671), Over Peover (1633-34 and 1636) and Withington (1562, 1564, 1574-83). Also in the collection are extracts from the records of Nantwich hundred courts held in 1641 and 1664.45 The Warburton Muniments (still unlisted) contain a fine set of court records for the manors of Aston and Budworth for 1580-1684, and for the manor of Warburton and a moiety of the manor of Lymm for 1581-1688. Recent discoveries amongst the Tabley Muniments include court rolls relating to Tabley, Allostock and Peover from the 1660s to the 1680s and further court documents from the 1720s to the 1760s. The presence of such items in two unlisted muniment collections should encourage researchers to hope for further valuable discoveries.

In addition to these administrative and legal records among the family muniment collections, the Library has acquired a number of individual items of a similar nature for this period. For example, the parish records for Stockport from 1620 to 1680 were copied in the 1890s by two antiquaries, W.I. Wild and W. Needham; they added some useful historical and genealogical notes to their transcripts.46 There is a court book for the Cheshire manors of Baddeley (1665-1728) and Over Peover (1681-1711);47 this supplements material in the Mainwaring Manuscripts. Also interesting is what might be described as a town book for Newton, near Daresbury in Cheshire. It includes the financial accounts of the constables, the surveyors of the...

43 ‘Legh Estate Index’, 151-2.
44 Unpublished list, NIDS UK, 0.063.079.
45 Taylor, Court Rolls, Rentals, Surveys, 7-8, 10-12.
46 English MSS 708-9.
47 English MS 701.
highways and the overseers of the poor for the town during the years 1708–61. There are similar valuable items relating to the town of High Legh, Cheshire, for the years 1737 to 1798. Some of the earliest material in the records of the firm of William Dale and Sons, agricultural engineers of Sandle Bridge, Alderley Edge (Cheshire), also contains eighteenth-century records of overseers of the poor. A small group of seventeenth- and eighteenth-century deeds concerning apprentices’ charities is found in the Arderne Deeds.

For Lancashire there are also a number of interesting individual legal and administrative documents. For example, in the first half of the seventeenth century a certain George Rigby compiled a calendar of legal documents, largely deeds, which he had in his possession as a result of owning or leasing lands and properties in Lancashire. Similarly, there is a calendar of the recognizances, indictments and other legal documents drawn up at various sessions of the Lancaster assizes in the first half of the seventeenth century; the author of this calendar is unknown. More interesting and valuable, of course, are original documents. A particularly fine example is the 1641 lay subsidy roll for Salford hundred. The vellum roll has the names of every person who was in possession of lands and goods within Salford hundred, and who was therefore liable to contribute to the parliamentary subsidy of 1641. The total amount to be raised from that hundred was £395 4s. The roll is an excellent source for a list of the freeholders living in that area just before the Civil War. The Library also possesses a number of individual records from Lancashire manorial courts. For example, there are the records of the proceedings of courts held in Barton from 1692 to 1768: lists of local office holders, suitors to the court and freeholders are given, in addition to the main business of the courts – the hearing of indictments before named jurors. A similar collection of documents consists of the proceedings of the meetings of the court baron of the lord of the manor of Kirby Ireleth in Lancashire between 1757 and 1821. Again there are a large number of jury lists providing the names of local people, as well as the indictments presented to the courts by them.

A survey of the Library’s resources for the political history of seventeenth- and eighteenth-century Lancashire and Cheshire may begin most conveniently with its coverage of the Civil War and Commonwealth periods. The prelude to the Civil War features in the

48 English MS 518.
49 Rylands Charters 4463, 4469–70.
50 Unpublished list, NIDS UK 0.063.078.
51 Unpublished list, NIDS UK 0.063.051, nos. 333 1–6.
52 English MS 663.
53 English MS 664.
54 English MS 515.
55 English MS 295.
56 English MS 1100.
notebook of Thomas Cholmondeley, sheriff of Cheshire, 1637–38 and 1660–61. Into this book Cholmondeley copied all the documents in his possession concerning his collection of ship money in the county in 1637–38. Most interesting are his correspondence with the Privy Council, lists of collectors appointed, petitions and detailed assessments. For example, the amount to be paid by each township within the seven hundreds of Cheshire is listed. 57 Also in the notebook are copies of documents Cholmondeley received regarding the settlement of the war between England and Scotland in 1641: he was one of the commissioners charged with disbanding the armies and negotiating the peace. That war also figures in papers reflecting Lancashire's tradition of Catholicism at this time: a group of miscellaneous letters and papers from 1639 refers to the collection of money from Lancashire Catholics to finance Charles I's campaign against the Scots. 58 This letterbook was formerly in the possession of the Towneley family of Burnley, Lancashire: Charles Towneley was one of the collectors in 1639. Other prominent Lancashire gentlemen who took part in this appeal included Sir William Gerard, Roger Bradshaigh, Robert Molyneux and Sir Cecil Trafford. The letters and papers in the Tatton of Wythenshawe Muniments contain significant records of the events of the Civil War itself. 59 The activities of several prominent men, such as the parliamentarian Sir William Brereton, can be followed in some detail. Particularly interesting are the documents dealing with Robert Tatton of Wythenshawe, who entered into direct dealings with both the King and the Commonwealth. The Library has a small, anonymous notebook dating from 1646–49 which gives interesting information on the aftermath of the main conflict, including soldiers' pay and the maintenance of military forces at the Chester garrison. 60 A useful secondary manuscript source for the period is the material compiled by the late Victorian Lancashire researcher, W.D. Pink. 61 His unpublished notes on the history of parliament cover six centuries, but are particularly extensive for the Tudor and Stuart periods. They include fifteen notebooks relating to the Long Parliament, and a vast quantity of biographical information on members of parliament which is already recognized as an important source for students of this period.

The most famous, or notorious, Cheshire figure of this period was probably Judge John Bradshaw of Marple, who presided over the trial of Charles I. Useful work on the Bradshaw family was compiled by the Reverend John Watson in c.1800. This includes information on John Bradshaw, the regicide, and his brother, Henry. Watson's notes

58 English MS 737.
59 See unpublished list, NIDS UK, 0.063.151, especially nos. 196, 262–5, 287–310.
60 English MS 957.
61 English MSS 296–333.
passed into the hands of a barrister and amateur historian, Hugh Hale Leigh Bellot. He was interested in the Civil War, and he annotated Watson’s work on the seventeenth-century Bradshaws. In addition, Hugh Bellot wrote a biography of John Bradshaw. This substantial manuscript has not been published, and, together with the notes by Watson, it was given to the Library in 1934 by Hugh Bellot’s son, Professor Hugh Hale Bellot. As yet this work has not been fully assessed by historians of the period. There are some Bradshaw letters in the Legh of Lyme correspondence. However, the fact that Richard, the lord of Lyme, was a minor meant that the family was comparatively untouched by the events of the Civil War and Commonwealth period. From the reign of Charles II onwards, though, the correspondence of Richard Legh and his son Peter ‘the Elder’ provides insights into local and national affairs. Peter Legh was none too discreet in his Jacobitism and he was imprisoned on suspicion of treason in 1694. In relation to the Jacobites it might be noted that the Library possesses the notes of the historian Dr Samuel Hibbert-Ware. He worked on the Jacobite rebellion of 1715 as it affected Manchester.

During the later Stuart and Hanoverian years the major muniment collections in the Library provide valuable material for the study of the development of political parties and the growth of sophisticated local political affinities. Particularly important is evidence relating to the conduct of elections. The Legh of Lyme Muniments contain many unlisted documents relating to elections in the borough of Newton (Lancashire) from the late seventeenth to the early nineteenth centuries, with copies of similar papers going back to the reign of Elizabeth. In Cheshire, parliamentary elections assumed great importance in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. This was undoubtedly in large part because the county was under-represented, sending only four members to Westminster. Furthermore, the county was dominated politically, socially and economically by a number of very powerful, rival landowning families. Among the unsorted part of the Legh of Lyme Muniments there are documents concerning the Cheshire elections of 1681, 1701 and 1710. Poll books for these years provide evidence of political affinities during fiercely fought elections. One of the defeated candidates in 1681 was Sir Robert Leicester of Tabley. The Tabley Muniments in the Library are completely unsorted for that period, and undoubtedly there is

62 English MS 745.
63 English MS 746.
64 Unpublished list, NIDS UK, 0.063.120, 5–6, 33–4.
66 English MS 1031.
67 'Legh Estate Index', 205, box Y.
68 ibid., box Y, bundle A and material from boxes Za and Zb.
much relevant material there. For the eighteenth century some work has been done on the unsorted Dunham Massey Muniments, and this indicates that there is scope for an in-depth political study. Individual items in the Library provide supplementary information for the political historian of the eighteenth century. Again there is material on elections. For example, there is a modern transcript of a poll book for Bucklow hundred in 1727. For an insight into the way in which parliamentary election campaigns were conducted there is a manuscript book which details the expenses incurred by Sir Thomas Egerton in fighting the election at Lancaster in 1772. Egerton spent £3,432 5s. in securing his victory. Large sums of money were paid to inns, hostelries and musicians: the entertaining of voters was clearly a priority to a candidate.

LATER MODERN PERIOD
The outstanding feature of the major muniment collections from the later seventeenth century onwards is the vast increase in material relating to the economic and agrarian history of the region, and more especially the day-to-day running of the great estates. This includes estate correspondence, accounts, rentals, agricultural records, household account books, plans and maps. The extensive and unlisted Warburton Muniments, for instance, contain about 12,000 account documents for the middle years of the eighteenth century. Similar material remains to be examined in the Tabley and Dunham Massey collections, while large collections such as those of the families of Legh of Lyme, Bromley-Davenport, Cornwall-Legh and Roundell contain a large amount of little-used material which would repay more intensive study. These estate records are supplemented by a variety of individual items. There is a Cheshire estate book for 1763–75 which includes rentals and miscellaneous accounts for work done in the hundreds of Bucklow, Eddisbury and Northwich, and there are estate and household accounts of the Stanley family in Cheshire for 1781–95.

70 English MS 984.
71 English MS 470.
73 Important early records in this category, which have recently been found, include rental books of the Leicesters of Tabley, arranged manor by manor, for the years 1583–1611 and 1647–97.
74 English MS 1131.
75 English MSS 1096–7.
to rural areas. The Thomson Byrom Papers relate especially to holdings in Manchester, while the collections of the Clowes and Ducie families should be examined for similar material. An individual Manchester item is the ‘Survey of all the lands, tenements and hereditaments in the county of Lancaster... of Edward Chetham of Castleton’, dating from 1770.

The estate records of the second half of the eighteenth century are particularly interesting to the social and economic historian as they cover the developments popularly known as the ‘agricultural revolution’. This movement was paralleled in its turn by the growth of communications and manufacturing processes which were to create the ‘industrial revolution’ which transformed northern society by the end of the century. One of the earliest and most crucial developments which contributed to the industrialization of the region was the growth in the inland waterway system, and the Library is fortunate to have, as part of the Warburton Muniments, an important collection of correspondence relating to Sir Peter Warburton’s involvement with the Weaver Navigation authorities in the 1750s and 1760s. A recently discovered bundle of papers in the Dunham Massey Muniments concerns proposals relating to the construction of the Bridgewater Canal, including opposition to the project of 1760 – 62. Material on the Leeds-Liverpool Canal in the last decade of the eighteenth century is among James Outram’s papers in the Bagshawe Muniments. The Ducie Muniments contain information on developments in the building of roads and bridges. From the 1760s onwards, papers may be found which relate to the early years of industrialization. The Wadsworth collections contain six volumes of stock books, ledgers and similar material from the Blackburn company of Cardwell, Birley and Hornby from 1768 to 1858. A committee book of the Macclesfield Copper Company records transactions from 1774 to 1833. A collection of bills from Manchester manufacturers, mainly of textiles, rendered to Messrs John Thomas & Co. of Hinckley, Leicester, dates from the eighteenth century. However, the most significant collection for the early years of industrialization in the North-West is that relating to Samuel Oldknow, cotton manufacturer at Mellor,

77 English MS 704.
80 See unpublished list, NIDS UK. 0.063.119, 61–2.
81 English MS 1199.
83 English MS 1192.
Stockport.\textsuperscript{84} This contains accounts of creditors and employees, information on weavers, spinners and bleachers, warping books, costing books, output books, time books, inventories, and data on female labour. There is especially significant material on the early industrial practice whereby employers provided accommodation, food and drink for their workers while deducting the costs from their wages.

There is considerably more material in the Library’s archive collections relating to industrial affairs in the North-West in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Papers relating to textile production, especially cotton, are predominant. While the important Oldknow collection extends well into the nineteenth century, the most significant individual nineteenth-century textile collection is undoubtedly that concerning the Manchester cotton spinning firm of McConnel and Kennedy.\textsuperscript{85} Covering the period c.1795–c.1870, this extensive collection contains ledgers, journals, sales records, letter books, and a vast quantity of miscellaneous correspondence and related documents. A number of collections formerly in the possession of Dr A.P. Wadsworth (editor of the Manchester Guardian, 1944–56) deal with the textile industry at a similar period. The records of the cotton manufacturing firm of Cardwell, Birley and Hornby, of Blackburn, include a stock book relating to the Orrell mills at Stalybridge in the years 1821–34. Research on these volumes is facilitated by Wadsworth’s notes on their contents, which are arranged under a number of subject headings.\textsuperscript{86} Also in the Wadsworth collections are six volumes of records of Nathaniel Dugdale and Bros. of Padiham (Lancashire), containing information on factory gear and machinery, and inventories of land and buildings: they include details of the building of a new spinning factory which began in 1835. Again Wadsworth provided further information, in this case his own notes on the Dugdale family.\textsuperscript{87} Finally, Wadsworth’s collections contain two volumes of stock and account records of the Ashworth Cotton Mills at New Eagley and Egerton from 1831 to 1879.\textsuperscript{88} Supplementary data on all three groups of material mentioned above are provided by the notes and tables compiled by G.W. Armitage relating to these companies; these were made whilst the documents were still in Wadsworth’s possession.\textsuperscript{89}

A collection of Lancashire textile archives from another source is that presented by Messrs Dendy, Paterson and Simpsons of Manchester, consisting of two volumes of miscellaneous mounted documents,
papers and plans relating to spinning and weaving in the county in the middle of the nineteenth century.\textsuperscript{90} There is also a wage book of the firm of Abel Lees and Son of Bardsley (Lancashire), which manufactured rollers for the weaving industry, dating from 1854–56.\textsuperscript{91} Several textile collections which begin in the middle years of the century extend for a century or more. The archives of the well-known firm of Christy, a Droylsden (Manchester) company famous for its towels, begin in about 1833 and extend to the middle of the twentieth century.\textsuperscript{92} They contain correspondence, legal documents, patents, trade marks, and data on sales, wages and company finance. A similar period is spanned by the archives of the Sun Mill Co. of Oldham, a smaller collection comprising minutes, financial records, shareholders' registers, and printed reports and accounts; the years covered are \textit{c.}1860–1960.\textsuperscript{93} Miscellaneous deeds, papers and accounts of the firm of Rylands and Sons also extend to the twentieth century.\textsuperscript{94}

Amongst the Dendy, Paterson and Simpsons material mentioned above are records concerning the early development of trade unionism, and the Library contains a vast quantity of material relating to subsequent union activities, especially in the textile industries. Of the greatest importance are two closely related collections: those of the Bolton and District Operative Cotton Spinners' Provincial Association and the Amalgamated Association of Operative Cotton Spinners of Lancashire and Cheshire. Both collections extend from the 1880s to the 1970s, and, although they are to a large extent unlisted, they are already acknowledged as vital sources for the history of the trade union movement in Britain. The Bolton collection contains minute, cash and contribution books, records of branches in ten other Lancashire towns, annual reports and other printed material.\textsuperscript{95} There are also excellent correspondence files relating to the textile employers, who were organizing themselves into their own associations by the 1870s. Less listing and research has been carried out on the Amalgamated Association records, which contain files relating to a much greater geographical area, and a mass of official reports and other printed literature. A large collection of Oldham Textile Employers' archives dates from \textit{c.}1870–1960.\textsuperscript{96} It includes a fine run of Oldham Master Cotton Spinners' Association letter-books, numerous files on a variety of subjects, a set of the scarce and important \textit{Cotton Factory Times} from 1889 to 1937, and much other printed material on the cotton and other textile industries. Parallel material is provided by the archives of the Ashton Textile Employers' Association, which include minutes of

\textsuperscript{90} English MS 1185.
\textsuperscript{91} See \textit{Guide}, 50.
\textsuperscript{92} Unpublished list, \textit{NIDS UK}, 0.063.101.
\textsuperscript{93} See \textit{Guide}, 53.
\textsuperscript{94} Unpublished list, \textit{NIDS UK}, 0.063.136.
\textsuperscript{95} Unpublished partial list of the collection, \textit{NIDS UK}, 0.063.055.
\textsuperscript{96} Unpublished list, \textit{NIDS UK}, 0.063.061.
cotton employers' associations in Ashton-under-Lyne, Glossop, Hyde, Manchester, Stockport, Wigan and adjoining districts, as well as printed works on the industry.97

Other North-Western industries are relatively thinly represented. Two bound volumes contain copies of papers of the Manchester engineering company of W. & J. Galloway & Co. for the years 1840 - 63.98 The records of William Dale and Sons, agricultural engineers of Sandle Bridge, Alderley Edge, include thirty-four ledgers relating to the firm's activities between 1794 and 1921.99 The Library also has the extensive archives of the Manchester pharmaceutical firm of James Woolley, Sons & Co.: these cover the period 1840 to 1960 and include legal documents, financial records, photographs, scrapbooks, printed historical accounts of the company, and material on the pharmaceutical industry in general.100 The growth of the railways was obviously of crucial importance in the industrialization of Britain in the mid-nineteenth century. The Library houses some important collections dealing with the construction and development of railways in the North-West. For example, the Kenneth Brown collection contains a large number of early railway acts and plans,101 and the Edmondson collection includes leaflets, tickets and other ephemera.102 There are some items relating to Manchester railway development in the Ducie Muniments.103 Also of value is the subscription contract of 1845 for the Manchester, Huddersfield and Great Grimsby Direct Railway.104

Twentieth-century industrial material in the Library includes the papers of John Rumney Remer, the Conservative M.P. for Macclesfield, 1918-39: they include details of his activities as governing director of the Remer Timber Co. of Manchester.105 A relatively new aspect of industrial relations is represented by the archives of the Industrial Mission Association of Great Britain, c.1950-79.106 The collection comprises minutes, correspondence and reports relating to Christian missions to industry: it is divided into sections in which Greater Manchester and Merseyside are among the counties represented.

The archives of manufacturing industry inevitably contain material relating to trading activities. More specific trade archives, however, include the records of the Manchester merchant company of Owen Owens and Sons for the years c.1813-57.107 It is appropriate that these

97 Unpublished list, NIDS UK, 0.063.100.
98 See Guide, 49.
99 Unpublished list, NIDS UK, 0.063.078.
100 Unpublished list, NIDS UK, 0.063.103.
101 These are incorporated in the Library's extensive general railway collections.
102 Unpublished list available in the Library. Not in NIDS UK.
103 See unpublished Ducie Muniments list, NIDS UK, 0.063.119, 62-3.
104 English MS 881.
105 See Guide, 52.
106 Unpublished list, NIDS UK, 0.063.132.
107 An outline list appears in B.W. Clapp, John Owens, Manchester Merchant (Manchester Univ. Pr., 1965), Appendix I.
are housed at Manchester University as the bequest of John Owens resulted in the foundation of Owens College in 1851. The Owens collection includes important documentation which illustrates the company's activities in seeking out new markets in the USA, South America and the Far East. Also of particular interest are documents showing the investments which the company made, particularly in the new railway companies. The Library has a small collection of miscellaneous business correspondence for the years 1836–38, addressed to Pietro Ascagno Tealdi, an Italian merchant based in Manchester; the cloth trade was Tealdi's main interest. Further material on merchants is found in the papers of the Heald family. Walter Heald (1841–1925) was a merchant who settled in Argentina in 1866, joining the firm of Krabbé, Higgins and Co., a general merchant company run by his wife's family. Heald became the company's representative in its dealings with Britain: much of this activity was centred upon Liverpool and Manchester. The papers of the Liverpool and Manchester family of Nicholson include many business letters dating mainly from the early nineteenth century. The Library also has a number of individual items relating to North-West trading companies. For example, there are two manuscripts from the mid-nineteenth century relating to Thomas Ashton & Sons of Manchester, a shipping company which dealt with the Far East. For the recent past there are items among the papers of A.V. Symons, treasurer of Manchester University, 1957–65. These include files relating to the Raw Cotton Commission in Liverpool from 1948 to 1950.

The political and social developments which coincided with the industrial revolution and its aftermath are also represented in the Library's collections. The best-known event in the history of Manchester in the early nineteenth century is almost certainly the so-called 'Peterloo Massacre' of 1819. Although the incident has been intensively examined by historians, the relevant material in the Library's collections still merits attention. This includes letters, papers and records, together with original placards and notices, assembled by the Reverend William Robert Hay, chairman of Salford Hundred Quarter Sessions and the leading figure on the magistrates' side of the controversy. There is also a list of those wounded in the conflict and the amounts paid to them by the Peterloo Relief Fund. Much less attention has been given to the correspondence and papers of the Fielden family; these have not been fully examined or listed. Particularly significant are the papers of John Fielden (1784–1849), an M.P.

108 English MS 1130.
109 English MSS 1217–23, especially 1221.
110 English MSS 1041–53, especially 1041–5, 1048.
111 English MS 870, and an item recorded in Guide, 46.
112 See Guide, 53.
113 English MSS 1197, 172.
for Oldham: these include letters and documents relating to the *Champion and Weekly Herald*, radical politics and social reform, and the Anti-Corn Law League.\textsuperscript{114} There is little doubt that reflections upon political and social issues remain to be discovered amongst the vast amounts of personal correspondence in the muniment collections for the nineteenth century. The listing already carried out on the Bromley-Davenport Muniments has revealed letters from many prominent political figures of the early years of the century.\textsuperscript{115} Insights into local social and administrative history may be found in the Dale Muniments, which feature records of the overseers of the poor and surveyors of the highways for Marthall-cum-Warford, and the overseers of the poor and the parish council of Great Warford, both villages situated between Knutsford and Alderley Edge in Cheshire.\textsuperscript{116} The Cornwall-Legh Muniments contain correspondence and papers relating to the county magistracy and militia in the early nineteenth century.\textsuperscript{117} Developments in public health are among the issues which figure in a collection of miscellaneous Cheshire letters and papers relating to the family of Aston of Aston; these include details of the establishment of Boards of Health in various Cheshire towns in 1831–32 in the wake of the cholera epidemic.\textsuperscript{118} The social history of industrial Rochdale may be studied in a collection of miscellaneous papers, extracts, cuttings and related material gathered together by A.P. Wadsworth.\textsuperscript{119} There is a small but informative group of papers relating to the movement for workers' education. These are the papers of David Winstanley, secretary of the Mutual Improvement Society, founded in 1834, which in 1836 became the Miles Platting Mechanics' Institute. The documents include notes, copy letters and reports dating from the years 1837 to 1849.\textsuperscript{120}

The muniment collections are rich in documents relating to estate management and agricultural practice in the nineteenth century. While much probably remains to be discovered, it can already be noted that the Bromley-Davenport Muniments, for instance, contain a considerable quantity of agricultural records. The Leycester of Toft, Dunham Massey and Tabley collections would doubtless repay attention by the student of estate administration. An example of an individual item on the same theme is the account book of Bostock Hall, Cheshire, which comprises personal, domestic and estate accounts for 1841–50.\textsuperscript{121} Records of legal transactions, mainly relating to property, are abundant in the Library's Holdings for the nineteenth

\textsuperscript{115} *NIDS UK*, 0.063.118, 4.
\textsuperscript{116} Unpublished list, *NIDS UK*, 0.063.078.
\textsuperscript{117} Unpublished list, *NIDS UK*, 0.063.077.
\textsuperscript{118} English MS 747.
\textsuperscript{119} English MS 1205.
\textsuperscript{120} See *Guide*, 57.
\textsuperscript{121} English MS 1132.
century. Those in the muniment collections are supplemented by miscellaneous collections of legal documents, many as yet completely unexplored, such as a quantity of wills, marriage settlements, and other deeds and legal records from the Liverpool area for 1795 to 1904. There are a number of small collections which the social and economic historian might find of value. Two examples are a group of Manchester tradesmen’s bills relating to items purchased by, or work done for, members of the Hibbert-Ware family between 1802 and 1815, and the minutes of the decisions of commissioners investigating the enclosure of Horwich Moor, Lancashire, in 1816.

For the nineteenth century perhaps the greatest variety of themes is provided by material in the Tabley Muniments. Especially noteworthy are the personal papers of two members of the family: John Fleming Leicester, 1st Baron de Tabley, and John Byrne Leicester Warren, the 3rd Baron. The first Lord de Tabley was a prominent political figure, being successively an M.P. for three different southern English constituencies in the 1790s and 1800s, and a personal friend of the Prince Regent. He is, however, better remembered for the picture gallery he built up and his support of young, struggling artists. He was one of the first and most prominent patrons of J.M.W. Turner. Tabley’s extensive correspondence and papers remain almost completely unsorted. A list will soon be available of the very large collection of correspondence, papers and literary manuscripts of John Byrne Leicester Warren, born in 1835, and 3rd Lord de Tabley from 1887 until his death at the age of sixty in 1895. Tabley was a talented and versatile man who at one time was considered as a worthy successor to Lord Tennyson as poet laureate, and who at the same time was involved in national and local politics. Tabley regarded himself first and foremost as a poet, dramatist and student of literature. He was a most prolific letter-writer: his correspondents included politicians, civil servants, fellow peers and country gentlemen, and scholars in the fields of literature and the arts. Tabley’s nervous disposition and temperamental nature meant that he often conducted long, and sometimes acrimonious, correspondence with many people, particularly publishers and literary critics. The workings of the Victorian book-trade are well illustrated in this correspondence. Also in the collection are drafts of published and unpublished works, and proofs of subsequently published volumes.

One of Tabley’s great literary passions was the collecting of book-plates. He built up what is now regarded as one of the finest collections in the country, if not the world, and he wrote A Guide to the Study of Book Plates, published in two volumes in 1880 and 1894.
Tabley was also very interested in numismatics and produced scholarly articles on that subject. Within his native county Tabley will probably be best known for his botanical interests. He wrote *The Flora of Cheshire*, which was published posthumously in 1899, and the collection includes his botanical notebooks. The Leicester Warrens also built up a substantial collection of books at their Library at Tabley, and this collection has now come into the possession of the University. Whilst the collection is typical of a Victorian country gentleman, many of the books on the natural sciences have annotations and additions made by Tabley, following his study of the local area. Tabley stood unsuccessfully as a Liberal for the Mid-Cheshire seat in the parliamentary election of 1868. For some time he headed the Tabley troop of local militia. In many respects Tabley was a typical gentleman of his generation: he was exceptionally gifted in many spheres. However, his melancholic nature, uncertain temper and difficulties in maintaining friendships with other members of his class meant that he never reached his full potential. The Tabley Muniments certainly provide an excellent source of raw material for a biography of an under-rated late Victorian figure.

With the beginning of the twentieth century the muniment collections reach the years of living memory, and material from about 1920 will therefore tend to have been retained by the donating or depositing families. The Library’s most important holdings from this century relate to the history of journalism, and political parties and movements. Both fields are dominated by the massive archives of the *Guardian* (formerly *Manchester Guardian*) newspaper. Although these date from the paper’s foundation in 1821, they mainly cover the period beginning with the editorship of C.P. Scott (1872–1929). The archives include correspondence, despatches, memoranda, business records, and bound copies of the newspaper itself. They are a major source for the history of journalism, and for the study of political and social developments in the North-West and elsewhere. Distinct groups of papers of particular value include the correspondence files of P.J. Monkhouse, northern editor of the *Guardian* from c.1952 to 1975, and A.P. Wadsworth, editor from 1944 to 1956. Wadsworth’s role as a historian and a collector of source materials on North-West history has already been mentioned. As well as the bound volumes of the *Guardian*, the collection includes substantial sets of the *Manchester Evening News* and *Manchester Evening Chronicle*, together with a small number of scarce Manchester newspapers of the nineteenth century.

One of C.P. Scott’s political ‘causes’ was women’s suffrage. In

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125 There are a number of unpublished handlists relating to the *Guardian* and its staff (*NIDS UK*, 0.063.040–4, 0.063.086 and 0.063.135).
127 *NIDS UK*, 0.063.042, 0.063.044.
128 A card catalogue of all the Library’s newspaper holdings is available in the Main Library.
addition to material on this in the *Guardian* Archives,\(^{129}\) the Library houses the papers of the Manchester Men's League for Women's Suffrage.\(^{130}\) A Manchester pioneer of women's suffrage was Mabel Tylecote (1896–1986), whose papers include documents on the Labour Party, local politics and adult education in the North-West.\(^{131}\) Other local political figures whose collections of papers the Library possesses are Sir Leonard Behrens, Sir Edward Donner and Francis Neilson; these three men were all active members of the Liberal Party. Behrens, whose papers cover the years c.1916–76, was a Manchester businessman whose other interests included the United Nations, the BBC and the Hallé Orchestra: the collection includes diaries, correspondence, newscuttings and photographs.\(^{132}\) Donner, whose small collection of papers spans the years 1874–1936, was another local businessman, who was also a governor of Manchester University.\(^{133}\) Neilson, a major benefactor of the John Rylands Library, was stage manager of the Royal Opera House and a writer on sociology, as well as being M.P. for Hyde from 1910 to 1916.\(^{134}\)

**HISTORIANS OF THE NORTH-WEST**

It seems appropriate to conclude this survey with a note of the Library's holdings of papers of historians, antiquaries and other local figures interested in North-West history and society. The material collected by Dr A.P. Wadsworth has already been noted. Particularly important are the working notes of a number of scholars who wrote histories of the counties of Lancashire and Cheshire. For example, the letters and papers of the Cheshire antiquary William Nicholls (d. 1809), encompassing parochial history, churches, manors, topography, genealogy and armorials were assembled in connection with the assistance given by Nicholls to Daniel and Samuel Lysons for their account of Cheshire in their *Magna Britannia*.\(^{135}\) The single most important history of Cheshire was written by George Ormerod and first published in three volumes in 1819. This work incorporated the *Prolegomena*, written by the seventeenth-century historian, Sir Peter Leycester, who was, in fact, a direct ancestor of the Leicesters of Tabley. In 1882 a new and enlarged edition of Ormerod's *History* was published, edited by Thomas Helsby. Helsby's notes are in the Library, and they include much useful material which has not been published.\(^{136}\) The great nineteenth-century historian of Lancashire

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129 E.g. see the letters of Christabel and Emmeline Pankhurst to Scott in the unpublished handlist of his correspondence, *NIDS UK*, 0.063.043.
130 Unpublished list, *NIDS UK*, 0.063.060.
131 Unpublished partial list, *NIDS UK*, 0.063.096.
132 Unpublished list, *NIDS UK*, 0.063.085.
133 See *Guide*, 39.
134 ibid., 40.
135 English MSS 916–25.
136 English MSS 422–4.
was Edward Baines, author of *History of the County Palatine and Duchy of Lancaster*, published in 1836. The papers of James Prince Lee (1804–69), bishop of Manchester from 1848 to his death, include a collection of ‘Lancashire scraps’, comprising cuttings and pages from Baines’ *History*, annotated and arranged, together with much additional material. Lee also collected newscuttings relating to prominent people. 137

The Library also houses some of the papers of William Farrer, a distinguished historian of Lancashire. Farrer was born in 1861 into a wealthy Burnley manufacturing family. In 1895 he left the family business and began a career of historical research and writing. However, his was not the work merely of a keen, amateur antiquary. Despite a lack of formal training as a historian, Farrer’s reputation as a medieval scholar is noteworthy even today. From an early age he collected material for a history of Lancashire. Farrer used his wealth to buy a large number of collections, including, in 1895, the manuscript notes and documents built up by J.P. Earwaker (1847–95), who had himself planned to turn his attentions from Cheshire to Lancashire. At the same time Farrer transcribed relevant documents kept in public repositories. Farrer’s work on Lancashire history culminated in his co-editorship with John Brownbill of the Lancashire volumes of the *Victoria County History*, published in 1906–14. Whilst most of Farrer’s very extensive collection is now housed in Manchester Central Library, there is a substantial collection in the University Library, including much of the correspondence between Farrer and Brownbill at the time that they worked together on the *Victoria County History*. 138

There are a number of less significant, but nevertheless interesting, collections of Lancashire and Cheshire historians, and a few examples can be noted. Material on Cheshire was assembled by George Hankinson of Woodland Park, near Altrincham, at the beginning of the nineteenth century: this includes family records of the Hankinsons of Hale. 139 From later in the century there is the Hulme collection, which is made up of pedigrees, extracts from directories, photographs and related material arranged under the headings of more than a dozen Cheshire towns or parishes. 140 Two miscellaneous Lancashire collections from the nineteenth century are those of the Reverend Thomas Raffles and Canon Raines. Raffles’s papers include notes, transcripts and drawings relating to places and families in the county. 141 Raines’s collection consists of extracts and transcripts which he made from deeds and family papers of his

137 See *Guide*, 71.
138 English MSS 711–15, especially 715 (i) for Brownbill.
139 English MSS 106, 510.
140 English MSS 971–85.
141 English MS 115. There is additional unlisted Raffles material in the Library.
brother-in-law, John Halliwell Beswicke of Pike House, Rochdale.\textsuperscript{142} Early this century the Reverend W. Hudson built up a collection of historical papers which include transcripts of papers relating to Preston.\textsuperscript{143} Finally, the papers of Walter Richardson Hurst, which date from the years 1947–76, include the unpublished text of a Lancashire encyclopaedia.\textsuperscript{144}

It is hoped that this brief survey has given some idea of the wealth of material on the North-West of England which is housed in the Library. In the light of the establishment of the John Rylands Research Institute it is intended that more work should be done on these documents, particularly in the way of listing the large number of excellent family muniment collections. At the same time the Library wishes to liaise and co-operate with other repositories containing similar material. In this way we hope not only to be better able to assist and guide researchers working on our own collections, but also to help them relate this material to other resources available in the academic community.

\textsuperscript{142} English MSS 290–1.
\textsuperscript{143} English MS 988.
\textsuperscript{144} See Guide, 70.