

## **Cataloguing Tiger Bay Oral Histories for the Unlocking Our Sound Heritage Project**

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Every year, postgraduate students studying Archive and Records Management at Aberystwyth University undertake a project which provides them with the opportunity to use some of the skills they have been developing. This year has been no different, although the widespread effects of the global pandemic have inevitably been felt. Nonetheless, with the support of University and National Library of Wales (NLW) staff, we have managed to adapt. It has been a very welcome opportunity for all of us in the group to gain some cataloguing experience and play a role in the wider *Unlocking our Sound Heritage* Project. Meeting up on Microsoft Teams every week, our team have gained experience of project planning and working together as a group to achieve a common aim. We have also had the opportunity to hone skills more specific to the role of an archivist, such as ensuring consistency and interoperability in the creation of metadata. To ensure consistency of language, we created cataloguing guidelines according to the requirements of NLW. This clearly set out what was required of each field, as well as whether any controlled vocabulary or international standards needed to be adhered to. To ensure interoperability, we made sure that all the information we recorded could be mapped across to different standards. This mitigates the risk of any information being lost if the collection is integrated into different catalogues.

The specific collection of recordings we have been helping to catalogue encompass various series of oral histories conducted with the residents of Tiger Bay, the diverse dockside community which has been redeveloped over time into the modern Cardiff Bay. I would like to focus in particular on the first series of recordings we have been cataloguing, which were recorded in 1987. This series encompasses a variety of interviews with a number of the residents of the time. They all lived very varied lives, but they are all united by their connection to Tiger Bay. The date these recordings were made means that the residents have interesting perspectives which would be of note to many researchers. Firstly, many of them lived in the shadow of both World Wars and contributed directly to the war effort. Secondly, many lived in Tiger Bay both before and after its 1960s redevelopment, and therefore provide a unique insight into how the so-called ‘slum clearances’ of the period could impact communities.

Other interesting topics raised during the interviews include: the nature of race relations in the twentieth century in a particularly multicultural part of Britain; the extent and nature of religious observance; gender roles; social values; working conditions and industry. Some interviewees spent more of their life than others in Tiger Bay. Those with a looser connection to the community still provide fascinating stories which may otherwise have been lost. This really brings home to me the value of oral histories as a medium. Although archivists have traditionally focused on documentary evidence, these recordings help to highlight the insight that oral histories can offer into unique lives which may otherwise have gone unrecorded.

All in all, the group are finding this a very interesting and worthwhile activity. We will be back in touch in due course, with other group members’ experiences with the subsequent series of recordings.



Western Mail & Echo, "Aerial View of Butetown," *The Heritage & Cultural Exchange Archive*, accessed April 21, 2021, <https://www.hcearchive.org.uk/items/show/6472>.

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## Catalogio hanesion llafar Tiger Bay ar gyfer y Prosiect Datgloi Ein Treftadaeth Sain

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Bob blwyddyn, mae myfyrwyr ôl-raddedig sy'n astudio Rheoli Archifau a Chofnodion ym Mhrifysgol Aberystwyth yn ymgymryd â phrosiect sy'n rhoi cyfle iddynt ddefnyddio rhai o'r sgiliau y maent wedi bod yn eu datblygu. Ni fu eleni ddim gwahanol, er yn anochel teimlwyd effeithiau eang y pandemig byd-eang. Serch hynny, gyda chefnogaeth staff y Brifysgol a Llyfrgell Genedlaethol Cymru (LLGC), rydym wedi llwyddo i addasu. Mae wedi bod yn gyfle i'w groesawu'n fawr i bob un ohonom yn y grŵp ennill rhywfaint o brofiad catalogio a chwarae rhan yn y Prosiect *Datgloi ein Treftadaeth Sain*. Gan gwrdd drwy Tîm Microsoft bob wythnos, rydym wedi ennill profiad o gynllunio prosiectau a chydweithio fel grŵp i gyflawni nod cyffredin. Rydym hefyd wedi cael cyfle i hogi sgiliau sy'n fwy penodol i rôl archifydd, megis sicrhau cysondeb a rhyngweithrededd wrth greu metadata. Er mwyn sicrhau cysondeb iaith, gwnaethom greu canllawiau catalogio yn unol â gofynion LLGC. Roedd hyn yn nodi'n glir beth oedd yn ofynnol ym mhob maes, yn ogystal a'r angen i gadw at unrhyw eirfa reoledig neu safonau rhyngwladol. Er mwyn sicrhau rhyngweithrededd, gwnaethom sicrhau y gellid mapio'r holl wybodaeth a gofnodwyd gennym i wahanol safonau. Mae hyn yn lliniaru'r risg y bydd unrhyw wybodaeth yn cael ei cholli os yw'r casgliad wedi'i integreiddio i wahanol gatalogau.

Mae'r casgliad penodol o recordiadau rydyn ni wedi bod yn helpu i'w catalogio yn cwmpasu cyfresi amrywiol o hanesion llafar a gynhaliwyd gyda thrigolion Tiger Bay, y gymuned amrywiol ar ochr y dociau sydd wedi'i hailddatblygu dros amser i Fae modern Caerdydd. Hoffwn ganolbwyntio'n benodol ar y gyfres gyntaf o recordiadau rydyn ni wedi bod yn eu catalogio, a recordiwyd yn 1987. Mae'r gyfres hon yn cwmpasu amrywiaeth o gyfweiliadau â nifer o drigolion yr oes. Roeddynt i gyd yn byw bywydau amrywiol iawn, ond maent i gyd yn unedig oherwydd eu cysylltiad â Tiger Bay. Mae'r dyddiad y gwnaed y recordiadau hyn yn golygu bod gan y preswylwyr safbwyntiau diddorol a fyddai o bwys i lawer o ymchwilwyr. Yn gyntaf, roedd llawer ohonynt yn byw yng nghysgod y ddau Ryfel Byd ac yn cyfrannu'n uniongyrchol at ymdrech y rhyfel. Yn ail, roedd llawer yn byw yn Tiger Bay cyn ac ar ôl ei ailddatblygiad yn yr 1960au, ac felly'n darparu mewnwleidiad unigryw i sut y gallai'r hyn a elwir yn 'gliriadau slym' y cyfnod effeithio ar gymunedau.

Ymhlith y pynciau diddorol eraill a godwyd yn ystod y cyfweiliadau mae: natur cysylltiadau hiliol yn yr ugeinfed ganrif mewn rhan arbennig, amlddiwylliannol o Brydain; maint a natur cadwraeth grefyddol; rolau rhyw; gwerthoedd cymdeithasol; amodau gwaith a diwydiant. Treuliodd rhai a gyfwelwyd fwy o'u bywyd nag eraill yn Tiger Bay. Mae'r rhai sydd â chysylltiad â'r gymuned yn dal i ddarparu straeon hynod ddiddorol a allai fel arall fod wedi'u colli. Mae hyn wir yn dod â gwerth hanesion llafar fel cyfrwng i mi. Er bod archifwyr yn draddodiadol wedi canolbwyntio ar dystiolaeth ddogfennol, mae'r recordiadau hyn yn helpu i dynnu sylw at y mewnwleidiad y gall hanesion llafar eu cynnig i fywydau unigryw a allai fel arall fod heb eu cofnodi.

Ar y cyfan, mae'r grŵp yn gweld hwn yn weithgaredd diddorol a gwerth chweil iawn. Byddwn yn ôl mewn cysylltiad maes o law, gyda phrofiadau aelodau eraill y grŵp gyda'r gyfres ddilynol o recordiadau.



Western Mail & Echo, "Golygfa Butetown o'r awyr," Archif Cyfnewid Treftadaeth a Diwylliant, a gyrchwyd ar Ebrill 21, 2021, <https://www.hcearchive.org.uk/items/show/6472>.

Trwydded Archifau Creadigol, c. Western Mail & Echo