



## GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND

JANE KENT

Head, Official Publications Dept., British Library of Political and Economic Science,  
London WC2A 2HD, U.K.

The privatisation of the principal British government publisher HMSO was completed in October 1996; the new company is The Stationery Office (TSO). HMSO's publishing contracts were taken over by TSO, but there is inevitably concern that not all will necessarily be renewed and that bibliographic control of British government publishing will become more difficult. There was also concern about the financial aspects of the sale; those concerns are being investigated by the National Audit Office. HMSO still exists, with specialised statutory functions including responsibility for Crown Copyright. It also has a responsibility for bibliographic control: to ensure the continued daily listing of TSO's publications and the submission by government bodies of other publications to Chadwyck-Healey, Ltd., for their series *British Official Publications not published by the Stationery Office*. This series has been published since 1980; HMSO was never the sole official publisher.

Internet sites have continued to proliferate, although it remains the case that no primary source material has been issued yet by that means alone. The principal uses of Internet sites appear to be for promotional material and for prompt information. The site for information on the monarchy (<http://www.royal.gov.uk/>) is apparently very popular. The central point, by which most if not all official sites can be reached, remains that run by the Central Computer and Telecommunications Agency at <http://www.open.gov.uk/>.

Both HMSO and TSO have Internet sites: a leading feature of the HMSO site (<http://www.hmso.gov.uk/>) is the full text of Acts of Parliament from 1996.

TSO's site (<http://www.the-stationery-office.co.uk/>) includes the full text of two publications most useful to librarians: the *Daily List of TSO Publications* at <http://www.the-stationery-office.co.uk/publicat/dailylst/contents.htm>, and the *Weekly Information Bulletin* on activities in the House of Commons (and much other useful information) at <http://www.parliament.the-stationery-office.co.uk/pa/cm/cmweb/ind.htm>. At these points the lists can be browsed only. They can be searched, although not with any precision, at <http://www.the-stationery-office.co.uk/cgi-bin/fx?DB=theso> and [http://www.parliament.the-stationery-office.co.uk/cgi-bin/tso\\_fx?DB=tso](http://www.parliament.the-stationery-office.co.uk/cgi-bin/tso_fx?DB=tso), respectively.

The United Kingdom elected a new government in May 1997, the first Labour government in 18 years. Important changes of policy seem likely in numerous areas, including several of those covered in the following pages.

All items listed with an "HMSO" or "The Stationery Office" imprint are available from The Publications Centre, PO Box 276, London SW8 5DT or through overseas agents; for other publications an address has been given with the entry.

- 389. 30 Years of Regional Trends: CD-ROM**, by the Office for National Statistics. London, HMSO, 1996. 1 CD-ROM and user guide. ISBN 0-11525-031-x; £99 (£49 educational price).

The 30 annual volumes of *Regional Trends* from 1965 to 1995 are here brought together on a single disc. As well as statistics on a wide range of economic and social topics, giving more regional detail than any other single source, there are maps and interpretative essays.

- 390. Access to Justice: Final Report to the Lord Chancellor on the Civil Justice System in England and Wales**, by Lord Woolf, Master of the Rolls. London, HMSO, 1996. 370p. ISBN 0-11380-099-1; £19.95.

The Woolf Report addresses the problems of delay, complexity, and uncertainty about costs which impede access to and confidence in the civil justice system by ordinary citizens. The report and associated papers have been made available on the Internet site of the University of Warwick's Law Technology Centre: <http://www.law.warwick.ac.uk/woolf/>.

- 391. B391. Biodiversity Assessment: A Guide to Good Practice**, by A. Clive Jermy and others. London, HMSO for the Department of the Environment, 1996. 281p. With app., fig., gloss., ill., ref. ISBN 0-11753-070-0; £29.95.

This report is intended to be a reference and resource manual for those in Britain and elsewhere working to implement the Convention on Biological Diversity signed at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (the Rio Earth Summit) in 1992. The framework is set by discussion of the international context of biological recording and international initiatives. Further chapters give much detail on British resources through government agencies, universities, and museums, again covering the international as well as national work being undertaken. Gene banks, specimen collections, bibliographical, electronic, and archival resources are listed in detail and discussed. The report is the first of three volumes; the others are practical manuals designed for field use in recording fungi and animals.

- 392. Childhood Matters: Report of the National Commission of Inquiry into the**

**Prevention of Child Abuse (Chairman: Lord Williams of Mostyn)**. London, The Stationery Office, 1996. 2v. With app., introd., ref. ISBN 0-11321-997-0 (v.1, Report) and 0-11321-998-9 (v.2, Background papers); £40 (v.1) and £35 (v.2).

The National Commission was established in 1994 by the charity The National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children. The importance of the work was demonstrated by the fact that during the course of its work the succession of incidents of serious abuse, some involving childcare workers, continued. The commission concentrated on the legal and social policy framework both nationally and locally, making 85 recommendations for the establishment of structures that might encourage prevention of rather than reaction to incidents of child abuse. Volume 2 contains five papers prepared for the commission, including a review and bibliography of the research literature on the prevention of child abuse by David Gough and Kathleen Murray (pp. 203–265).

- 393. A Clearer Sense of the Census: The Victorian Censuses and Historical Research**, by Edward Higgs. London, HMSO, 1996. 226p. With ind., introd., refs. (Public Record Office Handbook No. 28). ISBN 0-11440-257-4; £11.95.

This volume expands on the author's earlier *Making Sense of the Census 1801–1901* (1989). The earlier work was aimed principally at genealogists; the present one has been much expanded (although now covering only 1831–1901) to assist the use of the published and manuscript census returns and the enumerators' books by local, social, and economic historians. The coverage is of England and Wales only.

- 394. Development of the Information Society: An International Analysis**, by Spectrum Strategy Consultants for the Department of Trade and Industry. London, HMSO, 1996. 136p. With ill., tab. ISBN 0-11515-424-8; £24.95.

This report is part of the Department of Trade and Industry's Information Society Initiative (<http://www.isi.gov.uk>). It gives overviews of information issues in eight countries and compares the United Kingdom's performance and strategy in key fields of consumer, business, and

government information usage. There are over 150 tables of data, but the authors nevertheless observe that the subject remains nebulous: "this report therefore sets out to identify how to measure progress towards a target which remains unidentified" (p. 1).

- 395. Economic Impacts of the Hot Summer and Unusually Warm Year of 1995**, by J. P. Palutikof, S. Subak, and M. D. Agnew. Norwich, the University of East Anglia, 1997. 178p. With introd., ref., tab. ISBN 0-90217-005-8; free. [Available from Global Atmosphere Division, Department of the Environment, Romney House, 43 Marsham St., London SW1P 3PY].

This report collates research from several research institutes and universities, led by the Climate Review Unit of the University of East Anglia, into the effects of the exceptionally mild winter and hot summer in the United Kingdom from November 1994 to October 1995. Climatic data are given. Then 15 sectors are analysed, including "behaviour" and the national economy overall as measured by the GDP. The attempt throughout is to put monetary values on the impact of the weather. Eight sectors are deemed to have been negatively affected, four positively (health, energy, tourism, and retailing), and three to an uncertain or neutral extent, including GDP. The contributors insist that in this new area of research much more work is needed; they also clearly differentiate this work on a specific period from investigations into the longer term effects of a warmer climate.

- 396. The End of the War in Europe 1945**, by Gill Bennett. London, HMSO, 1996. 251p. With abbrev., ind., introd., map, ref. ISBN 0-11702-035-4; £30.

This volume records the proceedings of a conference organised by the British Committee of the International Committee for the History of the Second World War, held at St. Antony's College, Oxford in April 1995. Papers are mostly by academic historians, but participants in the conference also included many key figures from the military, the resistance movements, and from postwar planning; their contributions to discussions are recorded. Chapters cover the closing campaigns of the war, the Yalta and Potsdam

conferences, postwar planning in individual European countries where the differing roles of wartime resistance movements and governments-in-exile are seen as crucial, and the Soviet occupation of Eastern Europe.

- 397. Fair Isle: The Archaeology of an Island Community**, by J. R. Hunter. Edinburgh, HMSO for the National Trust for Scotland, 1996. 280p. With app., bibliog., ill., introd. ISBN 0-11495-750-9; £19.95.

This survey of the small island of Fair Isle, which lies between the Orkney and the Shetland Islands northwest of Scotland, goes beyond the documentation of field monuments to discuss the island's history down to the nineteenth century. Because of the remoteness of the island the continuity of ethnographic traditions has been exceptional; these are discussed along with topographical, documentary, and economic data. An inventory of sites on the island runs to 750 separate locations. These date from prehistory down to Second World War military remains and include the important watermills which flourished at the time of the island's largest population in the nineteenth century.

- 398. Focus on London 97**, by Jenny Church and Alison Holding. London, The Stationery Office, 1996. 195p. With ill., introd., maps, ref., tab. ISBN 0-11620-792-2; £50.

This is the first in what the Office for National Statistics hopes will be an annual series giving statistical detail of all aspects of economic and social conditions in London. It is thus an indirect successor to the 24-year series *Annual Abstract of Greater London Statistics*, last published in 1993. The links between the two titles and the different organisations involved historically in compiling statistics on London are described in the introduction. The present volume was produced by the Office for National Statistics with the London Research Centre and the Government Office for London, and a list of contact points gives details of 40 public and private sector organisations that can provide statistics on London.

- 399. Foundations for Policing: Proposals for Policing Structures in Northern Ireland**, by the Northern Ireland Office. London, HMSO, 1996. 44p. (Command Paper Cm 3249) ISBN 0-10132-492-8; £13.50.

After the breakdown of the ceasefire in Northern Ireland in February 1996, the Government announced its intention to press ahead with a series of reforms and reviews of the Royal Ulster Constabulary. The reform process is partly a Northern-Irish parallel to reforms in England and Wales and Scotland, but also addresses questions specific to Northern Ireland, including religious imbalance in the Royal Ulster Constabulary.

- 400. Four World Cities: A Comparative Study of London, Paris, New York and Tokyo**, by Llewelyn-Davies, the Bartlett School of Planning of University College London, and COMEDIA. London, Llewelyn-Davies, 1996. 327p. With app., ind., introd., maps, ref., tab. ISBN 0-95003-072-4; £39.50. [Available from Llewelyn-Davies, Brook House, Torrington Place, London WC1E 7HN].

This report was commissioned by the Department of the Environment for the Government Office for London. It discusses the four global cities with the emphasis on analysing how far London is succeeding in comparison with the others, noting that "contrary to much popular opinion, London is not at the moment performing badly in comparison with its major competitor cities" (p. 304). The main structure of the book is sectoral: the financial and business services, tourism, and creative and cultural sectors of the four cities are analysed and compared in detail. A fourth sector, "power and influence" (i.e., how many companies, and government and international agencies are located in the cities) is also included, but the authors note the difficulty of obtaining strictly comparable data here. Support services (information technology, education and training, transportation) and general conditions of life in the cities are also analysed. The authors note that none of the cities at present has a single strategic authority and do not think the "master plan" approach sensible. They call for further research and continued close study of developments, particularly in global cities, but also in some respects in smaller cities, which may be distinctly more pleasant to live in.

- 401. The Governance of Public Bodies: A Progress Report**, presented to Parliament by the Chancellor of the Duchy of

Lancaster and the Financial Secretary to the Treasury. London, The Stationery Office, 1997. v.p. With app. (Command Paper Cm 3557) ISBN 0-10135-572-6; £13.80.

This white paper reports the Government's responses so far to the Nolan Committee's report on standards in local Public Spending Bodies (see item 413); it also describes further actions taken in response to the Nolan Committee's first report of 1995 to develop the statutory framework for accountability and audit in public life.

- 402. Government.direct: A Prospectus for the Electronic Delivery of Government Services**, presented to Parliament by the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster. London, The Stationery Office, 1996. 37p. With ill. (Command Paper Cm 3438) ISBN 0-10134-382-5; £6.85.

This green paper invites comments on the government's achievements so far and possible future directions for the delivery of government services electronically and for public access to government information in electronic format.

- 403. Information Society: Agency for Action in the UK**, by [a Sub-Committee of] the Select Committee on Science and Technology of the House of Lords (Chairman: Lord Phillips of Ellesmere). London, HMSO, 1996. 3v. (House of Lords Papers 77 (Report), 77-I and 77-II (Evidence), Session 1995-96) ISBN 0-10407-796-4 (Report), 0-10478-296-x and 0-10479-096-2 (Evidence); £14.40 (Report), £22.90 and £23.10 (Evidence).

This report was, appropriately, the first from a select committee of either House of Parliament to be published electronically. It reports work done by the Select Committee on Science and Technology in the first five months of 1996 on the present state and future development of the electronic information infrastructure of the United Kingdom, with numerous international comparisons. It catalogues the plethora of initiatives already undertaken and recommends the creation of an Information Society Task Force to act as a think tank to set an agenda for the development of the U.K. Information Society. The Government response has been published as Command Paper Cm3450 (The Stationery Office, 1996).

nery Office, 1996. 16p. ISBN 0-10134-502-x; £3.50). It rejects this proposal.

- 404. Inquiry into Legislation Against Terrorism**, by Lord Lloyd of Berwick. London, The Stationery Office, 1996. 2v. With app. (Command Paper Cm 3420) ISBN 0-10134-202-0; £22 (for both v.).

Lord Lloyd was asked to review the future need for specific counterterrorism legislation in the United Kingdom in December 1995 when a ceasefire had been in operation in Northern Ireland for some time, and his brief was explicitly to assume a lasting peace there and recommend what legislation would be necessary to meet other terrorist threats. This situation was transformed by the end of the ceasefire, but the terms of reference of the enquiry were not changed. The report is an overall review of legislation and police powers on terrorism from any source, with specific recommendations for new powers and the repeal of some existing ones. Lord Lloyd recognises that some of these recommendations may now seem "inapposite." Volume 2 of the report, published but not sold separately, is a 108-page survey by Professor Paul Wilkinson of St. Andrews University of all terrorist activity in the United Kingdom, emphasizing groups other than those connected with Northern Ireland.

- 405. Legal Issues and the Internet**, by the Central Computer and Telecommunications Agency (CCTA). London, HMSO, 1996. 2v. With gloss., ind. ISBN 0-11330-682-2 (for both v.).

These volumes, aimed at the business sector, cover the central legal issues involved in Internet use, including contract law, intellectual property, security, and liability. The first volume is an overview and the second a reference manual going into more detail and describing the regulatory environment of the Internet in the UK and internationally. The subjects of defamation and pornography are also covered. The framework discussed is that of England and Wales, and some details will be different in Scotland and Northern Ireland.

- 406. Masters of Landscape: The Norwich School of Artists, 1803-1833**, by Andrew Moore and others. London, The Stationery Office for the Norfolk Museums

Service, 1996. 1 multimedia CD-ROM. ISBN 0-11525-019-0; £49.95.

Appropriately since The Stationery Office has its headquarters in Norwich, this multimedia disc covers the artistic movement centred on that city. The lives and works of John Crome, John Sell Cotman, and many lesser names are placed in social, economic, and political context. Works displayed are drawn from the collections in Norwich itself and also public and private collections in the rest of Britain and North America.

- 407. Options for Long Term Care: Economic, Social and Ethical Choices**, by Tessa Harding, Barbara Meredith, and Gerald Wistow. London, HMSO, 1996. 148p. With refs. ISBN 0-11702-034-6; £15.95.

This volume brings together papers from a 1995 conference where contributors from the United Kingdom, the United States, and Germany placed the question of long-term care provision and the roles of the public and private sectors in that provision in a very broad context. Many contributors recognize that the present arrangements in the United Kingdom are widely perceived by the public and professionals as unjust.

- 408. Progress in Completing the New British Library**, by the National Audit Office. London, HMSO, 1996. 71p. (House of Commons Paper 362, Session 1995-96) ISBN 0-10273-096-2; £10.75.

In this its second report on the British Library, the National Audit Office recognises that many of the problems originated in bad strategies from the very beginning of the building project in the early 1980s. Projected dates for the library to open to readers have repeatedly not been met, but the NAO concludes that project management has improved greatly since the creation of the Department of National Heritage in 1992, and some of the library should at last be open to readers by the time this article appears.

- 409. The Public Inquiry into the Shootings at Dunblane Primary School on 13 March 1996**, by Lord Cullen. Edinburgh, The Stationery Office for the Scottish Office, 1996. 174p. With app. (Command Paper Cm 3386) ISBN 0-10133-862-7; £20.

Lord Cullen's review of the shootings at Dunblane—when a gunman shot dead

16 children, their teacher, and himself, and seriously wounded many others—discusses many aspects of the handling of the crisis and the personal history of the gunman, but devotes most attention to legislation on the possession of handguns: the guns used were held legally under the legislation then in force. At the same time as Lord Cullen's inquiry the House of Commons Home Affairs Committee investigated the possession of handguns without specific investigation of the Dunblane affair. The Government's response to Lord Cullen (Command Paper Cm 3392, the Stationery Office, 1996. 8p. ISBN 0-10133-922-4; £3) accepts most of the recommendations, but proposes more restrictive legislation than that recommended either by Lord Cullen or the Home Affairs Committee on the possession of handguns.

- 410. Rebuilding Trust**, by the Select Committee on Relations between Central and Local Government of the House of Lords (Chairman: Lord Hunt of Tanworth). London, HMSO, 1996. 3v. With app., introd. (House of Lords Papers 97 (Report), 97-I and 97-II (Evidence), Session 1995-96) ISBN 0-10409-796-5 (Report), 0-10478-896-8 and 0-10478-796-1 (Evidence); £10.40 (Report), £36.50 and £20.30 (Evidence).

This report is a successor to enquiries held in 1976 (the Layfield Report) and 1984 (the Widdicombe Report) on local government in Great Britain and gives a full account of present constitutional and financial structures, focussing particularly on central-local relations, reflecting concerns that "over a long period local authorities have lost powers . . . in a way which has incrementally soured relations, weakened local democracy and blurred accountability" (p. 5). It makes various recommendations intended to mark the respect and status of local government which mostly involve loosening central control while developing more formal structures for consultation between the two tiers of government. The government response (Command Paper Cm 3464, The Stationery Office, 1996. 27p. ISBN 0-10134-642-5; £6.25) rejects most of the recommendations.

- 411. Return to an Address of the Honourable the House of Commons Dated 18 July**

**1996 for the Appendices to the Report of the Inquiry into the Export of Defence Equipment and Dual-Use Goods to Iraq and Related Prosecutions.** London, HMSO, 1996. 2 CD-ROMs and 69p. guide. (House of Commons Paper 1995-96, unnumbered) ISBN 0-10277-696-2; £150.

These CD-ROMs contain the full text of the Scott Report into exports to Iraq in 1980-1988 and also most of the evidence submitted to the inquiry as well as related documents. This additional material has not been published in any other format. The discs require 27Mb of disc space.

- 412. Roots of the Future: Ethnic Diversity in the Making of Britain**, by the Commission for Racial Equality. London, CRE, 1996. 133p. With bibliog., ill. ISBN 1-85442-179-4; £9.95. [Available from CRE, Elliot House, 10/12 Allington St., London SW1E 5EH].

This fully illustrated book aims to give an overview, "fleeing and impressionistic," of the ethnic diversity of Britain in historical context. Successive invasions to 1066 and more peaceful immigrations over the following centuries are sketched in to show the diversity already present before the much larger immigrations since 1945 to which most of the book is devoted.

- 413. Standards in Public Life: Local Public Spending Bodies: Second Report of the Committee on Standards in Public Life (Chairman: Lord Nolan).** London, HMSO, 1996. 2v. (Command Paper Cm 3270-I and 3270-II) ISBN 0-10132-702-1 (v.1) and 0-10132-703-x (v.2); £14 (v.1) and £34 (v.2).

The Nolan Committee's second report deals with further and higher education bodies, including universities, grant-maintained schools, Training and Enterprise Councils and Local Enterprise Companies, and registered housing associations. It reiterates the seven "principles of public life" listed in the first report and finds little reason to suppose that these principles are not widely applied already, although mentioning particular cases of mismanagement and misconduct. It makes two fundamental propositions specific to this sector on the nature and extent of central control of local affairs, and 50 specific recommendations including firmer guarantees of academic freedom and provisions for "whistleblowing."

- 414. Tolbooths and Town-houses: Civic Architecture in Scotland to 1833**, by the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland. Edinburgh, The Stationery Office, 1996. 241p. With abbrev., app., gloss., ill., map, ref. ISBN 0-11495-799-1; £43.50.

Tolbooths were the centres of local administration in Scotland from the medieval period, although the word came often to be synonymous with "prison," and from the eighteenth century, other terms, especially "town-house" were often preferred. The emphasis of this volume is architectural, using material from

the National Monuments Record of Scotland with numerous photographs, drawings, and plans of over 90 surviving buildings, with shorter notes on over 100 that have been demolished. The 1833 Municipal Reform Act marked the beginning of a new era in democratically elected local councils in Scotland, but many of the new councils continued to use the same buildings, and they remain a prominent feature of many Scottish towns today. The architectural record is placed in the context of the history and functions of local government in Scotland before the 1833 reform.