

**INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION  
OF SOCIAL WORKERS**



# **2016 Report of the International Federation of Social Workers' Archives Project**

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# To Recap

- In 2013 IFSW started the Archives Project. The archives contain information dating back to 1847 and papers from 1928 when the predecessor to IFSW was launched in Paris. The aim is for all archival material to be preserved for future generations and to make the IFSW archives more accessible to social workers and researchers around the world.
- Initial funding was from the IFSW Friends Project.
- Key documents being available to read on the website. IFSW hopes these documents will inform us about the important roots of the social work profession.
- The work is a volunteer project being led by IFSW Archivist Fiona Robertson

# Phases One and Two of the Archives Project

- Phase One was a review of all the stored material kept in the basement at the office of the Swiss Association of Social Workers in Bern. Key documents were reviewed and retained including the published newsletters from 1962 to 2002 (now available on the website).
- Phase Two covered the reviewing, paper preservation and archive filing as well as the beginning of digitisation of material dating from 1847 to 1956, along with the Archive moving to the IFSW Office in Basel.

# Recap History 1847 - 1950s

- 1847 to 1932 is the era of International Congresses (Conferences) which lead to the setting up of the International Permanent Secretariat of Social Workers (IPSSW) in 1932.
- International Conferences were being held since 1847 with the first more social work focused event in 1889 in Paris – the 1st International Congress (Conference) on Statutory and Voluntary Assistance. This was followed by Conferences in Geneva 1896, Paris 1900, Milan 1906 and Copenhagen 1920.
- The 1st International Conference of Social Work was held in Paris in July 1928. This format brought together over 5000 delegates, representing 42 countries. This provides the framework for the current day IASSW, ICSW and IFSW.

## Recap History 1847 - 1950s (continued)

- 1932 to 1950s was a period of significant turmoil for people in many countries and the profession of social work.
- Despite the crisis in Europe, the 2<sup>nd</sup> International Social Work Conference was held in Frankfurt in 1932 and was attended by 1200 delegates from 34 countries. This Conference provided the groundwork to set up the IPSSW, which is the foundation of the modern day IFSW.
- Further International Conferences in England 1936; (Conference for Prague 1940 did not happen) and the next in New York in 1948.

## **Recap History 1847 - 1950s (continued)**

The 1948 meetings in New York lead to the development of plans for setting up the current IFSW. This was achieved in 1956 at the 8<sup>th</sup> International Social Work Conference when IFSW was constituted and legally incorporated 1957.

# Phase Three of the Archives Project

- The current phase is based on work in Basel in February 2016 with the emphasis on the reviewing, paper preservation and of archiving material from 1950s to the start of the 'computer era'.



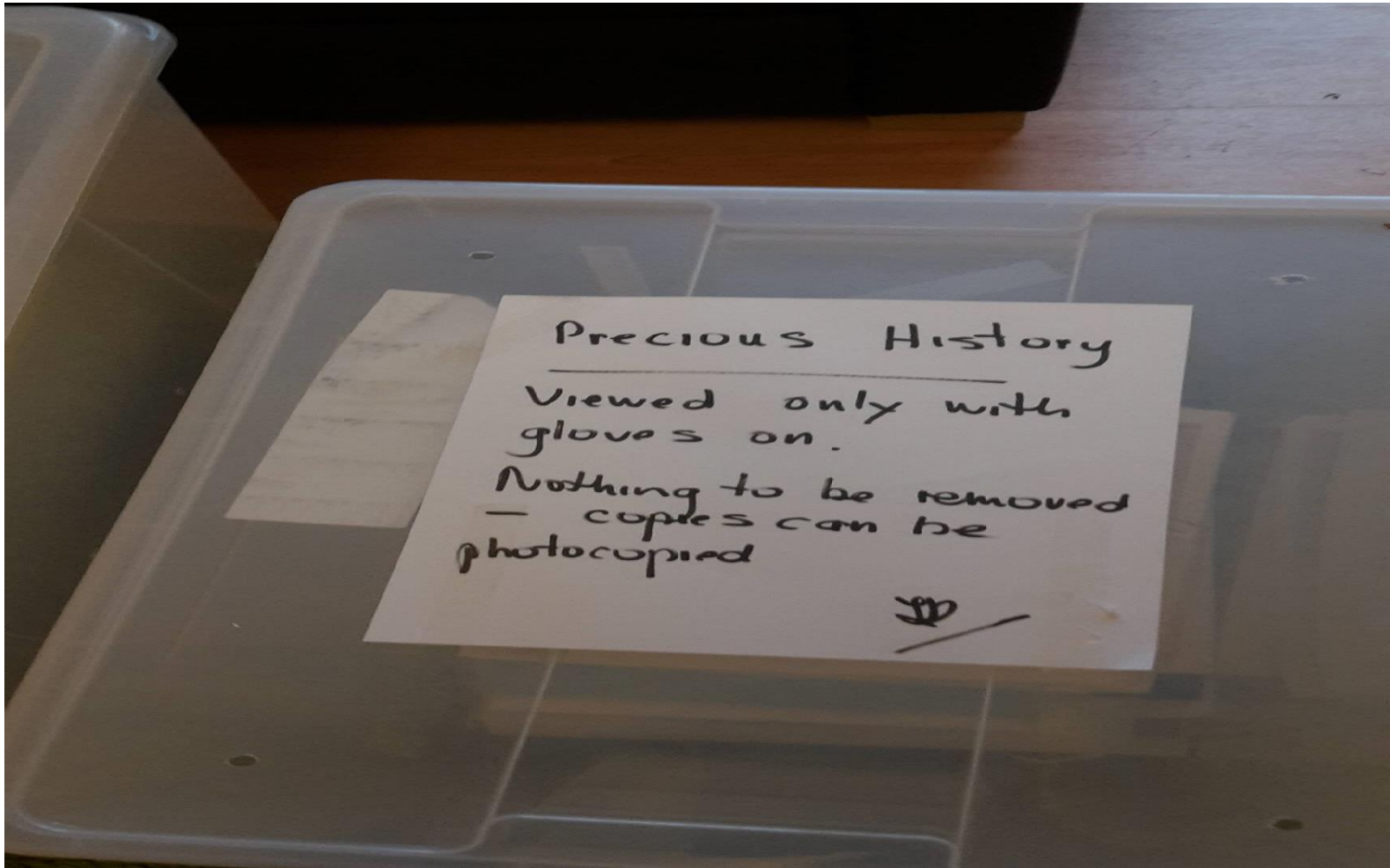
# Phase Three of the Archives Project



Archives' Storage in Basel



# Phase Three of the Archives Project



Archives' Storage –  
safeguarding of important data

Bourse d  
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Le Secrétariat leur a envoyé au mois d'avril et de mai, en se servant des revues étrangères qui lui sont envoyées. Thèmes: „Archiv für Wohlfahrts- pflege Berlin“ / Compte rendu de l'Archive / „Les travailleuses sociales britanniques“ / Compte rendu de la Fédération britannique / „La tutelle générale à Genève“ / Tarit d'Union -Genève/ „Le cours d'études à Hubertendorf“ / Die Fürsorgerin -Wien/ „La travailleuses sociale au Tirol“ / Die Fürsorgerin -Wien/ „L'activité de l'Association centrale des auxiliaires sociaux de Belgique“ / „Le Service Social“ -Bruxelles/

L'Union des Associations des travailleuses sociales tchécoslo- vaques nous a offert un cadeau de brochures illustrées décrivant la Répu- blique Tchécoslovaque et nous prie de les envoyer à nos associations membres avec une invitation sincère de visiter ce pays. La brochure vous parviendra par le même courrier.

Je vous remercie, chère Mademoiselle, de m'avoir fait envoyer la documentation sur le service social à l'hôpital. J'ai obtenu de Mme Getting le dernier compte rendu et une brochure fort instructive qui nous sera très utile.

Mais comme je ne suis pas modeste, j'ai encore une prière à vous adresser. Cette fois ce n'est pas pour notre pays, mais pour la Palestine. Mme Sidonie Wronsky, ancienne professeur aux écoles de service social à Berlin, dont le nom vous connaissez sans doute par les livres qu'elle a publiés, vit à présent comme émigrée à Jerusalem, où elle organise le ser- vice social concernant la jeunesse. Elle désire éditer un pamphlet sur les adolescents sur les choses sexuelles. Elle me demande de lui procurer un modèle. Je lui envoie ce que j'ai pu trouver. Pouvez-vous m'aider en lui procurant des pamphlets français? Je sais qu'il en existe de très bien écrits, publiés par la Ligue nationale contre le péril vénérien. J'en ai rapporté une fois plusieurs de Paris. J'espère que cette Ligue existe en- core et qu'elle sera prête, si vous la demandez, d'envoyer ces pamphlets à Jerusalem, Rehavia, Vaad Le... Jewish Agency.

... d'avance et vous prie  
... tations

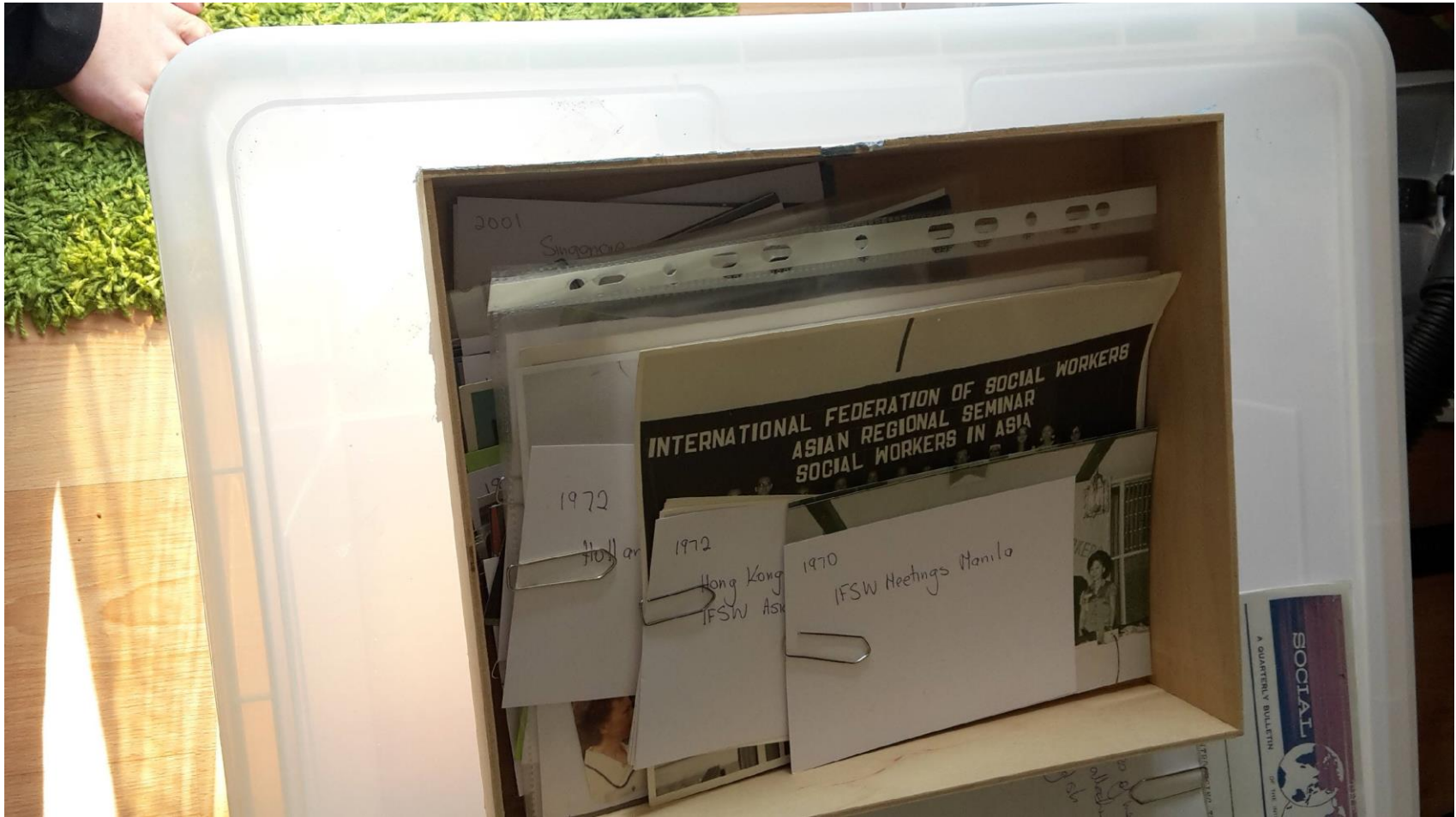
An example of paper preservation

# Phase Three of the Archives Project

- Involved decisions concerning which papers are of relevance and need dissemination.
- Further discovery of important documents and publications in the Archives.
- Placement of a selection of documents on the updated website.

# Phase Three of the Archives Project

- Examination and safekeeping of photographic and audio-visual material.



An example of photo documentation



# Phase Three of the Archives Project

- Discovery of the first IFSW Newsletter in 1958.

THE  
SOCIAL



WORKER

A QUARTERLY BULLETIN

OF THE INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF SOCIAL WORKERS

No. 1

JANUARY 1958.

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INTRODUCING THE BULLETIN

Athens, January 1958

Dear Friend,

After considerable efforts we reach you today through this Bulletin which appears now for the first time.

The Executive Committee of our Federation has thought that the publication of a Bulletin in a modest and simple form would be at this stage the best means of bringing closer together social workers and their professional associations, in various parts of the world. It is not intended to offer through this Bulletin any extensive contribution in social welfare literature. We rather aim to provide a medium through which social workers may read something about the work and problems of their counterparts in other countries, about international activities in the social welfare field, and about developments concerning the profession.

The project is not an easy one and can be successful only if it gains the support of you and your friends who may be interested in this sort of publication. We shall welcome any comments, suggestions and especially information and news which could help us in improving the standard of this Bulletin. My colleagues and I hope that with your personal interest we shall be able to publish the Bulletin in a satisfactory way.

Cordially yours,

Marios Raphael,  
Editor

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The Editor would like to ask all readers of this Bulletin to be kind enough to supply him with any publications, information or news they might think of help to the Bulletin. He attaches great importance to this channel of information in order to give a general and up-to-date picture of developments of social work in various countries.

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## Phase Three of the Archives Project (continued)

- Developing new relationships with colleagues, archivists and researchers in other countries



Fiona Robertson  
Archivist and Dr. Claudia  
Wiotte-Franz German  
Assn of Social Workers  
Historian

# Phase Three of the Archives Project (continued)

- Offers of Papers

## Gayle Gilchrist James 1940-2008

President of IFSW from 1988 to 1992. During this time, she presided over two international conferences and founded the IFSW Human Rights Commission.

*(Third from left, with others awarded Andrew Mouravieff-Apostol Medal)*





## Further steps to take

- Reviewing, paper preservation and archiving material from individual countries' folders



Country folders to sort

|              |                |             |                     |                   |  |
|--------------|----------------|-------------|---------------------|-------------------|--|
|              |                |             |                     |                   |  |
| Argentina    | Cyprus         | Iceland     | Mexico              | Singapore         |  |
| Australia    | Czechoslovakia | India       | Morocco             | Sri Lanka         |  |
| Austria      | Denmark        | Ireland     | Netherland Antilles | South Africa      |  |
| Bahamas      | Dominica       | Iraq        | Netherlands         | Spain             |  |
| Bahrain      | Ecuador        | Israel      | New Zealand         | Sudan             |  |
| Belgium      | Egypt          | Italy       | Nicaragua           | Surinam           |  |
| Benin        | El Salvador    | Ivory Coast | Niger               | Sweden            |  |
| Bermuda      | Ethiopia       | Jamaica     | Nigeria             | Switzerland       |  |
| Bolivia      | Fiji           | Japan       | Norway              | Tanzania          |  |
| Brazil       | Finland        | Kenya       | Pakistan            | Trinidad & Tobago |  |
| Burkina Faso | France         | Korea       | Panama              | Tunisia           |  |
| China        | Germany        | Kuwait      | Peru                | Turkey            |  |
| Cameroon     | Ghana          | Lebanon     | Philippines         | Uganda            |  |
| Canada       | Greece         | Libya       | Poland              | USA               |  |
| Chile        | Guatemala      | Luxembourg  | Portugal            | Uruguay           |  |
| Colombia     | Guyana         | Madagascar  | Puerto Rico         | United Kingdom    |  |
| Costa Rica   | Haiti          | Malta       | Russia              | Ukraine           |  |
| Cuba         | Hong Kong      | Malaysia    | Senegal             | Venezuela         |  |
|              | Hungry         | Mauritius   | Sierra Leone        | Zimbabwe          |  |
|              |                |             |                     |                   |  |

## Further steps to take (continued)

- Reviewing, paper preservation and archiving material in the regional folders.
- Further scanning and digitising of papers for accessibility on the website.
- Assessment of historical information in different multi media formats and analyzing suitability for website.
- Filling the missing links in the recording of history from IFSW stalwarts over the years.

## Further steps to take (continued)

- Complete a stocktake to determine the extent of IFSW historical papers not held in Basel.
- Complete a stocktake to determine the extent and location of the non-English IFSW papers.
- Encourage research of archives materials by students, researchers and interested IFSW members.

# In Conclusion

- [www.ifsw.org/archives/](http://www.ifsw.org/archives/)
- This current phase was focused on the era from the 1950s and in the selection of material placed on the website gives a snap shot of some activities.
- A condensed summary of IFSW history 1956 to 2006 written for the Golden Jubilee can be viewed on the website
- We thank Rory Truell and Sue Dworak-Peck for their support and contribution to the Archives Project and Pascal Rudin for the development of the new website