

Trade and Travel
CHAPTER THREE:
“A shrinking planet”
1951 to 1974

**The Story of the Journeys to, from and by Lincoln Christ’s Hospital School
and its predecessors as told mainly through the school magazines, and the
memories of the participants**

**The third in
a series of four occasional papers on school travel and trips especially
written for Heritage Open Day, September 2012**

From the Garton Archive at Lincoln Christ’s Hospital School

Occasional Paper No 20

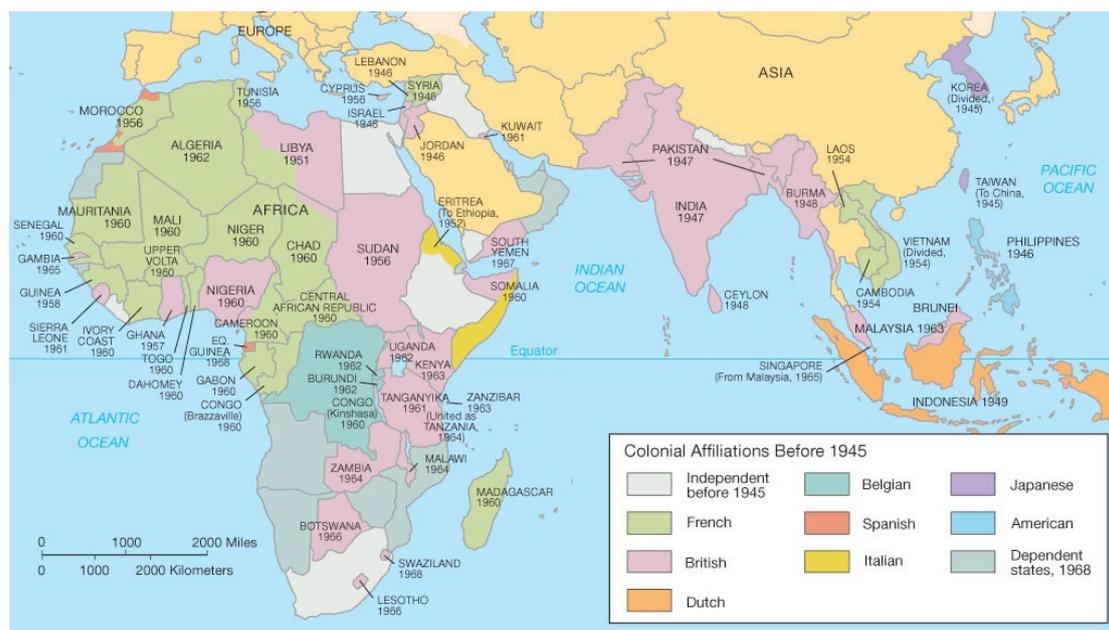
Compiled by

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Introduction

The third quarter of the twentieth century was remarkable in many ways, not least for the End of Empire and the impact this made on 'trade and travel' patterns. Canada, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa had already developed rather different relationships with the British Crown. "The Jewel in the Crown" which was India had split into four countries in two stages in 1947 and 1948 – India, Pakistan (West and East), Ceylon and Burma



Decolonization

In 1948 Palestine provided the basis for the new country of Israel.

Over the next two decades most of the European colonies in Africa became independent states, the British sequence starting with the Gold Coast in 1957 and ending with Southern Rhodesia in 1979.

Closer to home, Churchill described the new realities of the post-war world when he said that, "from Stettin in the Baltic to Trieste in the Adriatic, an iron curtain has descended across the Continent." The European Coal and Steel Community was formally proposed in 1950 and from the signing of the Treaty of Rome in 1957 evolved into the European Union, initially called the European Economic Community i.e. an international trade organization above all else.

Technology too had a significant impact especially in the sphere of 'trade and travel'. Emerging economies began to replace UK manufactured goods in many areas including engineering products from Lincoln, which declined rapidly after 1950. New devices had developed rapidly in 1939-1945 and further still as the Cold War between western and eastern blocs. Communications by the telephone expanded, television transmissions spread from the London area and expanded through the opening of increasing numbers of channels. The Comet airliner and

then the US built Boeing and McDonnell-Douglas fleets opened the door to cheaper flights, and mass tourism in which Mablethorpe was replaced by Majorca, and Tenby by Torremolinos. In due course, the early work on computing by many including George Boole of Lincoln in the nineteenth century, and Alan Turing and the brilliant team at Bletchley Park which built Colossus during the Second World War led to the widespread introduction of computers and associated hardware in schools. The information revolution had started.

Over the coming decades, all these changes and innovations shaped a shrinking, more integrated world which had significant and rapid impacts on the employment patterns and daily lives of people in Lincolnshire. Even though the rhythms of school life did not appear to change at a single dramatic moment, former pupils and staff visiting Lincoln Christ's Hospital School today find some aspects of classroom activity and conduct difficult to recognize only two generations later. However, some things are as they have always been, and there have even been some modest revivals of former habits and traditions such as the restoration of the Lincoln School cycle sheds in the playground and the revival of the two minutes silence on Armistice Day

1951-1952

Lincoln School 1951-1952

In this academic year there were two magazines published in January and July 1952. The January editorial could have been written sixty years later:

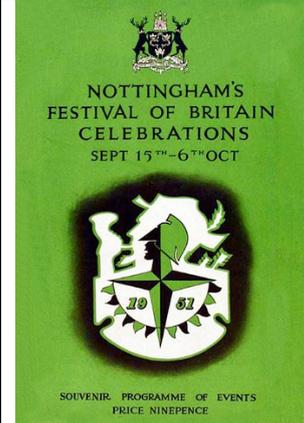
"Affairs in the world are not as they should be – a trite but none the less true statement. Poverty and fear assail men of all races: men of goodwill who seek to remedy such evils are frustrated by bitter conflicts. Statesmen and mere citizens alike find barriers placed between the nations, and seem powerless to trample down these barriers. There is a real desire for peace and friendship among ordinary people but little effective action" ...

... "The problem is stated, a possible solution is put forward. What is needed now is action, action from us all".

In many ways school life reverted to the patterns of the 1930's. Fixtures with the region's grammar schools were re-established with away fixtures at Boston, Brigg, De Aston, Gainsborough, Retford, Sleaford, and, somewhat differently, against the Cranwell Apprentices. Five of the footballers spent a week at an F.A. coaching course at Lilleshall during the summer holidays J.F.P. (probably J.F.Porter) of VI_M noted that *"parties from public and grammar schools as far apart as Lincolnshire, Surrey and Lancashire were also present, and it was amusing to hear the large number of local dialects"*. The writer also remarked that it had been suggested that the 1952 Olympics team might train there just before travelling to Helsinki. In the early autumn T.G.M of VI_M (Murray) spent 26 days on an Outward Bound course at Aberdovey in mid-Wales. His personal highlights were the athletics coaching, a 25 hour voyage on the sailing ketch *Warspite* and a 35 mile hike on the final Saturday.

Less rigorous in many ways was the French Day at the High School attended by representatives from the local grammar schools. Plays were performed, poems read, quizzes attempted, films viewed and Marshall acutely embarrassed when he received not only his prize from the representative of the Institut Français but also something of a surprised *“when, in accordance with French custom, M. Bonaveau kissed him on both cheeks, much to the amusement of the large audience”*. The History Sixth made no less than four visits to the Cathedral in March as part of their studies, while the Stamp Club devoted time to designing its own “Olympic Games” stamp.

Visiting speakers included the American Assistant Bishop of Tokio, Old Lincolnian W.A.Burgwin on his work with the Masai in Kenya and the Rev.Milford from the Church Missionary Society on the problems facing Christianity in India and Pakistan. The Student Christian Movement welcomed the Bishop of Lincoln who talked about his recent tour of the Far East including the Nicobar Islands and provided his own perspective of the situation in Malaya. *“On March 19th [1952] we had two coloured visitors, student from Kenya now at Nottingham University and a Singalese ordinand”* who described life in heir own countries, especially education, medicine and religion. *“We also learned their views on England, a supposedly Christian country”*.

	<p>1951 was the year of the Festival of Britain and elements of the exhibition were taken from the South Bank to provincial centres such as Nottingham where 106,615 people went to the Broadmarsh.</p> <p><i>“A large party of boys visited the Land Travelling Exhibition at Nottingham on September 27th”,</i> writes P.J.B. (Peter.J.Briggs) of VIc.</p>
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“Two exhibits of almost universal appeal were the model railway which attracted the junior boys and a number of the masters, and the mannequin parade which attracted the senior boys and most of the masters”. Other aspects of the day were less well received by the writer. He describes some of the exhibits as seeming *“rather futile”*, the inner workings of the jet engine to be *“of very limited appeal”*, and the explanations either virtually non-existent or *“completely unintelligible to all but the most learned among us”*. Our guide was equally unimpressed, *“nauseated”* in fact, by the *“People at Home”* section. Overall the prospect of houses of the future with bright red walls festooned with bright yellow hearts, furniture of tubular steel and dressed only with paintings by Picasso or Klee was judged to be a *“most ghastly sight”*. The most popular occupation in the three buses on the return journey was apparently calculating how late they would reach School. Briggs observes that, *“we did, in fact, miss the first period of the afternoon’s work, much to everyone’s undoubted disappointment”*. On this occasion travel might not have broadened the mind, and it is perhaps instructive that an absence of comment on the exhibition in

the High School magazines suggest that the girls did not make this particular journey.

There was no trip abroad in 1951-1952, but old boys could be found in many countries around the world on military duties, in employment or studying.

Close to home, there was military service with BAOR in Germany, quantity surveying with the Royal Engineers in Klagenfurt, involvement in Ruston and Hornby's apprentice exchange with a company in Hamburg, and a six month placement in Switzerland by the holder of the Schofield Scholarship awarded by the Institution of Production Engineers.

Asia attracted some working in the oil industry in Persia (modern day Iran). One Old Lincolnian was attached to the British Military Mission in Saudi Arabia, another serving in the Canal Zone and a third had recently returned from a service posting in Hong Kong.

Travellers to the Americas had a variety of interests including being Ruston and Hornsby's company representative in Toronto, completing a PhD at the University of Michigan, an exchange with the University of Carolina, a posting at the British Embassy in Washington, and serving in the West Indies on the light cruiser *H.M.S. Swiftsure* after a spell in Scandinavia. One Old Lincolnian forwarded his address in Uruguay to the editors.

Heading south from Lincoln School, Mr. Arscott moved to a new teaching post at Makere College in Uganda with his family. Elsewhere in Africa, Old Lincolnians were working for the British Africa Company in Nairobi, writing a history of the City of Nairobi, engineering in Dar-es-Salaam, flying training in Rhodesia (present day Zimbabwe), town planning, also in Rhodesia, doing National Service in Eritrea, and teaching at The University of the Gold Coast (Ghana). The Rev. C.A. Roach sailed on the *'Warwick Castle'* to become Archdeacon of the Seychelles.

	
<p>H.M.S. Swiftsure</p>	<p>M.V. Warwick Castle</p>

The changing political geography of the world is apparent here. There are no placements on the newly independent Indian sub-continent, no mention of either South Africa or New Zealand and only one reference to Australia to which R.P. Dennis sailed in September 1951, perhaps an early recipient of a post-war immigration subsidized passage. A different view of the future was expressed by Noel Duckworth writing of his time in the Gold Coast: *"We have made great progress and hope to get things going on a sound basis, before we finally quit West*

Africa as members of a ruling race". Ghanaian independence came 6th March 1957, the first of Britain's African colonies to go its own way.

Lincoln Girls High School 1951-1952

In this academic year there were two magazines published in Spring 1952 and Summer 1952. The diary section of the summer edition recorded that on February 8th *"The school assembled to hear the broadcast of the proclamation of the accession of Queen Elizabeth II read at St.James's Palace. In the afternoon the school heard the proclamation read from the steps of Lincoln Cathedral."* Lincoln School was also represented. A week later the school observed *"two minutes of silence in memory of His Majesty King George VI"* and twenty Sixth Form girls attended a service in the cathedral. Lincoln School was also represented and the logbook of St Giles Senior Council School (re-named St Giles Secondary Modern School) reveals that *"There was an assembly at 11 am to hear the broadcast of the Royal Proclamation. During the afternoon the whole School attended the Cathedral to hear the Royal Accession Proclamation at 3 pm."*

In terms of 'trade and travel' Princess Elizabeth had received the news of her father's death on 6th February in Kenya and returned home by plane the following day. The planet was clearly shrinking

The magazines record an ever wider range of collective and individual activities although there was no trip abroad in the school year 1951-1952. Fixtures were played at Sleaford and Grantham, and the Upper Sixth had visits to Cambridge, Gainsborough Old Hall, Hardwick Hall and both the Juvenile Court and Lincoln Magistrates' Court, mostly in June and July, perhaps after the examination season had ended. Theatre visits had become a major element in the extra-curricular programme with senior girls going to Stratford-upon-Avon to see *Henry V*, Nottingham for a Hallé concert, and the Old Vic for *King Lear*. Group travel by school parties was considered so normal by this time that there seems to be no references to the mode of transport in the High School magazines! In contrast boys from Lincoln School did not appear to go to the theatre in school groups, although Peter Harrod remembers a visit to see a Shakespeare play at South Park.

Visiting speakers described work as a parish priest in India, Christian Missionary Society activities in Nigeria and Canada, the Universities' Mission to Central Africa, the problems facing Christians in Ceylon, the problem of Arab refugees in the Middle East and the condition of the church in Kenya. On 21st March 1952 Mr Duplechain from Louisiana spoke about the colour bar in America and Mr.Bosque-Hamilton from the Gold Coast *"outlined some of the problems facing a coloured student in Britain today"*.

There are brochures on High School trips abroad in the Garton Archive i.e. the Paris diary (Easter 1953) and Montreux (1954).

And in time other information will no doubt emerge as the magazines from both schools yield further secrets from 1961-1962 and 1971-1972, and the participants

tell their stories. Contributions from former pupils and staff members at Myle Cross and St. Giles will be added to the next version, and we may find copies of school magazines or newsletters to enrich the archival record. Indeed, days before completing this article, Peter Harrod forwarded the draft of his latest occasional paper on the St. Giles secondary moderns based largely on the log-books and some interviews with former staff members. This very helpful extract relates to Myle Cross Secondary School for Girls after 1958:

“The pattern of visits observed in the previous mixed school continued, with local visits to places such as the Assize Courts, the Guildhall, the Cathedral, the Usher Art Gallery and the Music Festival. Visits further afield included York, Nottingham, Stamford and Burghley House, Chatsworth House, the Ideal Home Exhibition in London, Castleton Caves, Dovedale, pony-trekking in Devon, and visits to Windmill House near Birmingham for a week’s residence. There were also annual visits to Wimbledon, trips to the Theatre Royal in Lincoln, and more ambitious cruises to the Baltic and the Mediterranean. These were the Lincolnshire schools cruises open to all the schools in the county. Cultural visits for opera and concerts given by the London Philharmonic Orchestra were also arranged for parties of girls. On many of these trips the girls were accompanied by two fortunate teachers; Miss Gill, who later taught at LCHS, and Miss Madeleine Coles. Miss Coles was also given a year’s leave to work in Australia in 1969 as part of the teacher-exchange programme.”

For now, September 2012, mixing metaphors, the canvas for the last six decades is largely and deliberately blank to allow the actors themselves to fill the stage with memories of their own roles and performances

1961-1962

Lincoln School 1961-1962

Work in progress, awaiting further research and contributions from those who were there

Lincoln Girls High School 1961-1962

Work in progress, awaiting further research and contributions from those who were there

1971-1972

Lincoln School 1971-1972

Work in progress, awaiting further research and contributions from those who were there.

The last edition of ‘The Lincolnian’ (Vol.7, 1973) before the merger has two interesting items, which unwittingly provide a window into the future. As well as a fieldtrip to Derbyshire, there was a report on a Switzerland ski trip (March 1972) penned by Mark Byford, later Deputy Director of the BBC. And continuing the media link, a team of biologists, Dennison, O’Brien and Smith, produced a study on

“Wild Oats” which won the BBC “Young Scientist of the Year” competition and led to the study being highly commended in the European contest. The article doesn’t say whether the students or their tutors, Mr.Sexton and Mr.Brylewski, went to Holland for the final adjudication.

Lincoln Girls High School 1971-1972

Work in progress, awaiting further research and contributions from those who were there

Concluding comment

Much changed in 1974 when the comprehensive school system came to the City of Lincoln, but not to the surrounding country areas. With mergers and closures, individual institutions grew significantly or disappeared completely. The number of pupils accommodated on the Wragby Road site in the newly formed Lincoln Christ’s Hospital School rocketed from about 525 to over 1400 aged 12-18 in the course of the summer

There were many impacts as traditional patterns were merged and new structures formed, the fixture lists being an early casualty. New competitions were started which largely meant that teams played much closer to home. Similarly it seemed less practical to organize the school excursions, trips, journeys, visits and holidays, which had been viable for the small numbers in the four predecessor schools. On the other hand, the larger size brought other advantages as did the changing opportunities brought to schools by new technologies and political priorities.

Sources: The Lincolnian and Lincoln Girls High School magazines as stated in the narrative

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A request to our readers on Heritage Open Day 2012 and beyond

Trade and travel

We would welcome your help in answering some precise questions and developing the story of the last sixty years on communications in the broadest sense e.g.

1. When were the schools first linked to the telephone system?

From Occasional Paper 18 and the log-books, we now know that in July 1938 "*With the likelihood of the School [St.Giles Secondary Modern] being used as a First Aid Station, a telephone was installed. The Headmaster became Divisional Air Raid warden*". Was this also true of the other schools?

2. When was television first viewed in Lincoln ?
3. When was the first television set used in any of the schools?
4. When did the school first have a fax machine ?
5. When were the first computers installed and what were they?
(Acorns perhaps or BBC-Bs in the 1980's?)
6. When were computers first networked?
(?1992 with grant-maintained status)
7. When was the school first linked to the internet ?
8. Which was the first trip abroad when the school party went by plane?
(Skiing? The USA in 1990?)
9. When did any of the schools first have a self-driven minibus?

All stories, anecdotes and photographs gratefully received

Thank you

Peter Harrod and Chris Williams
The Garton Archive
8th September 2012