PP14: The Papers of Sue Lloyd-Roberts

Summary catalogue

Susan [Sue] Lloyd-Roberts was a celebrated and award winning investigative journalist and human rights campaigner. Lloyd-Roberts studied History and Modern Languages at St. Hilda’s from 1970-1973 and went on to work with ITN and the BBC producing award winning reports on diverse socio-political issues; from manufacturing conditions in Burma to the use of Prisoner organs in China and the political situation in Northern Iraq.

The collection is particularly strong in respect to her investigative newspaper work. These cuttings also include articles about Lloyd-Roberts herself; her reporting methods, family life and final illness.

The correspondence mainly focuses on the awarding of her M.B.E. There are also letters relating to her support for campaigns, letters responding to her televised reports, invitations to give speeches, responding to awards and early ITN related correspondence. We also hold a number of speeches she gave on human rights issues and her career in journalism, along with annotated prompt cards and scripts for broadcast.

Finally, alongside family photographs and stills from her television reports are papers from her early life; including school reports and assignments. Finally the collection holds memorial booklets, numerous tributes and reflections on her life and work.

Provenance:

The papers were very kindly donated by Sue’s husband, Nicholas Guthrie in 2016.

The papers were transferred in bundles, broadly in groups relating to activities. The Archivist has adhered to theses groupings but arranged in sequence as far as possible the items by date. Original order has been maintained as far possible, although some duplicated material have been disposed of.

Extent:

The papers consist of one large newspaper cuttings box, one box of photographs and two correspondence boxes.
Guide to collections:

PP14 A: Newspaper articles
PP 14 A1: Articles by Sue Lloyd-Roberts about geopolitical issues
PP 14 A2: Articles about reporting methods
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PP 14 A4: Articles about Sue Lloyd-Roberts outside her career

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PP 14 B/1: Correspondence about awarding of M.B.E
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PP 14 C: Reports, speeches and scripts
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PP14 D/6: Book
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PP 14 E/1/1-7: Early family photographs

PP14 E/2/1-4: Award ceremonies

PP14 E/3/1-12: On reporting assignment

PP14 E/4/1-3: Away from work

PP14 F: Award certificates

Further material:

Material detailing her field work; including notebooks and digital files is currently being catalogued by The Bodleian Library. A full list and link to the catalogue will be supplied once cataloguing work is complete.

Papers catalogued by Oliver Mahony, with the kind assistance of Dominic Janes. The archivist would like to put on record his thanks to Nicholas Guthie for his financial support in cataloguing and preserving the papers.

The full catalogue is available for consultation in the Archives.
PP 14 A1: Articles by Sue Lloyd-Roberts about geopolitical issues

Articles are mainly written by Sue Lloyd-Roberts, some are by other writers discussing reaction to reports by Sue Lloyd-Roberts.

PP 14 A1/1: ‘Endangered species nobody wants to save’ [27 May 1995]: Article by Sue Lloyd-Roberts about Icelandic Whalers and their fight on the ban on commercial whaling by the International Whaling Commission (IWC)


PP14 A1/3: ‘Nagorny Karabakh sinks into misery’ [1 February 1992]: Cutting from ‘The independent’ about the civil war and the effects on the population of the enclave of Nagorny Karabakh in Azerbaijan

PP14 A1/4: ‘Killed for their kidneys’ [26 October 1994]: Photocopied cutting from ‘The Times’ about how executed Chinese prisoners have their organs used in transplants for foreign and domestic patients.


PP14 A1/7: ‘British arms help Jakarta fight war against its own people’ [27 March 1997]: Article in ‘The Independent’ about British made arms trade with the Indonesian regime.


PP14 A1/10: ‘Student body for sale’ [31 May 1998]: A copy of the ‘Sunday Telegraph review’ front page, on which features an article written by Lloyd-Roberts describing prostitution amongst the growing student population in the UK.
PP14 A1/11: ‘Diplomat reveals Britain’s betrayal of Tibet’ [13 March 1999]: A cutting from ‘The Independent’ on the subject of British foreign policy towards Tibet and China over the previous fifty years.

PP14 A1/12: ‘Big business bankrolls the sick trade in human body parts’ [8 July 2001]: Cutting from ‘The Independent on Sunday’ which follows a Moldavian victim of the trade in human organs.

PP14 A1/13: ‘Sue Lloyd-Roberts interviews...Mrs Kesang Y Takla’ [2002]: From ‘Tibet Alive’ magazine which features an interview by Sue Lloyd-Roberts with Mrs Kesang Y Takla, the Dalai Lama’s representative for northern Europe.


PP14 A1/16: ‘Victory in Nepal is within our grasp, say Maoist rebels’ [13 February 2006]: Cutting from ‘The Independent’ world pages. Lloyd-Roberts’s reports on the People’s War and the state of the regime of King Gyanendra as she follows the Maoist militants.

PP14 A1/17: Special Report from Sue Lloyd-Roberts [No headline as page missing, 7 June 2006]: Cutting from ‘The Daily Mail’. Lloyd-Roberts’s reports on underage marriage and childbirth in the Indian state of Andhra Pradesh. [INCOMPLETE]

PP14 A1/18: ‘Massacre of the innocents’ [15 April 2009]: Cutting from ‘The Daily Mail’. Lloyd-Roberts reports on farm invasions in Robert Mugabe’s Zimbabwe. This causes the destruction of the nation’s wildlife. [INCOMPLETE]

PP14 A1/19: ‘Albania stands alone against the wind of change’ [not dated, 1988-1990]: Article by Sue Lloyd-Roberts in 'The Independent' about the political situation in Albania during the period of upheaval and rebellion in East Germany.


**PP 14 A2: Articles about reporting methods:**

These articles discuss her innovative use of cameras in broadcast journalism and her respect for cameramen generally.

**PP14 A2/1: ‘War cameramen unsung heroes, says TV reporter’ [31 October 1992]:** Cutting from the ‘Daily Telegraph’ giving details on Sue Lloyd-Roberts filming techniques in the field.

**PP14 A2/2: ‘Television Buyer: Access all areas’ [1 September 1996]:** From ‘Television Buyer’ magazine. Features a review of the camera she uses (Sony VX1000E) and how it is used in her work.

**PP14 A2/3: ‘DVCs and Long johns’ [April 1999]:** Article by Sue Lloyd-Roberts in internal BBC magazine ‘Newgathering’ about her use of portable DVC camera in her reports from Kazakhstan.

**PP14 A3: Articles about Sue Lloyd-Roberts professional career:**

**PP 14 A3/1: ‘Reds warn TV Sue: We’ll shoot you in the back if you flee’ [30 July 1989]:** Cutting from ‘The Daily Express’ by Penny Hart describing Sue Lloyd-Roberts’s 24-hour capture at the Romanian border.


**PP 14 A3/4: ‘Roberts talks to Liz Cater about her life in the world’s crisis spots’ [1990]:** In this cutting from an unknown newspaper, Lloyd-Roberts is interviewed by Liz Carter regarding her work in dangerous conflict zones. [INCOMPLETE]

**PP 14 A3/5: ‘TV Sue scours world for news’ [1990]:** Cutting from a newspaper [not identified] about Sue Lloyd-Roberts recent trips to the Arctic, her love of staying in Gwynedd with her aunt and her preparations for a visit to Stavropol.

**PP 14 A3/6: ‘Have camera, will travel’ [22 October 1993]:** Photocopied cutting from ‘The Daily Telegraph’ featuring an article written by Elizabeth Grice. The interview discusses Lloyd-Roberts’s education and a selection of the stories she has covered.

**PP 14 A3/7: ‘News teams raise money for Bosnia’s war victims’ [February 1994]:** Photocopy of an article from an unknown newspaper written by Tim Cooper. Lloyd-Roberts’s experience in Bosnia is briefly quoted by Cooper, as well as details of the event ‘Bop for Bosnia’.


PP 14 A3/10: ‘Radio Times: It’s been a good year for...’ [9 December 1995]: An article briefly highlighting Lloyd-Roberts’s exposure of human rights abuses around the world whilst she was with the BBC Breakfast Programme.


PP 14 A3/14: [reference not in use]


PP 14 A3/16: ‘Martha Gellhorn, legend of war reporting, dies’ [17 February 1998]: Obituary to Martha Gellhorn from ‘The Independent’. Lloyd-Roberts is briefly mentioned as one of her “professional descendants”.


PP 14 A3/22: [references not in use]


PP 14 A4 Articles about Sue Lloyd-Roberts outside her career

PP14 A4/1: ‘Over to Sue, the bride in the news’ [25 January 1980]: Photocopy of cutting from ‘The Sun’ about the wedding day of Sue Lloyd-Roberts and Michael Morris.


PP14 A4/3: ‘Pagoda party raises £50,000 for Tibetans’ [July 1995]: Article by Tim Cooper in which Lloyd-Roberts is briefly quoted on the state of Tibet and its occupation by China. The article also describes the fundraising event.


PP14 A4/5: ‘My kind of day’ [16 March 1996]: ‘Radio Times’ article written by Lloyd-Roberts about her career and general lifestyle, as well as mentioning her children and their role in her work.


PP14 A4/7: ‘Oh, they’ll get over it’ [1 March 1998]: Cutting from ‘The Sunday Telegraph Magazine’ about how doctors treat members of their own family, drawing on Lloyd-Roberts’s own experience as the daughter of a doctor.


PP14 A4/11: ‘Give me Serbian snipers over this, any day’ [21 June 2015]: From the ‘The Sunday Times: News Review’, article by Lloyd-Roberts about her fight with leukaemia and comparing it with situations she found herself undertaking her work.


PP14 AA/14: ‘BBC bosses launch Save Our Sue bid for reporter hit by cancer’ [18 June 2015]: Cutting from ‘The Daily Mail’ about appeal to find stem cell donor for Sue Lloyd-Roberts.

PP14 B: Correspondence

PP 14 B/1: Correspondence about awarding of M.B.E
PP14/B/1-9: Letters to the Honours Nominations Unit [February- March 2001] [9 items]
PP14/B/10-30: Letters of congratulation, Investiture material [2001-2002] [ 20 items]

PP 14 B/1/A: Unidentified M.B.E related correspondence:
PP14 B/1/A: Letters of congratulation [December 2001-February 2002] [15 items]

PP 14 B/2: Letters praising reports
PP14 B/2/1-22: Letters from news colleagues, MPs, Central Tibetan Association and others relating to her reports, including her items on the Bering Straits, Rumania, Nagorno Karabakh, Soviet Union, Bosnia, China, Burma and Tibet. [1983-1999] [22 items]

PP 14 B/3: Correspondence relating to ITN
PP 14/B/3/1 -3: Internal correspondence [1982-1992] [ 3 items]

PP 14 B/4: Correspondence regarding support for campaigns
PP14 B/4/1-2: letters about Sue Lloyd Robert’s support for Burma and the “adopt a village” Scheme. [1989, 1999] [2 items]
PP 14 B/5: Correspondence about speeches

See [PP 14 C: Reports, speeches and scripts] for scripts and prompt cards

PP 14 B/5/1-13: Correspondence from various organisations regarding planned speeches.  
[1996-2003]  [13 items]

PP 14 B/6: Correspondence and materials about awards

PP14 B/6/1-11: Letters of congratulation for awards received, guest list for event, programme for award event.  
[1995-1997]  [10 items]

PP 14 C: Reports, speeches and scripts

PP 14 C/1: Scripts for speeches:

PP 14 C/1/1: Script: Speech on globalisation and human rights [1998]: Speech entitled 'Globalisation- A threat to Human Rights or a Bonus?' on how globalisation affects the human rights of workers and the most vulnerable in the developing world. The speech focuses on her BBC report on workers conditions in Haiti. First half of speech is typed, second half handwritten.

PP 14 C/1/2: Scripts: Speech entitled: 'A report from a human rights reporter-Does anyone out there care?' [1 April 2003]: Typed versions, with alterations, of a speech about her career and her methods of reporting; struggling into China, use of small camera for filming, sweatshops, Pakistan and nuclear weapons, documentary 'Whose Life is it anyway', Tibet, Nigeria.

PP 14 C/1/3: Script: Speech about human rights reporting [1998]: Script for speech given in Malaysia focusing on her reporting on child labour in Pakistan and discusses wider issues about human rights reporting. First half on speech is typed, second half handwritten.

PP 14 C/1/4: Notes for speech [not dated]: Handwritten notes of speech.

PP 14 C/2: Prompt cards:

PP 14 C/2/1: prompt cards for talks [not dated]: Handwritten cards outlining key points for separate talks on career and reporting style and lessons she has learned over the years. One of the talks is 'A Report from a Human Rights Reporter' [PP 14 C/1/2].
PP 14 C/3: Broadcast scripts and correspondence:


PP 14 C/3/7: Script for report on Tibet [1996]: Two different scripts of BBC report on the Chinese 'Yan Da' ('Strike Hard') campaign against monasteries in Tibet. Includes handwritten annotations.

PP 14 C/3/8: Script for reports on China [1994]: First page of script for BBC reports on China’s forced labour camps and Chinese nuclear testing programme.

PP 14 C/3/9: [reference not in use]

PP 14 D: Personal ephemera

PP 14 D/1: Correspondence:

PP 14 D/1/1-6: Letters regarding Majorca, Wales. [1997-2006] [6 items]
PP 14 D/2: School reports and work [Cheltenham Ladies College]:

PP 14 D/2/1: The Rise and Fall of the Inca Empire: Handwritten school assignment, includes hand drawn maps of South America within and magazine cuttings from the National geographic magazine within.

PP 14 D/2/2: Cheltenham Ladies College Terminal Reports [1968-1969]

PP 14 D/2/3: Cheltenham Ladies College Terminal Reports [1969]

PP 14 D/3: Cards and letters

PP 14 D/3/1: Cards:

PP 14 D/3/1/1-3: Birthday cards, invitations and Christmas cards to Sue Lloyd-Roberts [1993-1995] [ 3 items]

PP 14 D/3/2: Letters of sympathy:

PP 14 D/3/2/1: Letters of sympathy following death of relative [November 1999-January 2000] [12 items]

PP 14 D/4: Funeral and appreciation material:


PP 14 D/4/3-4: Emails of tribute and ITN report on BBC remembrance service [October-December 2015]

PP 14 D/4/5: Speech: Printed transcript of speech given by the Director General of the BBC at Sue Lloyd-Roberts memorial service at All Souls, Langham Place.

PP 14 D/4/6: Email: Letters of condolence [2015]: Printed list of email condolences reacting to Sue Lloyd-Roberts death from family members and colleagues.


PP 14 D/4/8: Speech: ‘Sue Lloyd-Roberts & Ian O'Reilly, Burma, late 90s’ [2015]: Speech detailing in depth their mid-1990s reports on Burma and the fraught nature of reporting there. Including stories on how cameras were hidden for covert filming, filming on the Thai/Burma border, meeting contacts, treatment at hands of military at airport.
PP 14 D/5: Personal Certificates:

PP 14 D/5/1-2: [2 items]

PP 14 D/6: Book:


PP 14 E: Photographs

PP 14 E/1/1-7: Early family photographs:

PP 14 E/1/1-4: Sue Lloyd-Roberts outside mosque in Kuala Lumpur, relaxing by lake, David Florence c. 1969, and family shot in Singapore [August-September 1967]

PP 14 E/1/5-7: Sue Lloyd-Roberts on her way see the Orang Asli tribe in Malaysia, administrate building in St. Petersburg [undated, 1960s], School play production [Cheltenham Ladies College, mid 1960s]

PP14 E/2/1-4: Award ceremonies:

Receiving the Royal Television Society award [1995] and Amnesty Journalist of the Year award [2012], undated photograph at table at ceremony including Sue Lloyd-Roberts and husband Nicholas Guthrie.

PP14 E/3/1-12: On reporting assignment [mainly stills from broadcast reports]:

PP14 E/3/1: In Jungle c. 1990

PP14 E/3/2: In a hospital with video camera [undated]

PP14 E/3/3: With elephant [undated]

PP14 E/3/4: On location in Burma with Ian O'Reilly [c. 1998], with Dalai Lama [not dated], filming next to river, posing with driver by car [not dated] [4 images]

See also: [PP 14 D/4/8: Speech: Sue Lloyd-Roberts & Ian O'Reilly] for details about their experiences in Burma.

PP14 E/3/6: On location in Harare, Zimbabwe c. 2005: moments after this screenshot, she was arrested.

PP14 E/3/7: On location in Kathmandu, Nepal c. 2006 about the military stalemate [2 images]


PP14 E/3/9: On location in Myanmar [c. 2010] covering the countries election and the Karenni Rebel Army [5 images]

PP14 E/3/10: On location in Hanoi [c. 2014], reporting on the rhino horn trade [4 images]


PP14 E/3/12: With Ian O’Reilly, BBC producer [c. 2014]

PP14 E/4/1-3: Away from work:

PP14 E/4/1: In wedding dress c. 1980

PP14 E/4/2: In a pub in Limerick, Ireland c. 2014

PP14 E/4/3a & b: In Majorca: In red dress [undated] and portrait c. 2009

PP 14 F: Awards certificates


PP 14 F/4: Certificate: international Consortium of Investigative Journalists [2002]: Award in recognition of being a finalist in the ICIJ Award for Outstanding International Investigative Reporting.
PP 14 F/5: Certificate: Commission for Racial Equality Award [2003]: 'CRE Race in the Media' award in the 'Television Factual' category for report 'My brother the Taliban Fighter'.

PP 14 F/6: Certificate: Royal Television Society awards [2006/2007]: Award for BBC Newsnight report 'Undercover in Zimbabwe'.

PP 14 F/7: Certificate: Green Screen '96 [29 February 1996]: Certificate for the 'Bill Travers Insight Award' in recognition of film makers and campaigners focusing on environmental matters.