

# Business Archives Council (BAC): who we are

- BAC is a charity, set up in 1934
- Our executive council includes academic and archive professionals
- We have 250 members: a mixture of academics, archivists and other archive users

J Lyons & Co Ltd:  
courtesy/copyright London  
Metropolitan Archives, City of  
London



# BAC: our role

- **Promote** the preservation of business records of historical importance
- **Supply advice** and information on business archives and modern records
- **Encourage an interest** in the history of business



Records at risk - William Verry  
builders in administration  
Courtesy: LMA

# BAC: our activities

- Annual conference
- Wadsworth prize: awarded annually, for a book which makes an outstanding contribution to the study of British business history
- Cataloguing grants
- Bursary for business history research
- Rescue of at-risk business records
- Working with business and trade associations



## **Annual conference, on topics such as:**

*Change the record* (2017), held at Harper Collins;

*Branching out: the rewards and realities of diversifying your service* (2016), held at HSBC;

*Hunter Gatherers: Collecting Today's Business Archives* (2015) held at Prudential Assurance Company Building;

*Let the Right One In? - Challenging Perceptions of Access to Business Archives* (2014), held at the Royal Albert Hall.



We promote the preservation of business records of historical importance

### **Case Study: Crisis Management team**

**Comet Group Plc went into administration in 2012. It had been founded in 1933 in Hull. Its history was put at risk when the company closed.**

As a direct result of the work of the Crisis Management team, key business records were saved and deposited at Hull History Centre, where they are now available to researchers.





We **supply advice** and information on business archives and modern records



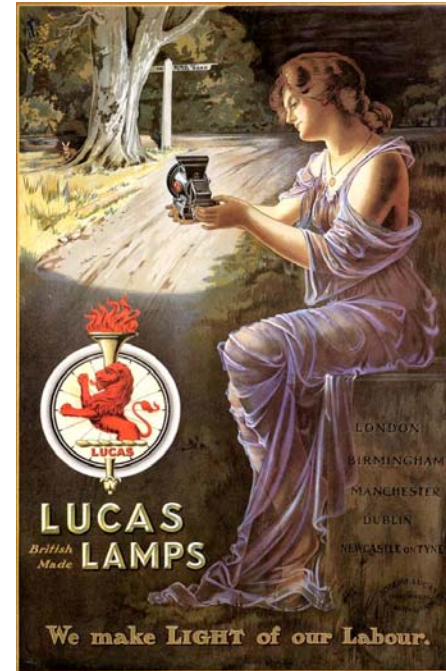
## **Case study: Clevedon Pier**

**We gave advice to Clevedon Pier and Heritage Trust on managing their archive, including clarity on what a business archive is, what to select for permanent preservation and how to arrange records.**

The Pier was built in the 1860s to attract tourists and provide a ferry port for rail passengers to south Wales. It's a grade 1 listed structure.



# We encourage an interest in the history of business



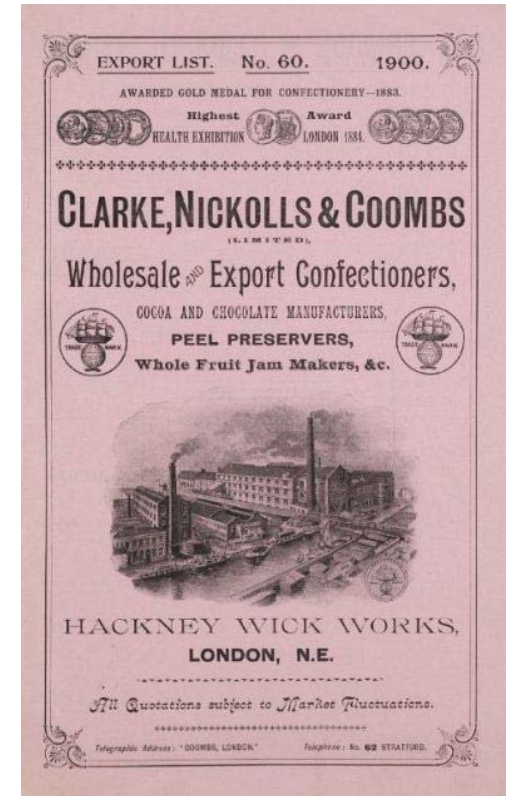
## Two cataloguing grants awarded annually. In 2017:

- British Motor Industry Heritage Trust (BMIHT) for the archive of Lucas Industries
- Falmouth University for the cataloguing of the Kneehigh Theatre Archive



# BAC: our resources

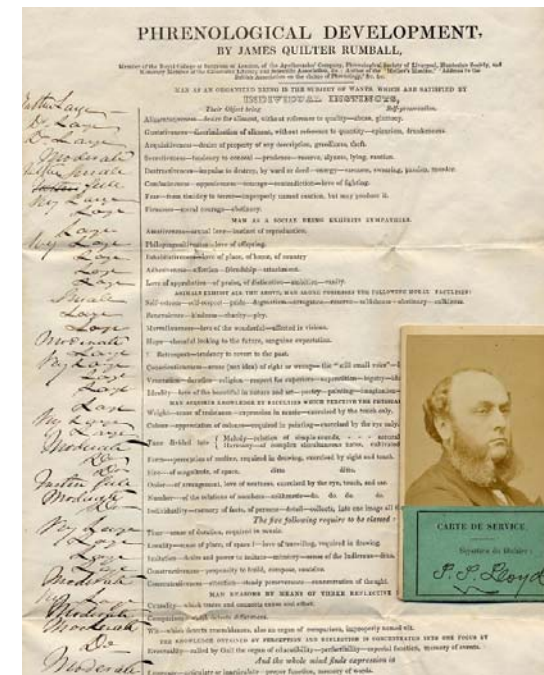
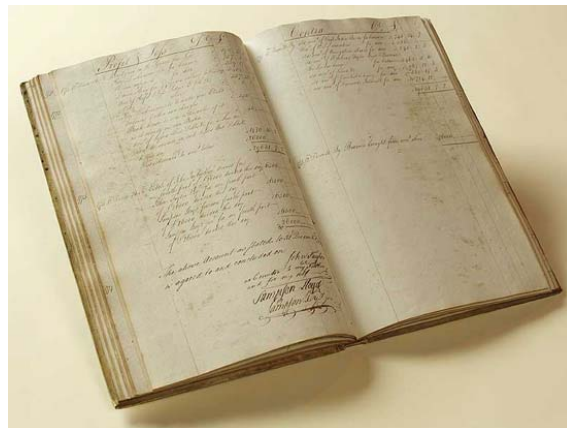
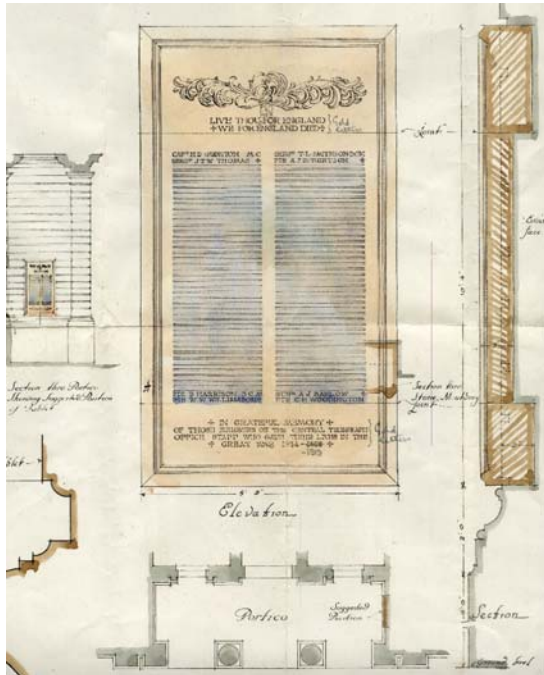
- Advice to businesses on managing archive collections:  
[www.managingbusinessarchives.co.uk](http://www.managingbusinessarchives.co.uk)
- Publication lists:  
<https://www.businessarchivescouncil.org.uk/publications/complete/>
- Handling archives in crisis via Crisis Management Team:  
[www.managingbusinessarchives.co.uk/getting\\_started/business\\_archives\\_at\\_risk/](http://www.managingbusinessarchives.co.uk/getting_started/business_archives_at_risk/)
- Business History Explorer (Bibliography of UK Business and Industrial History):  
[www.businesshistoryexplorer.co.uk](http://www.businesshistoryexplorer.co.uk)
- Quarterly newsletters



Clarnico price list.  
Courtesy LMA



# Business collections are diverse



Images courtesy of: BT Heritage & Archives; Earls Court and Olympia archives at LMA; Lloyds Banking Group Archives



# Uses of business records

- In house use to support growth, differentiation and protection e.g. branding, design inspiration, precedence in decisions, legal evidence
- Wider value for personal, family, local to international, architectural, design and product histories
- Users can be diverse: Company Secretary, academic, PR Officer, journalist, family historian, school group, arts student, film maker
- For further uses visit:  
[www.managingbusinessarchives.co.uk](http://www.managingbusinessarchives.co.uk)



Earls Court photographs  
Image: Courtesy/copyright  
London Metropolitan Archives

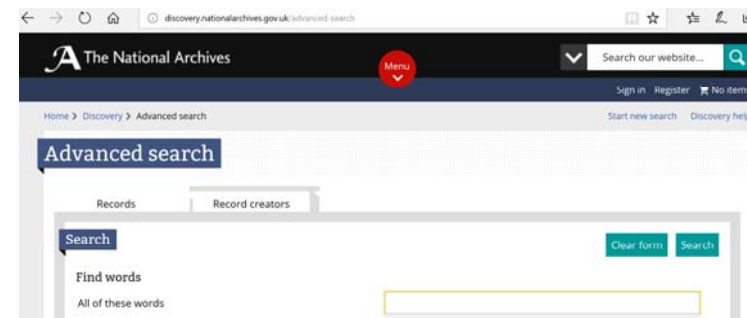
# Business collections – how to start your research

Records may be held by:

- National or local record offices, specialist repositories, universities
- Business / corporation

Start with:

- BAC's publications list online
- The National Archives 'research guides' about business history records
- The National Archives 'Discovery' catalogue lists where archives of businesses are held
- Company information: Companies House or Open Corporates



Discovery search TNA and Cass Business School at LMA (courtesy LMA)



# BAC: find out more / join us

## Benefits of membership:

- Discounted rates for annual conference and other events
- Up-to-date news
- Networking opportunities
- Help us to support business archives

[www.businessarchivescouncil.org.uk](http://www.businessarchivescouncil.org.uk)

@\_BusinessArch

First Boots store, Nottingham 1896. Courtesy of Boots Archive



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