



Call for Papers

EABH Archival Workshop 2010

Risk Management in Archives: Hazards Old and New

Deadline: 5 March 2010

The European Association for Banking and Financial History e.V. (EABH) is calling for papers to be presented at a workshop kindly hosted by the National Bank of Belgium. The event will take place in Brussels, on Thursday, 20 May 2010.

The EABH is the main European academic forum for research on banking and financial history (further details on www.eabh.info). It promotes the production and dissemination of high quality academic research through workshops, conferences and publications, including the Financial History Review, an academic journal published by Cambridge University Press. The EABH has organized workshops since its foundation, on topics relating to archival issues, art and culture and banking and financial matters with a broader relevance for business, policy and archivists.

The subject of the 2010 workshop in Brussels will be *Risk Management in Archives: Hazards Old and New*.

Normally, the competences of this vital field are situated in important public institutions such as national archives, city archives, or greater regional archives, and research libraries. Within banks, financial institutions, or industrial companies, this kind of specific knowledge is more scattered, even though risk management as such is hardly an odd phenomenon to them. Therefore, risk management in archives is especially necessary in the business sector.

There are "*old*" risks, mainly of a physical nature (fire, flood, theft, terrorism, deficient housing, moving of offices!), and there are "*new*" risks, which mainly have to do with information technology ("software amnesia", obsolete storage media, lack of structure of information, or untested backup routines). *Certain situations* may also create concrete risks to archives, such as bankruptcy, financial crisis, change of ownership, and perhaps even globalization? Finally, *certain kinds of records* may be more hazardous than others, for instance moving images, photographs, information kept in the intranet, or drawings.

General legislation apply, of course, to general types of risks, and what to do in case of emergency, for instance how to handle the death of an employee or a visitor in an office, evacuation in case of fire, etc. But archives need special attention, because of their intrinsic cultural values, second only to human lives.



We need both theoretical and practical knowledge. There are a lot to learn from each other, from different countries, and from different environments. Risk management includes at least three vital steps – prevention, reaction/action, and recovery. All of them need to be addressed before it is too late!

The workshop's committee consists of:

Anders Perlinge, The Foundation for Economic History Research within Banking and Enterprise, Stockholm (anders.perlinge@sfeh.se)

Melanie Aspey, The Rothschild Archive, London (melanie.aspey@rothschild.com)

Scholars, archivists and practitioners interested in presenting a paper should send an abstract (of approx. 500 words) with details about their institutional affiliation and Email contacts by **Friday, 5 March 2010** to Marnie Giuranna at m.giuranna@bankinghistory.de.

In case of co-authored papers, proposals should indicate the name and contact information of all authors.

Notice of acceptance will be sent by **31 March, 2010**.

Authors of accepted papers are expected to commit themselves to delivering a final version of their contribution by **Friday, 30 April 2010**.

Useful Internet links

<http://www.ica.org/sites/default/files/Study11E%20Final.pdf>

<http://www.loc.gov/preserv/emergprep/prepare.html>

<http://www.bl.uk/npo/disaster.html>

<http://cool-palimpsest.stanford.edu/bytopic/disasters/>