



Business Archives Council Newsletter

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The editor of this newsletter is Lorna Williams. The next issue will appear in Summer 2016. Prospective copy should be sent to Lorna Williams, email:

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Chair's blog

It's hard to believe that it's April already. But for those archivists who work below ground, at least we can once again arrive at and leave work in daylight!

I've had reason to trundle along the District Line to Kew a couple of times for various workshops taking place at The National Archives (TNA). The first of these related to 'Records at Risk'. This day was, to say the least, very wide-ranging. From the quite specific (there was a presentation from Alex Ritchie about the work of the Business Archives Crisis Management Team) to the existential view that everything is at risk! Perhaps my experience as a business historian and a manager of a business archive means that I'm accepting of the situation that not everything will survive (and nor should it). That's not to say I'm complacent, but I suspect that most corporate archives are incomplete, and will be in the future.



The Scottish Business History Network (SBHN) launch, 11 February 2016 (image courtesy of Mike Anson)

The Crisis Management Team has of course been one of the successes of the National Strategy for Business Archives. And that leads nicely on to the Roundtable event on business archives, convened by TNA and the BAC. This day brought together a small group of key stakeholders to review the achievements of the Strategy, discuss some of the remaining gaps, and decide how to take matters forward. There will not be another full-blown strategy, but a few specific initiatives will be pursued. Watch this space!

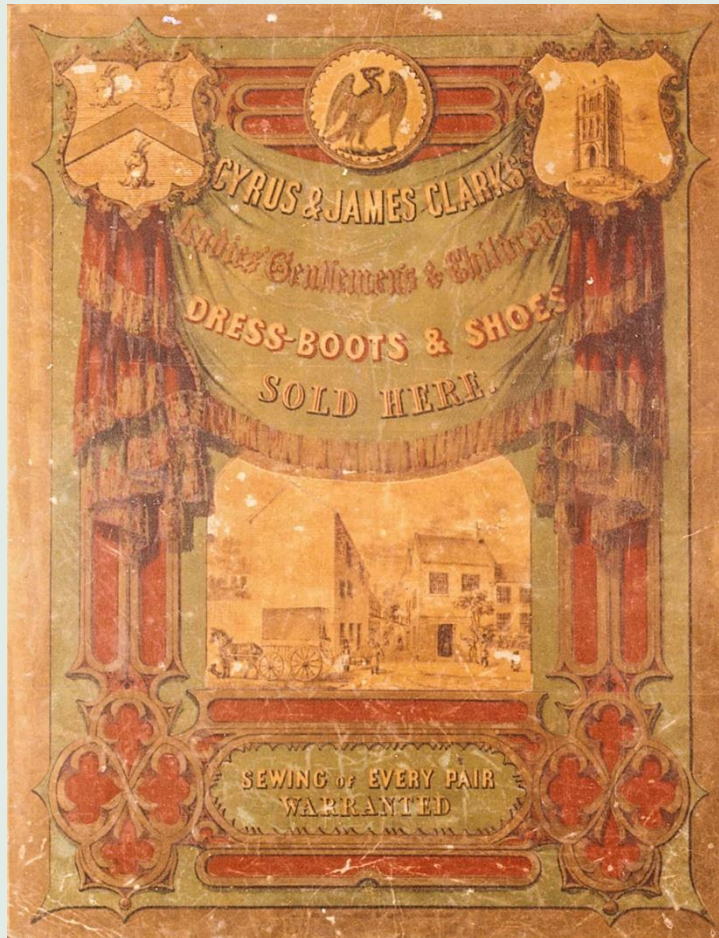
The Roundtable event also heard about the parallel strategy for business archives which, as most of you will be aware, has been running in Scotland. This work has culminated in the formation of the Scottish Business History Network (SBHN). I was pleased to be able to venture north of the Border to attend the launch event held at the Museum on the Mound. There was a great mix of archivists, historians, and perhaps most importantly some senior business people who find themselves with archives under their charge. It is this last group who I am always keen to cultivate since they are often the ones who are critical in acting as champions for corporate archives. More about the SBHN, including some excellent case studies, can be found here: www.sbhnetwork.co.uk

It's that time of year when we invite applications for the annual BAC Cataloguing Grants. As I've said before, the amounts are small (£3,000) but nonetheless the grants can and have made a real difference. Please apply!

Finally, some sad news to end with. We have heard about the death, last month, of Professor Peter Mathias. Over the years, Peter made an immense contribution to the work of the BAC and to business history, as will be apparent from the obituary which has been written by Terry Gourvish and Edwin Green. Our condolences go to Peter's family.

Mike Anson
BAC Chair

Welcome to new members



One of the earliest Clarks' advertisements. It was drawn by John Aubrey Clark, the son of one of the business founders, Cyrus Clark. The Alfred Gillett Trust cares for an extensive point of sale collection dating from the 1840s right up to the present day (image courtesy of the Alfred Gillett Trust)

The BAC is pleased to welcome the following new members:

- The Alfred Gillett Trust
- Forster Ecospace Ltd

Announcing two £3000 cataloguing grants for 2016



Guardian newsroom (c. 1950s). The University of Manchester won the BAC cataloguing grant for business archives in 2015 for **Behind the Headlines: documenting the people in the Guardian Archive** (image reproduced courtesy of Guardian News and Media Ltd)

The Business Archives Council (BAC) is delighted to announce that for 2016 its **general cataloguing grant for business collections** and its **cataloguing grant specifically for business archives related to the arts** will each remain at **£3000**.

In funding the cataloguing of business collections in either the private or public sector, the aims of both grants are to:

- provide financial support for institutions/businesses that manage business archives
- reach collections that have not yet been prioritised but have potential academic or socio-historical value
- create opportunities for archivists or para-professionals/volunteers to gain experience in listing business collections
- increase accessibility to business archives

We envisage that each £3000 grant will be used over the equivalent of a six-week period to fund an archive intern or temporary staff member (under professional supervision) to catalogue a discrete collection of business records. This work should produce either a detailed catalogue of a small collection or a top-level catalogue of a more substantial collection. Grant recipients should provide the BAC with an article for its newsletter, and the catalogue should be made available to The National Archives' DISCOVERY database.

The Cataloguing Grant for Business Archives (2016) was launched on 1 April 2016. The deadline for applications is 26 June 2016.

The Cataloguing Grant for Business Archives related to the Arts (2016) launches on 28 April 2016. The deadline for applications is 28 July 2016.

For more information – criteria and application forms – see the BAC's website at www.businessarchivescouncil.org.uk/activitiesobjectives/catgrant and www.businessarchivescouncil.org.uk/activitiesobjectives/catgrantarts

Any questions about the **Cataloguing Grant for Business Archives (2016)** should be addressed to Adam Hillhouse, Administrator, BAC Cataloguing Grant. Email: Adam.hillhouse@outlook.com.

Any questions about the Cataloguing Grant for Business Archives related to the Arts (2016) should be addressed to Anne Archer, Administrator, BAC Cataloguing Grant. Email: anne.archer@lloydsbanking.com. Tel: 020 7012 9253

It's show time at London Metropolitan Archives

Introducing a new partnership project to catalogue recently deposited archives of Earls Court and Olympia



Show catalogues from Olympia (image courtesy of London Metropolitan Archives, City of London, from the Earls Court and Olympia Collection, reference: LMA/4684)

The 'Brits', Crufts Dog Show, and the Ideal Home Show... events that many readers will have heard of, watched on television, or even attended. For many years, these iconic events were held at the Earls Court and Olympia exhibition centres in West London, and in the case of the Ideal Home Show, which was first held in 1908, it is still a main fixture at Olympia to this day. Since the 1880s, these two sites have hosted an astonishing range of spectacular shows and exhibitions, business and industry trade shows, concerts, circuses and sporting events. Such shows and events have included Buffalo Bill's famous cowboys and Indians 'Wild West' show, which had its first European performance at Earls Court in 1887; the Motor Show, the Boat Show, the Royal Tournament; and concerts by performers as varied as Bob Dylan, David Bowie, Pink Floyd, Take That and Oasis, all forming part of Earls Court and Olympia's impressive history.

The archives belonging to Earls Court and Olympia were formerly housed at Earls Court Exhibition Centre. With the closure of Earls Court in 2014, it was agreed that a new home needed to be found for the archives to safeguard them for the long-term future. London Metropolitan Archives (LMA), the City and pan-London repository managed by the City of London, were delighted to accept and take the archives in late 2014.

These substantial archives date from the 1880s to 2014 and chart the organisation of exhibitions, shows and events at Earls Court and Olympia throughout this period. Extending to around 200 linear metres, the collection includes foundation records, minutes, annual reports and accounts, and other administrative records; show files, show catalogues, agreements and photographs; exhibition building plans; publicity including posters and artwork. The records also include those of subsidiary and related companies. The collection plugs a key gap in LMA's extensive business archive holdings relating to entertainment and leisure venues.

In partnership with Olympia Management Services Limited, the owner and depositor of the archives, a project has been funded to catalogue the archives, which will run until 2017. Working on the project is Joanne Ruff, the Project Archivist, and Louise-Ann Hand, the project's Intern, with Richard Wiltshire, Senior Archivist at LMA, managing the overall project.

The Project progress

Joanne Ruff has completed a survey and analysis of complex corporate histories which helped confirm the structure of the collection. This was assisted by a visit by the team to the Royal Albert Hall archive where the main event series are kept separate in the structure. At this stage, the cataloguing, packaging and labelling of the corporate records have been completed; and the cataloguing of the administrative files is nearing completion. Louise-Ann Hand is concentrating on organising and cataloguing the collections of photographs and show catalogues. As the collection is currently in the process of being catalogued, researchers are advised to contact LMA with their research enquiry in advance. Access is by prior appointment. LMA's email address is ask.lma@cityoflondon.go.uk and its web address is: www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/lma The catalogue will be released upon completion in early 2017.

We are regularly tweeting about the collection. Our tweets are designed to tie in with current events such as the Ideal Home Show, the Boat Show and the International Horse Show. Also, a one-day conference is planned to be held in May on the theme of the 'Home'. The event will feature talks on the Earls Court and Olympia collection, including the history of the Ideal Home Exhibition; and we will be displaying material from the collection.

LMA would like to thank Olympia Management Services Limited for safeguarding the future of these important archives and for funding the partnership project. Look out for updates on progress of the project over the coming months. For more information on the history of Earls Court and Olympia, an official published history entitled ***Earls Court and Olympia. From Buffalo Bill to the 'Brits'*** by John Glanfield was published in 2003 by Sutton Publishing. Copies are available in LMA's library at 43.5(EAR).

Louise-Ann Hand

Intern – Earls Court and Olympia

Making your archive relevant to your business – ARA's Section for Business Records Summer Workshop 2016



The ARA's Section for Business Records (SBR) is excited to announce the programme for its first annual summer workshop. It will be held on Thursday 23 June at the British Motor Museum, Gaydon, Warwickshire. The day-long event is being generously supported by Jaguar Heritage Trust.

The workshop will explore the theme of “making your archive relevant to your business” and will include four speakers currently working in the business archive sector; a panel session, and a tour of the British Motor Museum. The SBR AGM will be held from 10am-10.20am. Here new officers will be elected to the following posts: Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, Training Officer, Communications Officer and non-portfolio. If you wish to be considered for election to one of these posts, please attend the AGM.

Refreshments and lunch on the day will be provided free to all delegates, as will transport to and from Leamington Spa train station. Details of the programme and a registration form can be found on ARA's website at the following link: www.archives.org.uk/training.html

How will business histories be written from digital records?



Inside of the dome of New Register House where the event will be taking place (image courtesy of National Records of Scotland)

On 9 May the National Records of Scotland is hosting a one day conference on the theme of using digital records for business history research. The event will be an opportunity for archivists, historians and technical experts to get together and share ideas on the shift of records from paper to digital, in the context of business archives.

The event will feature six perspectives from speakers from across the disciplines, which will feed into wider discussion from delegates. The aim of the day is to produce a new network of professionals from a variety of backgrounds to take the ideas raised forward.

The day has been organised by the NRS in collaboration with the University of Glasgow's Centre for Business History in Scotland and will be held at New Register House in Edinburgh. Registration is free but spaces are limited.

To book your place go to: www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/how-will-business-histories-be-written-from-digital-records-tickets-24394826583

Ecospace – A twenty-two year shelf life...

A subsidiary of the Forster Group, a major Austrian engineering organisation, Forster Ecospace was established in the UK twenty-two years ago to supply and install the range of high quality mobile and library shelving systems manufactured by its parent company.



Herefordshire County Archive
(image courtesy of Forster
Ecospace Ltd)

In the ensuing period Ecospace has developed its activities so that it is now recognised as a leader in the supply of mobile and static shelving systems to the academic library and archive markets. With a wide range of accessories such as drawers, dividers, filing frames, hanging rails, sliding and hinged doors, the systems can be configured to accommodate the widest possible selection of items. Recently introduced products include pull out picture racking and electronically operated mobile shelving.

Pictures and details of many of the completed projects carried out by Ecospace, which include Cambridge University Library, the Weston (New Bodleian Library Oxford), Hull History Centre, Herefordshire County Archive and Ballet Rambert (to name but a very few) can be seen at www.ecospace.co.uk.

In respect of truly corporate archives, and with the exception of that of Boots, an installation carried out some 15 years ago, Ecospace has had little involvement. It is for this reason that Richard Ryan, the company's managing director, decided that the company should join the Business Archives Council in order to better appreciate the requirements of corporate archives and so be able to improve its response to enquiries that might be received from such sources.

More information about Ecospace and its products and services can be obtained by phoning 01869 278002 or by e-mail to info@ecospace.co.uk

Jerry Phillips

Corporate Collections Network

Colleagues at the Alfred Gillett Trust in Somerset and Museum on the Mound in Edinburgh are looking to establish a professional network for organisations with collections of historical artefacts, archives and fine art whose origins stem from commercial organisations. Depending on individual operating models, they are keen to involve Directors, Departmental Heads, Trustees and other senior management roles.



View of Lloyds Banking Group Scottish Headquarters and Museum on the Mound by J. Clark, 1812 (image courtesy of Lloyds Banking Group Archives)

The aim of the network would be to share best practice on achieving charitable objectives for a corporate collection, including funding and sustainability, influencing/obtaining buy-in at senior management/board Level, service level agreements with 'parent' organisations, intellectual property rights, editorial independence and the dichotomy of working within both the charitable and commercial spheres. It would aim to work in partnership with key organisations in the sector. If there is enough interest, they will host a half day meeting in London to establish if there is a need for such a network and how it would work moving forward.

Several organisations have already been contacted directly, but if you've not heard from them, and would like to be included, please contact Doug MacBeath, Curator at the Museum on the Mound, at doug.macbeath@lloydsbanking.com or 0131 243 5445.

Membership Survey 2016 - Have your say as a member of the Business Archives Council.

Help us by giving five minutes of your time to tell us what you like about the BAC and how we can improve: www.surveymonkey.com/s/9XGSBZ6

The survey will be closed on 1 June and results will be reviewed and used by the BAC Executive Committee to help shape the future of the BAC and what we offer.

Thank you for your feedback and supporting the BAC's work.

Reminder – membership subscriptions due

A gentle reminder to those who have not already paid, membership subscriptions are now due.

Also to remind you that we are no longer publishing our journal Business Archives. This decision was announced last Spring and was due to it being increasingly difficult to produce the journal, both in terms of generating sufficient articles and finding editors. We are still considering the best ways in which elements of the journal might continue in other forms, for example the annual listing of business accessions is now on the website -

www.businessarchivescouncil.org.uk/publications/busacc

Obituary - Dr Peter Mathias, CBE, FBA, DLitt (1928 - 2016)



Peter Mathias (image courtesy of The Master, Fellows, and Scholars of Downing College in the University of Cambridge)

The Business Archives Council is very sorry to report the death of Peter Mathias, former Chairman and President of the Council, on 1 March 2016.

Peter was truly one of the giants of economic history. He held fellowships at Jesus College Cambridge (1952-55) and Queens' Cambridge (1955-68) before being appointed to the Chichele Chair of Economic History and a Fellowship of All Souls at Oxford (1968-87). Peter became Master of Downing College Cambridge (1987-95) and he also held many honorary professorships around the world. In addition to these academic achievements, Peter was the author of some of the key texts in economic and business history, notably *The Brewing Industry in England, 1700-1830* (1959) and *The First Industrial Nation* (1967, an influential textbook which appeared in many editions and attracted generations of students to the subject). He was also editor of the multi-volume *Cambridge Economic History of Europe*.

Peter formed, with Donald Coleman and Barry Supple, an exceptional triumvirate equally at home in economic history and business history. Following his mentor Charles Wilson into

the field of commissioned business history, his *Retailing Revolution* (1967) was a study of the Allied Suppliers group. He offered strong support to other historians who ventured into business history. For example, he served as an editorial adviser for both the British Petroleum and British Rail histories, defending the historian's interest in objective judgement and the importance of full access to corporate archives and the historian's independence. When in 1991 the newly-formed Association of Business Historians sought a major figure to provide an inaugural lecture, Peter was the obvious choice.

For nearly 50 years Peter played an important part in the history of the Business Archives Council. In July 1968, at a momentous meeting in Lord Denning's court, a group of archivists and historians – led by Tom Ingram, Theo Barker and Len McDonald – successfully proposed major reforms to the Council. They invited Peter to be nominated as Chairman. 'Without his agreement', Tom later concluded, 'we should have been nowhere'.

After his election Peter was an important ally in Tom Ingram's efforts to re-shape the Council, 'to improve the BAC in the administration of its affairs' and to raise its standing in the eyes of the academic and business worlds. Peter also made a direct contribution with the publication of *Shipping: A Survey of Historical Records*, edited jointly with Alan Pearsall and published in 1971. He continued as Chairman until 1972; Sam Twining, whom Peter had recruited to the executive committee in 1968, followed him into the chair. Peter continued his close connection with the Council as President (1984-1994) and Vice President (1994-2016).

Throughout these years Peter always took a keen interest in the work of the Council. As he once remarked, he saw its relationship to business history as the 'fidus Achates to Aeneas'. He supported the growing role of professional archivists in business and the Council's members, staff and volunteers could rely on him for advice and backing. In most years he found time in his hectic schedule to attend our annual meetings, conferences and (especially) the Wadsworth Prize receptions. Special mention should be made of the Council's memorable annual conference in the summer of 1994; in his final year as President and also to mark the Council's 60th anniversary, Peter and his wife Ann generously invited the Council to hold its annual meeting and residential conference in the magnificent setting of Downing College, newly extended during Peter's time as Master.

Peter was a rather private, unassuming and softly-spoken man who seemed hard to know intimately. But those who got to know him well found a kind and sympathetic scholar and a colleague with a wry, ironic sense of humour and an infectious curiosity. The *festschrift* presented to him in 1998 (*From Family Firms to Corporate Capitalism*, edited by Kristine Bruland and Patrick O'Brien) reveals much, indicating the encouragement he gave to his students and colleagues, as for instance Maxine Berg, David Cannadine and Avner Offer.

Peter's wisdom and support will be greatly missed but the Council has been extremely fortunate that such an authoritative figure took so strong an interest in our work over such a long period. The Council sends its condolences to Peter's family and friends, with warmest thanks for his loyalty and leadership.

Terry Gourvish and Edwin Green

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