



Business Archives Council Newsletter

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Chair's blog

Well it seems to have warmed-up, we've had Wimbledon, and the cricket season is in full flow, so it must be summer... Actually I can't really tell what's going on because I'm normally to be found several floors underground – the delights of working in archives!



Mike Anson, BAC Chair, presenting at the Vereinigung deutscher Wirtschaftsarchivare (VdW) conference in Frankfurt (image courtesy of VdW)

In fact, I am occasionally let out of the vaults so that I can go off and enthuse about business archives. Most surprising, at least to those who know me, was my trip to Frankfurt to speak at the annual conference of the Vereinigung deutscher Wirtschaftsarchivare (VdW). The VdW is the German equivalent of the BAC and I had been invited to talk about the work of the Council. It was also a great opportunity to be able to meet business archivists from another part of Europe and talk about the various challenges that we all face. I hope that we can develop these contacts in the future. By the way, for those who were wondering, I travelled to Frankfurt and back by train – something that appeared to cause consternation amongst the VdW membership!

Nearer to home, I was delighted to be invited to an event at Warwickshire County Record Office to mark the completion of a project to catalogue the archive of the Rugby-based engineering firm Willans and Robinson. This work was funded by the National Cataloguing Grants Scheme and the National Manuscripts Conservation Trust. An excellent set of talks demonstrated the huge variety of the material in the collection, the connections that it had fostered with other archives and museums, the links with the local community, and the vital role of volunteers. Above all, it reminded me about the importance of cataloguing as a way of improving access.

At the beginning of July I was at the conference of the Association of Business Historians in Exeter. Here I presented a cheque for £1,000 to Sergio Castellanos-Gamboa, the winner of the 2015 BAC Bursary for Business History Research. I also found myself elected to the ABH Council as Archives Officer, a development which I hope will increase collaboration between the BAC and ABH. The ABH Conference next year is being organised jointly with the German business historians Gesellschaft für Unternehmensgeschichte (GUG) and will be held in Berlin next May. I hope to attend (by train obviously!) and would like us to run a strong business archives strand.

Last week I went to Queen Mary University, London for the second in the ESRC-funded series of workshops exploring the interlinked themes of archives, organisations and history. According to one of the presentations, business archivists are very entrepreneurial in exploiting their collections for strategic benefit. This conclusion was based on evidence from interviews with archivists in North America – the survey is being extended to the United Kingdom, where I'm sure the results will be similar.

Lastly, I'm off to Dublin at the end of August to speak at the ARA Conference. I'll be asking whether corporate archivists are moral archivists? If you're not going to be there, why not follow the proceedings on Twitter? Meanwhile enjoy the remainder of the summer.

Mike Anson

BAC Chair

BAC Annual Conference, 10 November 2015 – 'Hunter Gatherers: Collecting Today's Business Archives'

This year's Business Archives Conference is on the theme of collecting and the different ways business archives are 'collected' today. A wide range of collecting and collections development activities will be up for discussion, including:

- records transfers and working with records managers and records creators
- digital deposits
- documentation initiatives such as oral history programmes
- records surveys
- purchasing records



'The cave boy of the age of stone' by Margaret A. McIntyre (via Wikimedia Commons)

All those attending, whether they are archivists, depositors, historians or other users of archives, will be encouraged to think about and debate the implications of these different collecting activities for them. The day will include contributions from The Prudential, HSBC, Unilever, The National Archives, and the Business Archives Council of Scotland, with more to be confirmed in the coming days.

The conference will be held on Tuesday 10 November at The Prudential Assurance Company Building, 138-142 Holborn Bars, London EC1N 2NQ.

As usual, there will be reduced ticket prices for BAC members, including an exclusive Early Bird rate. The complete range of ticket prices is shown below.

Refreshments and lunch are included.

Ticket	Price
Members-only Early Bird (BAC members only, until 30 Sep 2015)	£70 per individual and £60 for each additional institutional member.
BAC members normal rate	£90
A2SN members normal rate	£90
Student/unwaged	£20
Non-members normal rate	£130

In addition, a small number of bursaries will be offered, which will cover the cost of the conference although not additional expenses such as travel. More details on the bursaries will be advertised soon.

Following the conference there will be a reception for the presentation of the **BAC Wadsworth Prize** for Business History, taking place nearby at Lloyds Banking Group, 25 Gresham Street, London EC2V 7HN from 6 pm onwards. All conference delegates will be most welcome to attend.

Full details about the programme and how to book your place will be made available soon via the BAC website: www.businessarchivescouncil.org.uk

Please send any questions to conference organisers Bryony Leventhall and Owen Munday at: bacconference@gmail.com

First Exhibition for Bettys & Taylors Group Archive

For those of you who may not know our business, we're a unique Yorkshire family business with a passion for making life's everyday treats even better. We bake handmade bread, create beautiful cakes, blend proper tea, roast delicious coffee and deliver outstanding customer service. With over 95 years of history, our business includes six Bettys Café Tea Rooms, a Craft Bakery, a Cookery School, Online Shop and one of the country's most respected tea and coffee merchants, Taylors of Harrogate – home of Yorkshire Tea. As you can imagine, with 95 years of family heritage, we have an interesting and unique archive.



Company Archivist, Mardi Jacobs, talking to visitors to the exhibition (image courtesy of Bettys and Taylors)

We're so excited at the thought of celebrating our centenary in 2019, and are now starting to test the water and see how we can best share our history with our customers. On 27 and 28 June I took the archive out to its first exhibition. Bettys hosted a large marquee at the Royal Horticultural Society Gardens at Harlow Carr in Harrogate as part of their annual summer event; this year called the Petal to Pot Garden Party. The event gave us the opportunity to

share our craft and heritage – including key pieces from our private archive collection – with around 3,500 visitors.

Supporting the key messages of the event, our archive displayed pieces telling the story of how our past has influenced the present, especially around Service, Craft and Tea & Coffee.

We reproduced our founder's progress book – a treasured piece of our archive collection – so it could be shared with the public. Frederick Belmont kept a scrapbook of adverts and newspaper clippings about our Harrogate, Bradford and Leeds branch openings, documenting the success of Bettys between 1920 and 1940. Many aspects of these adverts we still use today, particularly for menu and gift voucher designs.

Visitors loved the exhibition; many talking about their experiences of family trips and connections to Bettys. Some had not realised that Bettys & Taylors (which owns the brands Taylors Coffee and Yorkshire Tea) were one company, whilst others were delighted to see how we have reused the elegant designs of 1920s and 1930s on our current chocolate packaging.

Some were disappointed to hear that our archives are not on exhibition within the business for our staff or customers to see, and felt privileged to see some of our treasures and stories. The exhibition felt like a significant first step in building interest and excitement around how we could share and house our archive for the future, giving people across the business an opportunity to deeper connect to our heritage. The collections that make up our archive are currently housed at our Group Office, above the Harrogate café tea rooms. They're stored in what aren't exactly ideal conditions in the attic and office spaces, but they are at least kept safe until we convince the business of the value of finding a new, more suitable location. Working closely with our Marketing, PR, Design and Social Media teams has already given us more exposure and showed the value the archives can bring, but this exhibition, despite the weeks of work and much more time and effort than was expected was a real step forward in showing just how precious this resource is.

Mardi Jacobs

Company Archivist

Bettys & Taylors Group Ltd

Wellcome Trust Grant for Boots Archive



Boots advertisement, 1940
(image courtesy of Boots UK)

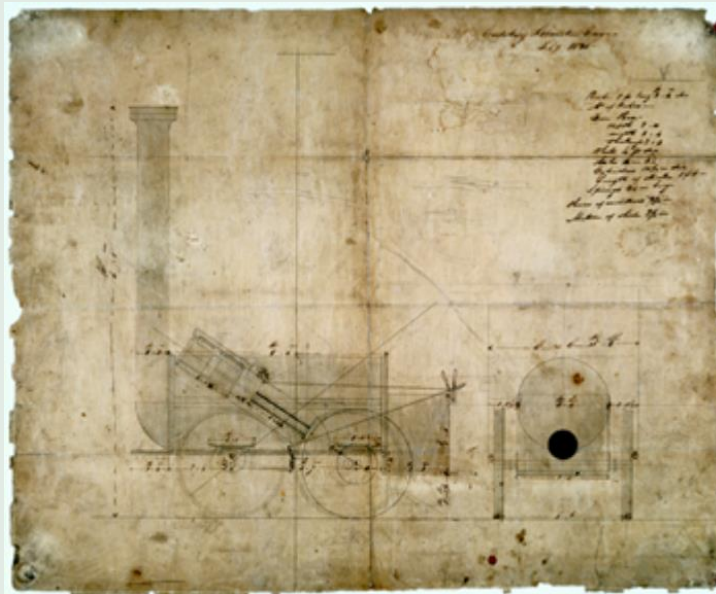
The Boots Archive is delighted to announce that it has recently been successful in securing a grant from The Wellcome Trust to increase accessibility to the collection, transforming it from a predominantly internally focussed service to an international academic resource. The grant was awarded through the Research Resources programme and will fund a five year project. A project Archivist will be appointed to enhance existing catalogue entries in line with ISAD (G) standards and an online version of the database will become available for the first time.

This award marks the first time a private business archive has been supported through this scheme and will form one of the most sizeable grants ever distributed through this programme. This is a fantastic statement by the Trust on the significance of this business collection to the medical humanities community.

The project, although still only in the early stages of progress, has the potential to open up some exciting opportunities to develop new research and outreach collaborations with some prestigious partners. A special advisory panel which includes academic representatives from five different Universities has been established to help guide the project along.

To learn more about The Boots Archive collection, please see their website at: www.boots-uk.com/About_Boots/Boots_Heritage.aspx

UNESCO Memory of the World - Nominations Now Open



Robert Stephenson's Rocket
(image courtesy of National
Railway Museum/Science &
Society Picture Library)

UNESCO's Memory of the World Programme seeks to encourage the preservation of, access to and awareness of the world's documentary heritage. An important part of the Programme is its Registers, which recognise documentary heritage of outstanding significance. Successful inscriptions have been able to use this prestigious award in funding bids, to raise awareness of documentary heritage, and to improve the management of collections. The current Inscriptions on the UK Register and information about the UK Committee can be found at www.unesco.org.uk/designation/memory-of-the-world-inscriptions-in-the-uk-uk-register. Detailed information about the Programme is available at www.unesco.org/new/en/communication-and-information/flagship-project-activities/memory-of-the-world/homepage.

Nominations are now being invited for inscriptions to the UK Register in 2016. Any organisation or individual may make a submission for any form of documentary heritage for which they are responsible. The key criteria is that the heritage is of outstanding significance to the UK.

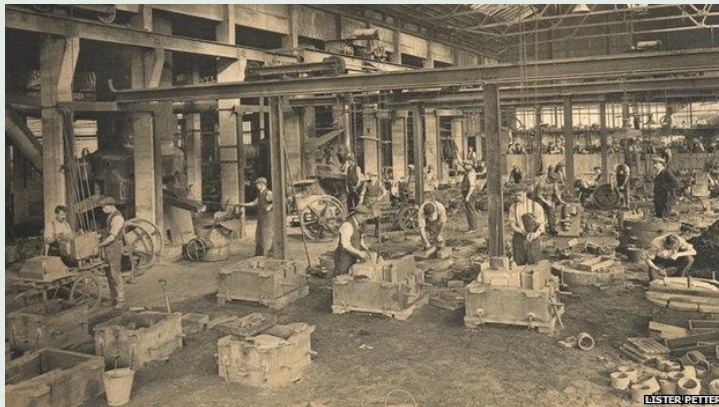
Applications should be made by submitting the official application form (found at <http://www.unesco.org.uk/engage/apply-to-the-memory-of-the-world-register-uk-international/>) along with specified supporting documentation. The application process is designed to be straightforward and is supported by a handbook (www.unesco.org.uk/engage/apply-to-the-memory-of-the-world-register-uk-international) which applicants are encouraged to read.

All enquiries should be made to Matthew McMurray (Secretary) at Matthew.McMurray@royalvoluntaryservice.org.uk, or Elizabeth Oxborrow-Cowan (Chair) at Elizabeth@elizabethoc.co.uk.

The closing date for applications is Friday 29 January 2016. Applicants will be notified of the outcome in May 2016 and inscriptions will be publicly presented in June 2016 at a formal awards ceremony.

The Project Reports are in - BAC Cataloguing Grants 2014

Congratulations to Gloucestershire Archives and Spike Island/Bristol Record Office for the successful completion of the cataloguing projects for which they were awarded BAC grants in 2014.



Listers' workers c.1920 (image courtesy of Gloucestershire Archives)

Read about the cataloguing of the Listers of Dursley collection: a great example of an archive rescue, local support, and the use of volunteers:

www.businessarchivescouncil.org.uk/mwg-internal/de5fs23hu73ds/progress?id=tKNHmunvgUNyrAMeNluRpKIS29tPh5X1XZ7gq1B4Ifw,&dl

Read about the collaborative project to catalogue the papers of Spike Island, international centre for the development of contemporary art and design. The combination of an arts organisation, a local record office, and volunteers was a winning formula:

www.businessarchivescouncil.org.uk/mwg-internal/de5fs23hu73ds/progress?id=7HIyxJ-Z7E-Nt2_HXnnQJ5Ba-ey-sT-BtoDY4aEaOOo,&dl

Royal Albert Hall Archive Launches Catalogue and Performance DatabaseE

This week the Royal Albert Hall launched its new website, which will amongst many other benefits tell the full story of the Hall through the opening up of its Archive to the public for the first time ever.



The Beatles performing at the Royal Albert Hall, 1963 (image courtesy of Royal Albert Hall)

The public can now:

- Search the Hall's Performance Database of 30,000+ events dating from 1871-present day catalogue.royalalberthall.com/Advanced.aspx?src=CalmView.Performance
- Explore the Hall's Archive Catalogue for items such as programmes, posters, and autograph books...
catalogue.royalalberthall.com/Advanced.aspx?src=CalmView.Catalog
- Journey back in time through the Hall's unrivalled performance history in the Time Machine www.royalalberthall.com/about-the-hall/our-history/explore-our-history/time-machine
- Browse the Heroes of the Hall in the interactive Sir Peter Blake mural appearing.royalalberthall.com
- Discover the Royal Albert Hall's Grade 1 listed architectural heritage www.royalalberthall.com/about-the-hall/our-history/explore-our-history/building

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New Website of the Musicians' Company's Archive

The Musicians' Company, the only City of London Livery Company to represent the performing arts, is over 500 years old. Today, it is a leading UK music charity, as committed as ever to preserving music excellence.



Sir Edward Elgar's 'Elegy' which was composed for the Musicians' Company in 1909 (image courtesy of The Musicians' Company)

The Company Archives' new website includes digitised Court Minute books from 1772 – 1918, an extension to the 'ROLLCO' database (details of the Musicians' Company's apprentices and freemen), and images of many of the treasures and artefacts owned by the Musicians' Company, including original manuscript scores, letters and artworks.

The website can be accessed at: www.wcomarchive.org.uk

Negotiating Art: Dealers and Museums, 1855-2015 – Call for Papers

Negotiating Art: Dealers and Museums, 1855-2015 is a two-day conference on the relations between art dealers and museums, organised by the National Gallery in collaboration with the University of Manchester and the University of Liverpool.



The National Gallery at night
(image courtesy of The National
Gallery, copyright 2015)

The inspiration for the conference is to celebrate the National Gallery's acquisition of the Thos. Agnew & Sons art dealers business archive. The conference will be held 1-2 April 2016 at the National Gallery. Papers should be submitted by 18 September 2015.

For more information see: www.nationalgallery.org.uk/whats-on/calendar/negotiating-art-dealers-and-museums-1855-2015

Obituary – Carl Newton

Readers may have heard about the death of Carl Newton at the end of 2014. Carl was a great supporter of the BAC, particularly when he was a member of the Executive Committee in the 1980s. Edwin Green has written an obituary which highlights Carl's important contribution to archives and records management, as well as his wider interests in railways, cricket and music. The full obituary can be found on the BAC website: www.businessarchivescouncil.org.uk/news/2015/07/obitnewton

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