



Business Archives Council Newsletter

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Chair's blog

Welcome to the first BAC Chair's Newsletter Blog! It's been a busy few months since the last Newsletter appeared and I thought that members might be interested in what I've been doing.

Our Annual Conference, held at the Royal Albert Hall, was a great success and I was delighted that so many people were able to join us afterwards for a little celebration of the BAC's 80th birthday. There was a good buzz to the day, and the enthusiasm within the business archives sector came across really strongly. This was also apparent at the student training day on business archives which we organised earlier this month. There was plenty of interest and debate and I would like to thank all of those involved in the day, and in particular The Rothschild Archive for hosting.

Last November, as well as running the Conference we also awarded the BAC Wadsworth Prize (see the story in this Newsletter). This is another one of our key activities and my thanks to all involved in the organisation, and making sure that it all ran so smoothly.

I like giving away money and so I was happy to be able to hand over a cheque to Spike Island Artspace and Bristol Record Office, this year's winners of the BAC Cataloguing Grant for arts-related businesses. While on the subject, Pentabus Theatre has done a

fantastic job with its BAC Grant. Their presentation at the Conference made me feel very happy: archives really can make a difference!



Mike Anson presenting cheque to winner of BAC cataloguing grant for business archives related to the arts, Spike Island Artspace and Bristol Record Office

Also at the Conference, I was able to announce that we will be increasing the size of cataloguing grants from £2,000 to £3,000 each. This is as a result of the savings we will be making by moving to an electronic version of the Newsletter. Of course, this was a difficult decision and I realise that there are a few people who do not have access to email, but overall the Trustees felt that this is justified in terms of using our resources effectively.

We were sorry to hear of the death of Carl Newton who was very influential in the world of records management. Carl was also a great supporter of the BAC: he was a member for over 15 years and served on the Executive from 1979 to 1988.

Since I became Chair, over a year ago now, I have tried to increase the visibility of the BAC within the wider sector. Not only by getting out and meeting people, but also through my Twitter Account @BAC_Chair. As I've said elsewhere, we need to use all means that we can to promote the work of the BAC. Finally, I heard some good news this week about the Conference and Wadsworth: we have had offers to host both events and on the same day. Watch out for further details!

Mike Anson
BAC Chair

BAC Annual Conference 2014

Let the Right One In? - Challenging Perceptions of Access to Business Archives

The BAC annual conference, organised by Adam Hillhouse and Paula Togher, was held at the fantastic location of the Royal Albert Hall on Thursday 13th November 2014. An array of speakers presented on the many issues surrounding access to business archives.



Conference attendees in The Elgar Room, the Royal Albert Hall

Duncan Campbell-Smith, addressed the question of the archivist as guide or guardian (Duncan was unavoidably absent so was represented by fellow historian, Mike Anson); Maria Sienkiewicz of Barclays Group Archive, balanced access against risks to the business; Kiara King of the Ballast Trust, ran through the opportunities and pitfalls of social media; Suzanne Keyte of the Royal Albert Hall, introduced the RAH archives, only five years established but going from strength to strength, including a soon to be released archive event database; Christopher Hilton, talked about the issues around access to digital records; BAC cataloguing grant winner, Rachael Griffin of Pentabus Theatre, explained how the creation of their archive catalogue had enabled access to a rich and unusual theatre history; and the BAC Chair, Mike Anson, inspired by Monty Python, did a sketch on 'What has the BAC done for us?' in honour of the BAC's 80th birthday. All of these speakers were ably steered through the day by the Chair, Richard Wiltshire. The BAC would like to thank all those involved.

The key message of the day was that access remains a tricky concept in relation to business archives and history. There are still ethical issues; and social media and digital records have presented new problems, as well as opportunities. As social media was a key theme of the day, it seems fitting that the tweeting by those who attended was compiled into a story board of the day, and that Pinterest boards were created to present examples of archives using social media and twitter, all of which, and the slides for the day, can be found on the BAC website at: www.businessarchivescouncil.org.uk/activities/objectives/conference/ A selection of the tweets can be found at the end of this Newsletter too.

Once again the BAC awarded a number of bursaries to attend the day. Here is some of the bursary winners' feedback:

The conference was a great place to share ideas and also common experiences, and it was somewhat comforting to hear of fellow archivists, from a variety of repositories, experiencing similar issues to me. Maria Sienkiewicz's presentation particularly struck me as it addressed the issues of physical access to business collections and provided practical pointers on how to enable it within the (often limited) resources you have, whilst still

ensuring that the business itself does not feel threatened by its own archive and access to it.

Natalie Milne

This was my second year attending the BAC Conference (I guess that makes me a veteran!) and like last year, the theme addressed was very topical and relevant to a recurring issue facing the profession. It was great to see a variety of speakers represented from across all types of business archives.

As I am interested in exploring access to archives to diverse range of audiences in my studies, I particularly enjoyed listening to the work and achievements of the Pentabus Theatre Company. It was an inspiring example to see how volunteer and community engagement was used to open up theatre and archives to rural areas. It also highlights the excellent work of the BAC in offering grants to assist in exposing underrepresented areas of business archives.

A key point to reinforce, which was voiced throughout the day, was the importance of demonstrating the value of the archives to your business – without this access would be hindered. This then made me consider why and how pitfalls of certain approaches such as social media as a means to broaden access, seem unique and greater in a business archive setting.

Fahema Begum

I found the BAC Conference very interesting and engaging. Many of the papers and discussions provided a refreshing take on the issues surrounding access to business archives in real life and practical terms.

Alexandra Mitchell

I thoroughly appreciated the opportunity to attend BAC, and enjoyed hearing viewpoints from the perspective of business, archivists, and historians. It was useful to hear positive case studies of how businesses can use archival material, including via social media. Through these case studies it was also of interest to look at ways to highlight how an archive is an asset, more than it is a potential threat, which could be of particular worry with the digital age. Specific ideas I have taken away include exploring taster sessions for Marketing, and developing a blog/website exploring the university's story.

Rebekah Taylor

BAC Wadsworth Prize

The winner of the 2013 Wadsworth Prize for Business History is Richard Roberts for 'Saving the City: The Great Financial Crisis of 1914', published by Oxford University Press. The prize was announced at a reception held on 20th November 2014 in London at the Embankment offices of PricewaterhouseCoopers. Sir Geoffrey Owen, the BAC President, presented the award. The judges for this year's prize were Justin Cavernelis-Frost from The Rothschild Archive, last year's winner Dr Steve Koerner and the historian Dr Judith Rowbotham, who spoke on their behalf.



BAC President Sir Geoffrey Owen and winner Professor Richard Roberts

The judges congratulated Professor Roberts on his highly original and thought-provoking book, turning what might appear to be a dry topic into a thrilling story with page-turning intrigue. The book was also impeccably researched and written in an enjoyable and accessible style. Dr Rowbotham had no doubt that it was the outstanding business history of the year. The BAC would like to thank Kate Murphy for the organisation of such an enjoyable event, the judges for their assessments and comments, and PricewaterhouseCoopers for hosting.

Bringing Teeside's Iron and Steel Heritage to Life

The British Steel Collection and the Tees Transporter Bridge Visitor Experience Project



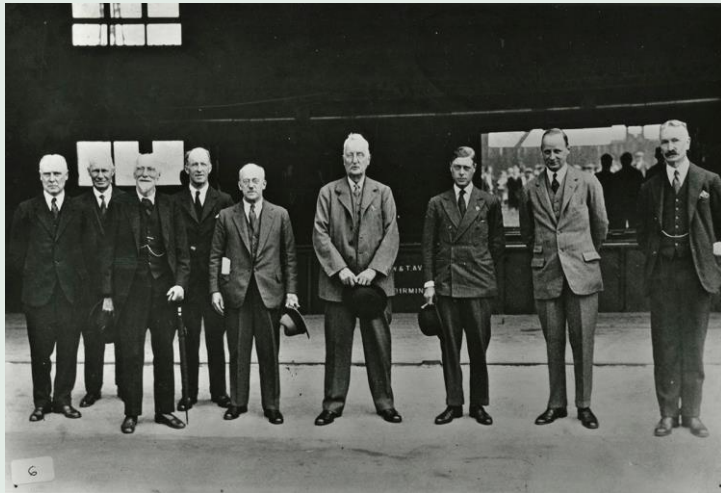
Transporter Bridge gondola showing workers crossing the Tees, c.1910s (image courtesy of Middlesbrough Council)

The company records of Middlesbrough's late nineteenth and early twentieth century iron and steel firms might not seem the most obvious places to look when exploring Victorian and Edwardian civic culture, political life, philosophical institutions, hospitals and philanthropic initiatives in the manufacturing district. Yet Teesside Archives' *British Steel Collection*, the outcome of a three year project from 2008-2010 which catalogued, conserved and made accessible the records of world-leading iron and steel manufacturers including Bolckow Vaughan and Dorman Long, is now to be utilised to bring to life the long-lost ironmasters, steel magnates, buildings and institutions that were at the heart of Middlesbrough's emergence as the 'Ironopolis'.

The business records within the Collection will play a key part in the HLF supported Tees Transporter Bridge Visitor Experience Project, a scheme which includes extensive improvements such as the installation of a glass viewing lift, renovations to the gondola, as well as new visitor and education resources. The Project's new interpretation resources will celebrate the area's unique tale, hailed by Asa Briggs' in *Victorian Cities* as the leading Victorian 'boom town', by drawing upon the material in the minute books, annual reports and photographic albums of the iron and steel firms.

The extensive records highlight the manufacturers' key role in many aspects of Teesside life through production, company patronage and philanthropy, and are particularly revealing of the leading financial contributions made by the ironmasters' firms to a variety of bodies and movements at the heart of everyday life such as hospitals, schools, welfare provision and cultural institutions, whilst also charting their efforts during the Great War. Into the twentieth century they also chronicle the vital role played by the steel firms in the establishment of Constantine College (now Teesside University), both in terms of finance and in discussions regarding education provision. In addition, company-led welfare and sporting provision for the people of Middlesbrough also features, including Dorman Long Director Mr Arthur Dorman's instrumental role in purchasing premises 'for a Club for Boys employed in connection with the Company's Works at the cost of £6150' (Dorman Long Directors Minute Book No.4 1915-1920, p.145, Teesside Archives, BS.DL/1/2/4), as well as the Sydney Harbour Bridge building firm's role development and management of various

boys and athletics clubs, sports and leisure activities and company outings in which thousands of Teessiders took part.



The Prince of Wales alongside steel magnates Sir Arthur Dorman (4th right) and Sir Hugh Bell (3rd left with glasses) during a visit to Dorman Long's Britannia Works in 1930 (image courtesy of Teeside Archives, reference BS.DL/7/2/1/1/140)

The records also provide a unique perspective on the role of iron and steel firms during the First World War, a particularly fertile area given the recent Centenary commemorations. Information includes production statistics, financial donations to local and national war schemes such as the Zeppelin Raid Compensation Fund and 'the fund being raised in London for the relief of the Belgian wounded and sick'. Photographs also survive of the company battalions, including images of the steel magnate Sir Arthur Dorman alongside his son and company director Charles Dorman at the forefront of the 7th Pioneer (Dorman Long). Photographs of landmark bridges under construction and images of royal visits to Middlesbrough, themselves red letter days in the history of the town, can also be found amongst the rich collection, including the Prince of Wales' visit to Dorman Long's Britannia Steel Works in 1930.

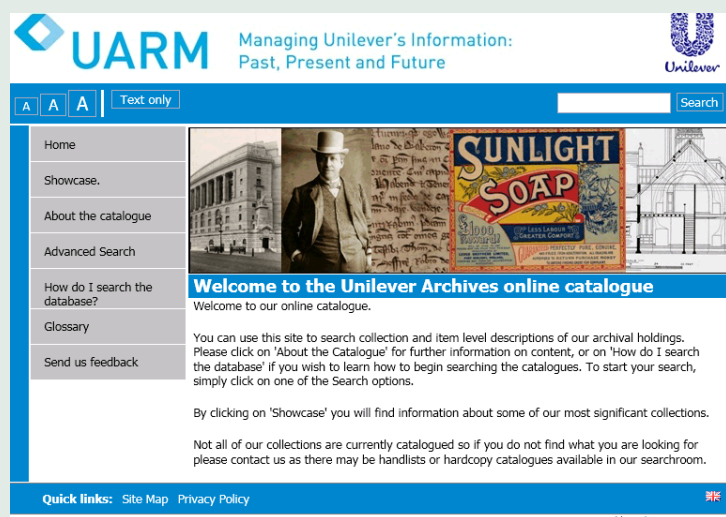
Much of this invaluable information is to be extracted from the archives and brought to life to inform both visitors to the Transporter Bridge and those partaking in the forthcoming Tees Transporter Trail. This will see statues of ironmasters John Vaughan and Henry Bolckow transformed into talking tour guides explaining the role of the iron industry in the wider life of the town by showcasing their firms' role in the development of the built and cultural environment including hospitals, parks and grand gothic structures such as the Royal Exchange, a landmark demolished decades ago. The material will also appear in the newly renovated Transporter Bridge Visitor Centre to tell the story of industry and the workers on both sides of the River Tees, in turn highlighting the importance of the Transporter Bridge in workers' daily commute. In doing so the company records of those firms once situated to the north and south of the crossing – Bolckow Vaughan, Bell Brothers' and Dorman Long – will be used to reveal facts, figures and stories that made the firms both world-leading in their areas and mirrors of Britain's wider industrial and social history.

The Tees Transporter Bridge Project's exploitation of the British Steel Collection is the first example of the records being used to inform tourism and heritage by highlighting the important role played by the iron and steel firms in various strands of the town's life. More information can be found at www.teestransporterbridge.com

Tosh Warwick

Education, Learning and Events Officer, Tees Transporter Bridge Visitor Experience Project, Middlesbrough Council & PhD Researcher at the University of Huddersfield

Launch of Unilever Archives Online Catalogue



Home page of Unilever Archives online catalogue

To coincide with the 30th anniversary of the founding of the service, Unilever Archives is making its catalogue available online, allowing public access for the first time.

Claire Tunstall, Head of Art, Archives and Records Management at Unilever says: “From mid November 2014 both internal and external researchers will be able to browse the archive collections held in the UK via the web. Utilising google-style-search, researchers will be able to search by dates, keywords and names. We have selected some showcase collections such as the United Africa Company, Leverhulme Business Correspondence, Colman’s Directors and Senior Managers Correspondence, Unilever Special Committee and some early photograph albums of Lever Brothers.

At the moment we have over 71,000 records on line, this is growing all the time as the team catalogue our vast holdings. It is really special that as we prepare to celebrate our 30th Anniversary we are able to open the virtual door to the archives”.

To begin exploring Unilever’s archives please click the link below.

www.unilever-archives.com

If you have any queries about Unilever Archives’ holdings please contact them at:

archives@unilever.com

Winner of National Archive Volunteering Award 2014

Approximately a quarter of a million voluntary hours of work are given each year to the Archive sector.

The annual Archive Volunteering Award – the only one of its kind – is given by the Archives and Records Association (UK & Ireland) in partnership with The National Archives, CyMAL, and the Scottish Council on Archives, for work involving volunteers within an institutional archive service.



Professor Cara Aitchison, Vice Chancellor, and project representatives receive the award from David Mander, Chair of ARA (image courtesy of Mark Bryant).

The winner of the award in 2014 was University of St Mark and St John for its ‘Connected Catalogue’ project, with its aim to improve the employment opportunities and life skills of long term unemployed and people with disabilities in Plymouth.

Volunteers worked within the archive to help catalogue, improve access to the collections and put on displays and exhibitions. Eighteen volunteers joined in the project, each choosing a subject from the archive collection around which s/he designed a project with a clear output – a display, talk, exhibition etc. External training workshops were offered to add to the life skills and confidence of the volunteers.

Chair of the ARA, David Mander, says: ‘The archives sector owes a great debt to the thousands of volunteers who give their time and skills to help archive staff deliver more of the collection to growing numbers of users... It is humbling to see what everyone involved at St Mark and St John Plymouth have achieved this year and what other teams have achieved before them’.

The ARA published its Volunteering Policy in 2011. The policy has been endorsed by most archive and record keeping bodies. Research and policy information about Volunteering is available at www.archives.org.uk/ara-in-action/campaigns/volunteering.html

More information about the Volunteering award and the Archives and Records Association are available from Marie Owens marie.owens@archives.org.uk

Alfred Gillet Trust Launches New Website

The Alfred Gillett Trust is responsible for the heritage collections of the Clark family and C & J Clark, a Quaker company established in Somerset in 1825 and now a major global shoe firm.



Printed satin court shoes, Clarks, c 1953 (image courtesy of the Alfred Gillett Trust / C & J Clark Ltd)

Printed satin court shoes; Clarks, c.1953

There are several pages now available about the Trust and its facilities for readers:

alfredgilletttrust.wordpress.com/about/

There is also a series of pages about the Trust's diverse collections, including the family archives:

alfredgilletttrust.wordpress.com/collections/family-archives/

Of course, there are also pages about the Trust's large shoe collection:

alfredgilletttrust.wordpress.com/collections/shoes-and-costume/

Of all the collection pages recently created, the shoe section will change substantially over time as the shoe digitisation project progresses (1940s done, now well into the 1950s!). So watch this space!

For further details, please contact Dr Charlotte Berry, RMARA, Head of Collections on charlotte.berry@clarks.com archives@clarks.com

Bank of England Archive Publishes Court Minutes

On 7 January 2015, the Bank of England published online its Court of Directors' minutes from 1914 to 1946 and the Court minutes for 2007-2009, revealing the decisions made around the time of both the financial crisis of 1929 and 2007. However, the minutes of 24 October 1929, 'Black Thursday', are more concerned with smaller matters such as a lost

bank note and the suspension of an auxiliary male Clerk, with no mention of the impending crisis!

The project is part of a series of proposals to enhance the transparency and accountability of the Bank, which includes the publication, by May 2015, of all the Court minutes and the more detailed Committee of Treasury minutes up to 1987 (in keeping with The National Archives move to a 20 year release).

The Bank's Archive administered the project, which included the digitisation of the volumes, and the painstaking identification and redaction of any information that continues to be sensitive, though these are confined to certain specific categories, for the most part Data Protection.

Court of Directors' Minutes 1694-1966

From the foundation of the Bank in 1694 to the present day the Court of Directors has met on a regular basis to discuss a range of matters related to the administration and operations of the Bank. Up until May 1998 the meetings were held weekly, after which time they were held monthly. The details of the meetings are recorded in the Minutes of the Court of Directors and as such they form one of the Bank's most important and extensive record series.



1694-1725 | 1726-1750



1751-1775 | 1776-1800



1801-1825 | 1826-1850



1851-1875 | 1876-1900



1901-1925 | 1926-1950



1951-1966

Bank of England's online court minutes

Explore the historical minutes and other digital content from the Bank Archive at www.bankofengland.co.uk/archive/Pages/digitalcontent/digitalcontent.aspx

BAC Annual Conference Tweets

The BAC conference twitter feed was very active during the day. Here is just a small selection of the tweets. The full storyboard can be found at:

www.businessarchivescouncil.org.uk/activitiesobjectives/conference/

Ballast Trust - Possibly most glamorous conference location ever @RoyalAlbertHall today for #BAC2014 !

Time/Image - We're hearing from @kkingaling about the emergence of @BallastTrust onto the internet and social media over the last five years. #bac2014

Tim Gollins - #BAC2014 Thanks @BAC_Chair and @melindahaunton and others for awesome tweetstorm. Great see proud proactive #business #archives online :)

Rebekah X Taylor - When more than 1k employees 80 percent have social media #bac2014

Lorna Williams - Instagram and Pinterest the fastest growing social media. We Archivists best get on them then. #BAC2014

Mike Anson - #bac2014 archivists do like their tea!

Business Arch Wales - Is it better to have no social media presence than a bad/inactive social media presence? #BAC2014

Ariadne Bradford – Happy 80th #bac2014

Business Arch Wales - Rippling effect of cataloging grants @PentabusTheatre: partnerships, volunteer projects, mapping work, social media content #BAC2014

TIME/IMAGE - Apparently the @RoyalAlbertHall is rented at a cost of one shilling a year! #BAC2014

Melinda Haunton - This is old discussion from SoA journals past, discussed in #caisph. Can/should we privilege different user groups and relax rules? #BAC2014

Emma Anthony - Loving @MariaSienk 's humour regarding the practicalities of welcoming visitors! #BAC2014

Rebekah X Taylor - Before people can access business archives businesses have to preserve and know the value. Record management please! #bac2014

Mike Anson - Christopher Hilton @WellcomeLibrary says he's delighted to be playing @RoyalAlbertHall for the first time as The Notorious OAIS #BAC2014

Richard - #BAC2014 thank you to everyone who has attended today great show on #business archives - happy birthday BAC! @RoyalAlbertHall Thank you RAH



#bac2014 @kkingaling under a weight of social media!

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