



Contents

- [Chair's blog](#)
- [Promoting Transparency: The archives of the Central Bank of Ireland](#)
- [The London Metropolitan Archives Newsletter](#)
- [The Dukesfield Documents: an online archive](#)
- [UNESCO Memory of the World: Deadline approaching for nominations to the UK Register in 2018](#)
- [Bursary winners' reflections of the 2017 BAC conference Change the Record](#)
- [Making Jet Engines in World War II: Britain, Germany, and the United States by Hermione Giffard, winner of The Wadsworth Prize, 2017](#)
- [Archive Service Accreditation: light-touch review workshops in January 2018](#)
- [Humane and erudite scholar: Dick Roberts remembered](#)

The editor of this newsletter is Ben White. The next issue will appear in Spring 2018. Prospective copy should be sent to Ben White, email: benjamin.white@bankofengland.co.uk

Post: c/o Bank of England Archive,
Threadneedle Street, London, EC2R 8AH.

© 2018 Business Archives Council

Chair's blog

A Happy New Year to you all! For once I am not writing this blog on a train but I am in my flat listening to Storm Eleanor batter my windows.

November is always a busy time for the BAC as we hold our annual conference and the reception for the BAC Wadsworth Prize. More of that later, but I also managed to fit in a couple of other events. First up, it was off to Glasgow for the conference of our friends at BAC Scotland. The day was celebrating forty years of their Surveying Officer, and delegates heard amazing tales about the rescue of some key business archives from pioneers Michael Moss, John Hume and Tony Slaven. Of course, this important work which continues today though Cheryl Traversa is more likely to be collecting hard drives than technical drawings of ships. And of course you can't have a celebration without some #archivecake...



#archivecake celebration
(Image courtesy Mike Anson)

At the end of the month, it was up to Manchester (well Salford to be correct) for the DCDC Conference organised by The National Archives and Research Libraries UK. It was the first time that I had attended this event and it was very stimulating. However, I must confess to feeling slightly out of my comfort zone amongst all those museum and library professionals (only joking in case any of you are reading this); there were only two business archivists on the delegates list and I'm not sure that the other person was there! Nonetheless, the conference theme of economic value was right up my street.

Sandwiched between the above was the BAC Conference held at HarperCollins close to London Bridge. The day was well-attended (more than 100 people registered), we generated plenty of traffic on social media, and the feedback has been positive. Thanks are due to Dawn Sinclair, the HarperCollins Archivist, for hosting, and providing arguably the best panoramic view ever seen at a BAC conference! After a quick pint in a nearby hostelry, it was back to the same venue for the BAC Wadsworth Reception. After hearing from Melinda Haunton (one of the judges) that the Prize appeared to be something of a boys' club, and that surely everything had been written about the Second World War, she then announce the winner as Hermione Giffard for her book *Making Jet Engines in World War II*. Many congratulations to Hermione.

A couple of other pieces of news: first, I am delighted that Alison Turton was elected as a Vice-President at our AGM (the first woman in our history); second, it was great to see the Bank of England Archive and the Lloyds Banking Group Archive gaining Accredited Archive status in December. Congratulations to all involved (though clearly I have to declare an interest here!).

Finally, I was shocked to hear, just before Christmas, of the tragic death of Richard 'Dick' Roberts. Dick was well-known to many of us as a user of business archives, particularly banking archives. There is an appreciation elsewhere in this Newsletter, so here I will just mention Dick's association with the BAC Wadsworth Prize. In 2014 he won the Wadsworth Prize for *Saving the City* his book about the 1914 financial crisis, and in 2016 Dick and David Kynaston were jointly presented with the Prize for *The Lion Wakes*, their history of HSBC. He was also a judge in 2015. Dick was a great character and will be sadly missed, and on behalf of the Council I offer our deepest sympathy to his family.

Promoting Transparency: The archives of the Central Bank of Ireland

The Central Bank of Ireland completed its move from Sam Stephenson's iconic Dame Street building to their new residence on North Wall Quay in March 2017, with the new building including a purpose built reading room. The new reading room provided public access to the Central Bank of Ireland's archives for the very first time. Public access to the records up to this point had been restricted to a case-by-case basis.

The Archive of the Central Bank of Ireland opened its doors to the public on the 1 September 2017, following its launch on 31 August by Governor Philip Lane. In an effort to increase transparency and to promote the public understanding of the role and functions of the Central Bank of Ireland it was decided to make the Central Bank's archives more accessible through the provision of an online catalogue. Following a public tender process, ADLIB was selected as the collection management software provider. Through the online catalogue, researchers can browse the catalogue and also select material and make an appointment for consultation.



Irish Land Bond ledgers, 1926 to 1977, from the Central Bank of Ireland Archives
(Image courtesy Sinéad McDonnell, Archivist)

Publicity for the Archive in the run-up to the launch included a segment on the RTÉ TV show *Nationwide*, radio interviews, social media campaigns, and segments in online newspapers. Initial interest in the Archive was quite significant and has since been consistent, with researchers including internal staff, historians, economists, biographers, numismatics, academics, and curious members of the public.

To further publicise the Central Bank's historical material, the Archive arranged a series of internal exhibitions that catered for economic conferences, and got involved in a number of events, such as: Dublin's *Culture Night*, the biennial *Whitaker Lecture*, and a visit from the President of the ECB, Mario Draghi. The Archive also featured in the Central Bank's exhibition at the 2017 Ploughing Championships; it assisted in providing material for the

Bank's *Pounds, Shillings & Independence* public exhibition; and furthermore is providing material and content for the upcoming exhibition celebrating the Central Bank's 75th Anniversary, which will open to the public in February 2018.

In addition to publicising the Archive externally, a programme to promote staff interest was introduced in November 2017. A photograph from a Central Bank social event from the 1950's was displayed on our intranet encouraging staff to make appointments in order to view the huge array of photographs held in the Archive. We received an overwhelming response, with photographs illustrating past fashion and hairstyles being the most popular!

Along with the photographic collection of approximately 6,000 prints, the Central Bank's Archive holdings comprise of c. 12,000 paper files, 2,000 Bank publications, 560 architectural plans, 250 ledgers and various artefacts, with the earliest record dating back to 1786. The Archive collection is thus far 40% catalogued, and the oldest material and records consulted on a regular basis are held onsite, while the remainder of material is held offsite in a secure records storage facility.

The Archive has benefited greatly from the opening of the new building in North Wall Quay. It is now recognised as an essential part of the Central Bank's agenda, promoting its history and functions through the years from its establishment in 1943, whereas previously we were relatively unknown to both staff and public. By providing access to the historical records of the Central Bank's Archive, the Central Bank has opened its doors to the public, providing an understanding and an openness it did not previously give forth. You can visit the Central Bank of Ireland Archive website and online catalogue via the following links:

www.centralbank.ie/about/central-bank-archive
archives.centralbank.ie/search/simple

Sinéad McDonnell

Archivist, Central Bank of Ireland

The London Metropolitan Archives Newsletter

London Metropolitan Archives (LMA) recently published the 30th edition of its quarterly newsletter. The newsletter contains articles on new LMA collections, recently catalogued material, discoveries within existing collections and service improvements, and, as ever, includes articles about LMA's extensive business archives, many written by Richard Wiltshire.

For a link to the latest edition please click on the link below:

mailchi.mp/cityoflondon/fw4uu4pbje-812997

The Dukesfield Documents: an online archive

Members will be interested to know of the existence of a free, online archive of several thousand letters and other items dating from between the mid-17th and mid-19th centuries, centred on the business correspondence of the agents of the Blakett (and later Beaumont) lead mining and processing business based in North East England. *The Dukesfield*

Documents online resource was borne out of a Heritage Lottery Fund conservation and heritage project, *The Dukesfield Smelters and Carriers project*, that focused on the restoration of the remains of the Dukesfield lead smelt mill, a 17th century mill located in Hexhamshire, Northumberland. Since the online archive went live in 2015 it has received over 70,000 page views, and new material continues to be added regularly.

The business correspondence of these agents provides a fascinating insight into a period of profound commercial and industrial change in the decades before the industrial revolution, and will be of undoubted interest to business historians and the wider historic research community.

For further information on *The Dukesfield Documents*, follow this link:

www.dukesfield.org.uk/research/dukesfield-documents

For further information on *The Dukesfield Smelters and Carriers project*, follow this link:

www.dukesfield.org.uk/

UNESCO *Memory of the World*: Deadline approaching for nominations to the UK Register in 2018

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.

Nominations are now being invited for inscriptions to the UK Register in 2018. 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 be of outstanding significance to the UK.

The closing date for applications is Wednesday 31 January 2018. Applicants will be notified of the outcome in May 2018 and inscriptions will be publicly presented in June 2018 at a formal awards ceremony.

All enquiries should be made to:

Matthew McMurray (Secretary): matthew.mcmurray@royalvoluntaryservice.org.uk, or

Elizabeth Oxborrow-Cowan (Chair): elizabeth@elizabethoc.co.uk

Bursary winners' reflections of the 2017 BAC conference *Change the Record*

The 2017 BAC conference *Change the Record* took place on 21 November. Hosted by HarperCollins, at their London office, *The News Building* complete with its panoramic views of London, the day considered some of the changes affecting archives.



A view of London from The News Building, HarperCollins' London office
(Image courtesy Ben White)

Through speakers' presentations and discussion sessions, attendees explored how the records themselves have developed, and how this has affected their management and usage. The reflections of the BAC Conference bursary winners, whose help ensured the smooth running of the conference, and the 2017 conference programme are on the BAC's website. Click link below:

www.businessarchivescouncil.org.uk/activitiesobjectives/conference



Delegates at the 2017 BAC Conference
(Image courtesy Ben White)

***Making Jet Engines in World War II: Britain, Germany, and the United States* by Hermione Giffard, winner of The Wadsworth Prize, 2017**

The BAC Wadsworth Prize is awarded annually by the Business Archives Council for a book judged to have made an outstanding contribution to the study of British business history. The winner of the 2017 prize is Hermione Giffard for her book *Making Jet Engines in World War II: Britain, Germany, and the United States* (University of Chicago Press, 2016). The prize was awarded at a Reception held on Tuesday 21 November 2017 hosted by HarperCollins.



2017 Wadsworth Prize winner, Hermione Giffard, being presented with her cheque by BAC President Terry Gourvish
(Image courtesy Mike Anson)

This year's judges were Dr David Kynaston (one of last year's winners), Dr Melinda Haunton, of The National Archives, and John Chambers, of the Archives and Records Association. *Making Jet Engines in World War II* was praised for the new light that it threw on the Second World War, in particular the way that it took a step back to look across different nations to understand the commercial and economic pressures faced by companies

as well as the narrative of the individuals involved. Two other books were commended, Heather Dalton's *Merchants and Explorers: Roger Barlow, Sebastian Cabot, and Networks of Atlantic Exchange 1500 – 1560* (Oxford University Press, 2016), and Tyler Beck Goodspeed's *Legislating Instability: Adam Smith, Free Banking, and the Financial Crisis of 1772* (Harvard University Press, 2016).

Archive Service Accreditation: light-touch review workshops in January 2018

The Archive Service Accreditation Standard is currently undergoing a light-touch review. Elizabeth Oxborrow-Cowan Associates have been appointed to conduct the review on behalf of the partners - The Archives and Records Association (UK and Ireland), the Archives and Records Council Wales (ARCW), The National Archives, National Records of Scotland, The Public Record Office of Northern Ireland (PRONI), the Scottish Council on Archives, and the Welsh Government. The Review is looking at the effectiveness of the application process and associated documentation through the experiences of practitioners.

As part of this work Elizabeth Oxborrow-Cowan Associates will be undertaking two workshops for services that have yet to apply for Accreditation. This includes those services with a specific submission deadline in mind (be it next 12 months or 10 years' time), services who would like to make an application but have no specific deadline in mind, and those services which do not intend to apply for Accreditation at all. The workshop will be exploring the motivations for making or not making applications, concerns and aspirations around Accreditation and identify potential improvements to the process and its documentation.

The workshops will be relevant to staff who either make the decision as to whether the service will apply or who are responsible for pulling together the specific application.

There will be two workshops, one in London and one in Edinburgh, and you are welcome to attend either regardless of the location of your service. Lunch is included.

- London: Wednesday 17 January, 11am-3pm, Theatres Trust Resource Centre, 22 Charing Cross Road, London WC2H 0QL
- Edinburgh: Tuesday 23 January, 11.30am -3.30pm, National Records of Scotland, General Register House, 2 Princes Street, Edinburgh EH1 3YY

The outcomes of these workshops will be important for informing the development of the Standard. If you would like to attend or have any questions please contact Elizabeth Oxborrow-Cowan at: elizabeth@elizabethoc.co.uk

Humane and erudite scholar: Dick Roberts remembered

Richard 'Dick' Roberts, Professor of Contemporary History at King's College London, was a byword for academic excellence, but was also universally admired for his benevolence and good humour. A long-standing member of the OMFIF advisory board, he was author of two well-received OMFIF Press books. The latest, *Six Days in September*, the story of Britain's

1992 departure from the European exchange rate mechanism, co-written with myself and William Keegan, was published only three months ago. The previous book, *When Britain Went Bust*, an account of the 1976 sterling crisis, was launched in December 2016 at the UK Treasury in the presence of Johannes Witteveen, the former IMF managing director who played a leading role in the episode.

Dick's untimely death on 16 December was all the more poignant since he attended the OMFIF Christmas party in London the previous evening, made a characteristically witty and generous speech and joined in some individualistically boisterous singing. He was due to become the placement scheme coordinator for King's College students and OMFIF. We were discussing, just a few days before, another book project.

Lord (Nick) Macpherson, former permanent secretary at the Treasury, summed up his prowess: 'Dick was a brilliant economic historian. He had an uncanny ability to make the past come alive, providing many a lesson to modern policymakers. His work on the 1914 banking crisis and on the Geddes Axe of the early 1920s [an austerity drive under Sir Eric Geddes] was essential reading for Treasury officials.'

Sarah Butler from OMFIF's development team, who worked closely with Dick on his last two books, said, 'Dick was an intrinsically kind man who always entered the office with a smile on his face. Dick has left a tremendous legacy, not only for his work in financial history but with his constant encouragement towards others to be the best that they could be.'

David Kynaston, another well-known economic historian and author, said, 'On and off, Dick and I collaborated on books and projects for almost a quarter of a century, culminating in our major history of HSBC. Professionally, I valued his analytical skills, his calm judgement and his ability to work his way patiently through to the resolution of almost any historical problem; personally, we enjoyed each other's sense of humour, and I am going to miss badly his thoughtfulness, generosity and wonderful flair for making the very most of life.'

'Dick was an enthusiastic member of the Political Economy Club,' said City economist Charles Dumas, the club's secretary. 'His deep knowledge of past financial crises has been a revelation at our meetings.' He had been due to apply his historical expertise to the commemoration of the club's bicentenary in 2021.

William Keegan remembers Dick as 'the perfect co-author. There were no disputes, no crossed lines. My younger daughters, both undergraduates, relished the way that, after the launch of the 1992 book at the British Academy, they met Dick over a drink and he gave them mischievous advice on how to handle academics.'

Dick graduated from University College London with first class honours in history and then wrote his doctorate in economic history at Cambridge and held research fellowships at Downing College, Cambridge and Princeton University. He worked for oil company BP for several years before joining the faculty at Sussex University. In 2003 he held the Houblon-Norman-George visitor fellowship at the Bank of England. He joined the then Centre for Contemporary British History as Director in 2007, located at the Institute of Historical Research, prior to its move to King's.

Dick's achievements as one of Britain's foremost economic historians are demonstrated by his range of publications. His history of City investment bank Schroders was published in

1992 and of consortium bank Orion in 2001. His contemporary books include *Wall Street* (2002) and *The City* (2008). Other collaborations with Kynaston included conferences and publications to mark the 300th anniversary of the Bank of England (1994), the abolition of UK exchange controls (1999) and the co-authored book *City State* (2003). Other publications include *Did anyone learn anything from the Equitable Life? Lessons and learning from financial crises* (2012), *Saving the City: The Great Financial Crisis of 1914* (2013), and *The Media and Financial Crises: Comparative and Historical Perspectives* (2014). Dick was co-convenor of the Monetary History Group and the University of London research seminar in Contemporary British History. He was a trustee of the Baring Archive and an advisory panel member of the Calouste Gulbenkian Biography Project at the Gulbenkian Foundation, Lisbon.

This most erudite and humane man will be badly missed by many. All of us offer our deepest condolences to his widow Sarah and his two young daughters Lily and Nancy.

David Marsh

Chairman of OMFIF (www.omfif.org)

Copyright © 2018 Business Archives Council, All rights reserved.

[unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)

MailChimp