

Welcome to the Autumn 2018 BAC Newsletter

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Business Archives Council Newsletter

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

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Chair's blog

For once I am not writing this blog on a train, though I have travelled quite a few miles on railways in the last few months (for both work and pleasure). With this theme in mind, I was at the Archive and Records Association's (ARA) Section for Business Records (SBR) Summer Seminar back in June. The topic was technical records and very appropriately it was held at the National Railway Museum (NRM) in York. Our friends at the SBR had put together an excellent programme with a variety of speakers and some practical exercises. A couple of takeaways for me: first, the sheer variety of technical records created and held by businesses; second, the importance of volunteers in helping business archives to process and interpret this material. And if you didn't know, the seminar room at the NRM overlooks the Great Hall – now that's my kind of venue! All in all, a great day topped off by a quick pint in the York Tap (handily located on the station platform) before catching the train home.



*The Great Hall at the National Railway Museum
(Courtesy Mike Anson)*

When it comes to technical records, the Ballast Trust has been at the forefront of promoting their preservation and understanding. This year the Trust is celebrating 30 years of this work and you may have seen the fantastic social media activity that Kiara King and her colleagues have put out to mark this anniversary under the **#ballast30** hashtag. You can find out more here: <http://www.ballasttrust.org.uk/>

Kiara was again out again talking about technical records at the recent ARA Annual Conference in Glasgow. As you may be aware, in addition to my BAC duties I am also Chair of the ARA Conference Committee. It proved to be a stimulating, though thoroughly exhausting, week and it was nice to meet colleagues old and new from across the archives and records community. There was plenty to think about in terms of diversity and representation in records and amongst record keepers. The fact that the conference was held in a station hotel was entirely coincidental... Having said that, next year's ARA Conference venue is also a former railway company establishment – the Queen's Hotel in Leeds, opened in 1937 by the London Midland & Scottish Railway. On a recent site visit I was pleased to see a display of archive material in the foyer, though I had to suspend my concerns about whether these were suitable conditions in which to show original records!

All this talk of conferences allows me to finish with our own event which takes place in November. You will no doubt have seen that this is a joint collaboration between the BAC and the International Council on Archives' Section for Business Archives (SBA ICA) and will be held at The National Archives in Kew. The organising committee (of which thankfully I am not a member!) has put together an exciting programme covering two days. I hope that you will be able to support the conference and I look forward to seeing you there.

Mike Anson
BAC Chair

Welcome to new members

The Phoenix Group

Emma Bastin

Georgie Salzedo

Susie J. Pak

The Wadsworth at 40

November 2018 will be the fortieth occasion on which the Wadsworth Prize for business history has been awarded.

The Prize is named after John Wadsworth, who gave over 40 years of loyal service to the Council. An economist by training, he and Wilfred Crick were the authors of *A hundred years of joint stock banking*, the path-breaking history of Midland Bank which appeared in four editions between 1936 and 1964. He later became head of the Economics Department of Midland and Economic Adviser to the Bank; in the 1970s he was also a Visiting Professor at The City University, London. John died in December 1992, at the age of 87. John had attended some of the earliest meetings of the Council – then the Council for the Preservation of Business Archives – and he was elected to the Executive Committee as early as 1935. He served as Honorary Treasurer between 1949 and 1962, Research Adviser in the 1960s and Deputy Chairman between 1972 and 1977.

When John announced that he would retire in 1977, his friends and colleagues were keen to mark this extraordinary dedication to the Council over so many years. The earliest reference to this topic appears in the Executive Committee minutes for January 1977, when Edwin Green 'proposed that some permanent commemoration of Prof Wadsworth's work – e.g. an annual prize for work in business records – should be made'. In fact Edwin remembers even earlier discussions about this idea with John Orbell (in the long-gone Abercorn Rooms at Liverpool Street) and also with Michael Moss and Leslie Pressnell. At any rate the Committee approved of the plan and Leslie, Edwin and David Avery (Honorary Secretary) were asked to seek support for a prize fund. By the end of 1977 they had raised £650 from banks and institutions with which John had been associated in his long career. In that time the focus of the Prize had also shifted

and it was now being described as an award of £100 for the 'outstanding contribution to the history of British business' each year. The Executive Committee was now ready to launch the Prize, to be announced at the AGM in the summer of 1978 and the first winner to be selected from work published in 1978. Obviously the promise of financial support was vital to the project but, at this stage, so was the backing of the business history community. In particular it was important that each year's Prize would be assessed by an authoritative panel of judges. In that first year the strongest possible marker was put down, when Peter Mathias, Sydney Checkland and Bill McAlpine all agreed to serve as judges. That year also established a pattern which was consistent for 30 years, with two historians and one business representative forming the panel of judges. More recently, an archivist has taken the place of one of the historians.



*The 2016 Wadsworth Prize award, with David Kynaston and the late Professor Richard Roberts accepting their award for 'The Lion Wakes: A Modern History of HSBC' at the ceremony held at Barclays
(Courtesy Amaara Yousaf)*

The Prize project remained secret until April 1978, when the plan was revealed to John Wadsworth himself. He was clearly both surprised and delighted. 'Quite apart from my personal gratification at the honour, it will I feel sure help to encourage the study of business history and serve to raise the status of such publications'. He attended when the first award was made to David Fieldhouse (for *Unilever Overseas: The Anatomy of a Multinational 1895-1965*) in July 1979. In later years he took a keen interest in the Prize and joined us at the prize-givings. One year a speaker made the mistake of referring to the 'Wadsworth Memorial Prize'; John relished the chance to say that he was not ready for a memorial. On another occasion a financial

journalist, bent on mischief, pointed out that the £100 Prize might not cover the winner's rail fare to receive the award. John replied that the journalist had missed the point. The reward was not the cheque: it was the appreciation of the Council and the leading figures in business history and business archives. Nonetheless the value of the Prize has been increased, and is now £500.

Organisation of the Wadsworth in the early years was undertaken by Edwin Green. He stepped down from the role in October 1988 and then Lenore Symons took over the responsibility, a task she continued for 15 years. Since 2004, a number of people have been involved in coordinating the judging process of the Prize, including Iain Black, Terry Gourvish, Peter Scott, Roy Edwards and since 2014, Kate Murphy.

To this day, the awarding of the Prize remains one of the BAC's core activities. For more details, including a list of past winners of the Wadsworth Prize, please click here:

www.businessarchivescouncil.org.uk/activitiesobjectives/wadsworthprize

Reminder: *The John Armstrong Award for Transport Archives* cataloguing grant is open for applications

The John Armstrong Award for Transport Archives, a one-off grant for the cataloguing of transport-related business archives, is open for applications.

The grant for £4,000 is jointly funded by a bequest from the late John Armstrong and the BAC. Its aims, in funding the cataloguing of a transport-related business collection in either the private or public sectors, are to:

- Provide financial support for institutions/businesses that manage transport-related business archives
- Provide access to 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 transport-related business collections
- Make more transport-related business collections accessible

We envisage that the £4,000 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 transport-related business records. This work should produce either a detailed catalogue of a small collection or a top-level catalogue of a more substantial collection. The recipient of the Award should provide the BAC with an article for its newsletter, and the catalogue should be made available on The National Archives' (TNA) Discovery database.

Applications are welcome from all types of organisation, whether public or private sector, such as a business, local record office, university, museum, charity, specialised repository, and that hold business archives related to transport, for example papers of: rail, automobile, maritime or aeronautical companies, etc. Applicants who have previously applied to the BAC's two existing grants are welcome to apply.

The deadline for applications to *The John Armstrong Award for Transport Archives* is Friday 5 October 2018 at 4pm. More information, including guidelines and application form, can be found

on the BAC website: www.businessarchivescouncil.org.uk/activitiesobjectives/cattransport/

Any questions about this grant should be addressed to Ben White, Administrator of *The John Armstrong Award for Transport Archives*. Email: benjamin.white@bankofengland.co.uk
Tel: 020 3461 4810

Announcement of the 2018 BAC cataloguing grants winners

The BAC was delighted to recently announce the winners of its two cataloguing grants. The recipient of this year's main cataloguing grant for business archives is the Clevedon Pier and Heritage Trust Ltd (CP&H Trust Ltd). The Clevedon Pier Archive is a good example of a complex business archive collection, reflecting the Pier having been owned by several businesses and other organisations, both private and public over the course of its existence since its beginnings in 1864.

For more information, click here:

<http://www.businessarchivescouncil.org.uk/activitiesobjectives/catgrant/>

The winner of this year's Arts Cataloguing Grant is Iniva (Institute of International Visual Arts). Iniva is a pioneering organisation set up in 1994 by Arts Council England to diversify the mainstream of contemporary visual art. The catalogued collection will be used to inspire a new generation of artists and curators, for academic research, and to inform various projects planned for its 25th anniversary next year.



*Selected archive materials from an Iniva exhibition Veil: Veiling, Representation and Visual Art, 2003-2004
(Courtesy Iniva)*

For more information, click here:

www.businessarchivescouncil.org.uk/activitiesobjectives/catgrantarts

Please note that 2018 is the final year that the Arts grant will be running. The [main grant](#) will continue to run, and the BAC will be announcing a brand new grant for 2019!

The BAC 2018 Conference in association with SBA ICA: 14-15 November

Booking is now open for the BAC's 2018 conference which is being run in association with the International Council on Archives' Section for Business Archives (SBA ICA)

Titled *Can you believe it...? Business archives and trust*, this two-day event will be held at The National Archives in Kew on the 14 and 15 November and will be on the critical theme of 'trust'. Over the two days we will explore trust in the record, both paper and digital; trust in the information service and how to operate a trustworthy service; trust in the business, in light of the many recent corporate scandals; and whether trust is different across borders?

SBA ICA

Section on Business Archives

Section des Archives du monde des Entreprises

**BAC Annual Conference
in association with SBA ICA**



**Can you
believe it...?**

Business archives and trust

Cambridge
Analytica

Scathing report slams UK gov't
data loss

By Michael Kingman | July 1, 2008, 7:32am

Summary
guardian.co.uk

FOX NEWS
23 YEARS AFTER HILLSBOROUGH...
THE REAL TRUTH

Swiss private bank were stolen by an

Home News Sport Weather TV Radio

ONE-MINUTE WORLD NEWS

Page last updated at 14:12 GMT, Wednesday, 25 June 2008 15:12 UK

Timelines Child

The National Archives, Kew 14-15 November

Further information about the day's programme, booking and prices is available on the BAC website: www.businessarchivescouncil.org.uk/activitiesobjectives/conference (a full programme will be published on the website the week beginning the 17 September.)

An early bird rate for BAC/SBA members will be available until 21 September. Bookings will close on 31 October.

We are also delighted to announce that the BAC will be providing five bursaries for aspiring archives and records management professionals.

In order to apply you:

- Do not need to be a member of the BAC
- Must not be in full-time employment
- Must be interested in pursuing a career in archives and records management

What the bursary means:

Attending the conference will be a fantastic chance for you to network and increase your profile in the sector, in addition to being a great opportunity to meet members of the BAC. In return, we ask that all winners help out with tasks on the day - past bursary winners have helped to document the day by tweeting, taking photographs, or writing a short article for the BAC newsletter.

How to apply:

To apply for a bursary, please email BACConference@gmail.com with your details and a maximum of 200 words on your interest in Business Archives and why you merit a bursary. The deadline for applications is Friday 21 September 2018 and the successful applicants will be contacted before the end of September.

PLEASE NOTE - the bursaries will cover the cost of the conference fee only, bursary winners will still need to cover any travel costs to and from the conference.

Please send any questions to conference organisers at: BACConference@gmail.com

London Metropolitan Archives (LMA): change in evening opening hours from September 2018

Since **Monday 3 September 2018**, the LMA has been operating new opening hours. These are:

Monday: **9.30am - 4.45pm**

Tuesday: **9.30am - 4.45pm**

Wednesday: **9.30am - 7.30pm**

Thursday: **9.30am - 4.45pm**

Friday: **Closed**

Saturday: Open the second Saturday each month (except November) **9.30am - 4.45pm**

For more information visit www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/lma

LMA holds the largest single collection of business archives held by a local authority in England and Wales representing businesses mainly based in the 'Square Mile' of the City of London and in the wider Greater London region. Many of the company archives have global significance, reflecting the development of the City of London as a national and international commercial and financial centre. For more information and the business guides see:

www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/things-to-do/london-metropolitan-archives/the-collections/Pages/business-and-employment.aspx

Workshop on managing charity records: 17 September

A workshop entitled *Records of charities and voluntary organisations: How to care for, or deposit, your archives and records* is being held on the 17 September at The Keep in Brighton.

Organised by The Mass Observation Archives in association with the ESRC-funded *Discourses of Voluntary Action* research project, the workshop is aimed at an audience of charities, community groups and other organisations. For more information click here:

www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/records-of-charities-and-voluntary-organisations-how-to-care-for-or-deposit-your-archives-and-tickets-46151749124

Museums Association Conference and Exhibition 2018: 8-10 November

The Museums Association Annual Conference and Exhibition will take place in Belfast on 8-10 November 2018. This year's theme is *Dissent: Inspiring Hope, Embracing Change - having the courage to challenge traditional thinking to transform museums and society*.

For more information and to book your place, go to: www.museumsassociation.org/conference

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