



Business Archives Council Newsletter

Special Newsletter | Spring 2021
New Series | ISSN 0309-4200



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The BAC announces a bumper £7000 cataloguing grant for 2021

The BAC is excited to announce that this year's cataloguing grant for business archives is a one-off bumper grant! This year a single award of £7,000 is available. Funding has been provided by the BAC and the former Archives and Artefacts Studies Network (A2SN).

For this year only, the BAC requires the winning applicant to apportion the grant as near as possible to the following breakdown (applicants are advised to read the guidance notes for further information):

- £5,000 - to cover project individuals' time only, to undertake cataloguing.
- £2,000 - to cover project individuals' time to deliver an exciting educational outreach programme relating to the collection(s) which are in scope to be catalogued.

Applications are welcome from **all** types of organisations, whether private or public sector, that hold business archives. These organisations could be a business, local record office, university, museum, charity, specialised repository, or a community collection.

The BAC is delighted to have the support this year of the Community Archives and Heritage Group (CAHG). The decision on the award of the grant will be made by a Cataloguing Grant Panel established by the BAC which consists of two executive committee members, one non-executive member and a member of the CAHG. Panel members will not judge applications where they have a research or employment affiliation.

The Cataloguing Grant for Business Archives 2021 **launches on 12 April 2021**, and the **deadline for applications is 25 June 2021**.

Any questions about The Cataloguing Grant for Business Archives should be addressed to Natalie Attwood, Administrator, BAC Cataloguing Grant. Email: natalie.attwood@rothschildandco.com

Crisis Management Team update

The Crisis Management Team (CMT), on which the BAC is represented, co-ordinates efforts to preserve business records in cases of liquidations, administrations, takeovers and other circumstances where records may be in danger.

The current pandemic, economic crisis and changing shopping habits have particularly hit the retail sector. The key cases currently in progress are Arcadia Group and Debenhams. Surveys of records at Arcadia have taken place at its London head office, and Leeds. These records relate to brands such as Burtons, Dorothy Perkins and Topshop/Topman, as well as acquired companies including: Peter Robinson Ltd and J. Sears & Co (True Form Boot Co) Ltd. Material, which includes minutes, designs and photographs, is in the process of being transferred to future homes over the coming month or so, and whilst logistics at a time of pandemic are challenging, it is hoped that the records will be secured before insolvency deadlines are reached.



*Topshop/Topman, Oxford Street, London
(Courtesy Richard Wiltshire, BAC Executive)*



*Debenhams' shop front sign, Hastings
(Courtesy Richard Wiltshire, BAC Executive)*

FRP Advisory, the administrator of Debenhams, has confirmed most records of the company are held in a central store. Boohoo, the new owners of the Debenhams brand and intellectual property, will have an interest in records of Debenhams. The CMT await further details and opportunities to provide advice. Some branch records are already deposited and FRP Advisory are happy to sign off gifts of this material via the CMT. The rest of the records are being transferred by store managers to central storage. In both cases it's really good to see insolvency practitioners are engaging with the archive sector.

If you have any queries or have an interest in Debenhams archives please contact Richard Wiltshire or the CMT. For CMT contact details and past case studies see [Managing Business Archives](#)

The website also includes new guidelines for insolvency practitioners, and guidance for archive services dealing with records from insolvent companies.

COVID-19 Archives Fund grants awarded

On the 18 March 2021, The National Archives announced the names of the successful applicants who have received funding from the *COVID-19 Archives Fund*. 25 archives from across England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland have each received up to £50,000 from the fund.

The fund, which was allocated £500,000 from HM Treasury, will allow archives to secure physical and born-digital records that are at risk of being dispersed or lost. This government support comes at a time when many organisations are struggling to deal with issues related to their collections which have arisen as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The fund was open to both recognised collecting institutions and other archival custodians, and will help them safeguard their vital records or re-home other vulnerable collections.

A full list of the recipients of this funding can be found [here](#).
