



Business Archives Council Newsletter

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The editor of this newsletter is Benjamin White. The next issue will appear in Summer 2022. Prospective copy should be sent to Benjamin White, email: Benjamin.White@bankofengland.co.uk

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Chair's blog

Welcome to the first Blog of 2022. The current international situation aside, it's good to be able to start by saying that things appear to be getting back to some normality. Certainly, we are pleased to have researchers back in the Archive at my institution and bookings are strong into the summer. Let's hope that this continues.

One sign of the new normality is that last month we were able to have a face-to-face BAC planning meeting. Our colleague Sara Kinsey provided the venue at Nationwide's office in London. It was a productive morning and it was great to actually see friends after so long – two years in most cases! Following our hard toil, it was up to the roof terrace to eat our lunch. The particular situation of the building in central London means that it offers a fantastic panoramic view across most of the City. Thanks for hosting Sara!

One of the issues that we discussed at the planning meeting was the BAC Conference. This year we are doing something slightly different. I have already mentioned in a previous Blog that we were working with our friends at BAC Scotland and other partners to organise a conference celebrating the life and work of Michael Moss. This will take place at the end of April and further details of the event can be found elsewhere in this Newsletter. Effectively, this will be our main conference output this year, but we are also aware that there is a demand for something for members, ideally in-person. The current idea is to arrange a networking event later in the year

which would also include the presentation of the BAC Wadsworth Prize and the BAC Research Bursary. Watch out for further details about this.

Some of you will know that Emma Markiewicz has just moved from The National Archives (TNA) to become Director of the London Metropolitan Archives (LMA). Emma became a BAC trustee in order to represent TNA but I'm delighted to say that she has agreed to stay with us. This is especially pleasing because LMA holds large and significant business collections, and it will also strengthen the BAC's links with local authority archives. Anyway, congratulations on your new post Emma!

Finally back to the planning day. Of course, we couldn't let the occasion pass without the obligatory selfie of everyone. Let's hope for more happy face-to-face meetings over the coming months...



*BAC Trustees and colleagues from TNA gathered for February's BAC planning meeting
(Courtesy Mike Anson)*

Mike Anson
BAC Chair

The Royal Thames Yacht Club

2025 will mark the two-hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the Royal Thames Yacht Club (RTYC), probably the oldest continuously operating yacht club in the world. It was first established when a group of 'very respectable gentlemen' came together to promote yacht racing on the River Thames. Prince Henry, Duke of Cumberland, put up a silver cup prize for a race held in 1775, and thus was formed the Cumberland Fleet. Although later replaced by the title Royal Thames Yacht Club (to mark the accession of William IV, the 'Sailor King' in 1830), the Cumberland Fleet remains the alternative name for the Club to this day.

Club members originally met in coffee houses and other fashionable venues such as Vauxhall Gardens, which was used as the starting or finishing point for various races held on the Thames by the Cumberland Fleet. As the development of rail travel during the 1840s opened up access to the south coast, Club members became more interested in competing with the 'salt-water' yachts in the Solent and abandoned racing on the Thames. The leap to officially organised, full-scale ocean races, however, only began in 1887, when the Royal Thames Yacht Club announced a race 'the like of which had never been known in the annals of yacht racing' to celebrate Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee. Following a course that stretched 1,520 nautical miles around the British Isles, it became known as *The Jubilee Yacht Race*.



*Pamphlet advertising The Queen's Cup match,
1960
(Courtesy the RTYC)*

The Club continues to organise and participate in numerous racing events, both in the UK and worldwide. There is an annual regatta – *The Cumberland Regatta* – on the Solent and opportunities for both fleet and match racing. Every year, the club organises cruises in UK waters

and worldwide, from New Zealand to the Caribbean. Much of the RTYC archives collection comprises material relating to these events, including the America's Cup, with which the RTYC has been associated since it brought the first challenge for the Cup in 1870.

The RTYC has reciprocal arrangements with similar yachting clubs around the world, and its commitment to hospitality in general is part of its ethos. In 2012, the Clubhouse was temporarily renamed *Team Korea House* when it hosted the South Korean Olympic team during their participation in the London Olympics. More recently, during the COVID lockdown in 2020, it offered free accommodation to NHS staff working in London.



*Members of the South Korean Olympic team outside the RTYC Clubhouse, re-named Team Korea House, during the London Olympics, 2012
(Courtesy the RTYC)*

In preparation for its two-hundred and fiftieth anniversary, the RTYC Heritage Committee has employed two part-time archivists to catalogue the collections and bring the archives up to professional standards, both to preserve them and to make them more accessible to Club members and others interested in the history of yachting, yachts, and their often illustrious owners.

As well as archives relating to yacht racing and yacht design, there are correspondence files, minute books, membership lists and a fine collection of prints and photographs of the many yachts that have raced under the RTYC burgee. In addition to the archives themselves, there are also collections of paintings, plans, models, silverware, artefacts and a small library of books and journals, all of which are held at the RTYC at 60, Knightsbridge, London.

However, while there is much for researchers to investigate, there are also significant gaps in the collections. Despite its long history, the RTYC only moved into its first established Clubhouse in

1857, when it occupied a building in St James Street, London. After a couple of further moves, the RTYC finally settled in its current London location at 60 Knightsbridge in 1923, although the existing Clubhouse only dates from 1960s, when the original Victorian building was demolished. The lack of a permanent Clubhouse in those early years means that little survives in the archives collection that dates much before 1830. One of the key elements of the Club's new Collections & Acquisitions Policy will therefore be to actively acquire any records relating to the Club that date from the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries.

For further information about the Royal Thames Yacht Club and to make an appointment to consult any of the archives, contact Celine.Fernandez@royalthames.com

Céline Fernandez

Archivist, Royal Thames Yacht Club

A conference in memory of Professor Michael Moss: 27 and 28 April

A forthcoming online conference, *Re-appraisal of surveying: a vital archival tool for contemporary collecting*, is to be held in memory of Professor Michael S Moss.

The event, which is being jointly organised by the Business Archives Council, Business Archives Council of Scotland and The National Archives, with the support of the British Records Association, will consist of short papers and sessions spread over two half-days, on the 27 and 28 April 2022.

Surveying remains a universally useful tool for all archivists and we are seeking speakers on archival surveying of all kinds, not just in relation to business archives, both from the UK and globally. We hope that this conference will provide a space to share best practice, and expect the event to be followed by practical half-day face-to-face workshops on surveying techniques across the UK.

This conference will consider the UK's extraordinary track record of successful archival surveying and look at the many ways in which surveys can not only contribute to the collecting function of an archive but also ensure that the heritage of an organisation, region or nation is appropriately reflected in its archival collections.

For more information and further updates visit: busarchscot.org.uk/events/surveying-conference/

Announcing the 2022 Business Archives Council cataloguing grant

The BAC is excited to announce this year's cataloguing grant for business archives. This year, a single award of £5,000 is available.

The aim of this grant is to fund the cataloguing of a business archive collection(s) in either the private or public sector, and to:

- provide financial support for institutions/businesses that manage business archives
- reach collections that have not yet been prioritised but have academic, socio-historical and wider value
- create opportunities for archivists, paraprofessionals and volunteers to gain experience in cataloguing business collections
- make more business collections accessible

Criteria for the grant and how to apply will be published on the BAC website in due course. Previous applicants are welcome to re-apply, but please note that the BAC will not award a grant to the same institution within three years. The decision on the award of the grant will be made by a Cataloguing Grant Panel established by BAC which consists of two executive committee members and one non-executive member. Panel members will not judge applications where they have a research or employment affiliation.

The Cataloguing Grant for Business Archives (2022) will open on 11 April 2022, with the deadline for applications being Friday 24 June. Further information including guidance notes will be made available on the BAC's website.

Any questions should be addressed to Natalie Attwood, Grant Administrator,
natalie.attwood@rothschildandco.com

Rotadex: archive storage from racks that roll to vellum scrolls

Rotadex supplies and installs products that are used in many industries, but our core business has always been in the archive and storage sector. Established in 1954, we make all our products at our 50,000 sq ft Birmingham manufacturing facility. We are proud to be members of *Made in Britain*, and use only British steel in our products.

We believe that the investment of time and money spent managing your work space should be used wisely. We work with you to maximise your storage space and accessibility. Maximising your archive's space is achieved by good communications between the user, the specifier and ourselves to create a working partnership, rather than simply sourcing a supplier.

We manufacture a wide range of shelving, pallet racking, lockers, plan chests and archive boxes, as well as bespoke products for customers who need non-standard solutions to their storage problems.

We offer a concept-to-completion service on all of our products. We can carry out site visits to measure your space and discuss your storage issues before preparing draft layout drawings. We

ensure the solution makes the best use of your space, and is efficient and functional for your staff.



*Rotadex racking installed at Cambridgeshire Archives, Ely
(Courtesy Rotadex)*

Some recent successful projects include:

Commonwealth War Graves Commission – a project carried out under our Crown Commercial Services accreditation, we installed a mobile shelving system (roller racking) that increased storage capacity by 23% compared to the existing static archive shelving.

Cambridgeshire Archives – an existing archive was relocated to new premises. We installed new archive shelving to hold in excess of 850 tonnes of historical documents on over seven miles of static and mobile shelving, plan chests and rolled map storage units, all conforming to BS4971:2017

Houses of Parliament – as part of the refurbishment of the Palace of Westminster, we secured the contract to supply specially-designed scroll boxes. The storage boxes, made from 1300 micron lignin and acid free material, are being used to house acts of parliament on vellum scrolls during ongoing works.

North Tyneside Council – Awarded through the Crown Commercial Services supplier framework, Rotadex supplied and installed a number of products in a Grade 2 listed building. The main element of the new works was a 300m² 4.5m high mezzanine floor, which included a handrail to all exposed edges, two access staircases and a pallet gate. One-hour fire protection was also fitted to the floor. The main workshop and warehouse were subdivided by using security cages to form eight separate enclosures, allowing different council departments space to store and pick spare parts. The cages included single pedestrian, double and sliding doors to allow

access for fork lift trucks. Inside, the cages were a variety of storage mediums ranging from pallet racking, heavy duty and small parts racking, through to Kanban units and industrial workstations. The new layout enabled workflow to be improved, with palletised deliveries being able to be delivered direct from goods inwards into each individual department's secure cage.

Should you need assistance with a storage or handling issue, please contact us on 0121 508 5877 or email us on sales@rotadex.co.uk to see how our team of experienced designers can help.

Note from the BAC newsletter editor

The BAC newsletter welcomes articles from BAC member-institutions that supply products and services to the archive and heritage sectors. Please note, publication of such articles in the newsletter is not an endorsement by the BAC of any products or services offered by these companies.

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