

BAC Publishes New Leaflet

Earlier this year the BAC published a new leaflet about managing business archives. The leaflet draws on some of the content of the Managing Business Archives website (www.managingbusinessarchives.co.uk) and includes several brief case studies.

You should find a copy of the leaflet enclosed with this newsletter. If your copy is missing, or if you would like further copies, please contact Richard Wiltshire at richard.wiltshire@cityoflondon.gov.uk. A pdf

of this leaflet can also be downloaded from the Business Archive Council's website (www.businessarchivescouncil.org.uk) or the Managing Business Archives site. The leaflet is designed to be useful to companies of any size looking to establish or develop their own archives, whether in-house or externally. If the leaflet is not relevant for you, please pass it on to someone who might find it useful!

M & S Archive

Katherine Carter.



*Opening the Michael Marks Building
(from left to right): Prof. Michael Arthur,
Dame Stella Rimington, and Robert Swannell*

The Marks & Spencer Company Archive is now open for business at the Michael Marks Building, our new state-of-the-art facility located on the Western Campus of the University of Leeds.

Former Head of MI5, Dame Stella Rimington, opened the doors of the Michael Marks Building on Friday 16 March, 2012. Dame Stella has an active interest in the Michael Marks Building due to her current role as a member of the governing body for the M&S Company Archive Community Interest Company (CIC), her background as an archivist and previous work with M&S. Dame Stella was joined by M&S Chairman, Robert Swannell, and University Vice-Chancellor, Professor Michael Arthur, to reveal the Michael Marks Building to the public for the first time.

Made possible through a unique partnership between M&S and the University of Leeds, the building houses the M&S full Company

Archive of more than 70,000 items and includes expansion space for collections from the University of Leeds Library.

The opening day celebrations mark the exciting next phase of the partnership project, which began three years ago in M&S's 125th anniversary year, with the announcement of the permanent relocation of the archive from London to Leeds.

With the bespoke new building completed, this unique collection is now accessible to the public for the very first time, and has also opened up the collection to academics and students for research, teaching and learning.

Highlights from the collection are on display in a dedicated exhibition area in the building and will be regularly updated. The Marks in Time exhibition is designed to walk visitors through M&S's 128 year history, charting the company's progress from the first buttons sold on Michael Marks' Penny Bazaar stall in Leeds' Kirkgate Market in 1884, and highlighting the product innovation and business growth that have established M&S as the iconic British retailer we know today.

The building's layout also features seminar facilities, a dedicated Reading Room, and temperature and humidity controlled strongrooms with automated fire suppression to house the M&S archive collection.

Robert Swannell, M&S Chairman, said: 'We're proud to have opened the doors of this impressive new building which is the result of a successful and prosperous partnership between M&S and the University of Leeds. The hard work and commitment that has gone into making this possible means that the history of M&S as an iconic British retailer is accessible for all to enjoy and will continue to

continued overleaf



evolve back in the city where it all began on Michael Marks' Penny Bazaar stall for many more years to come.'

Vice-Chancellor of the University of Leeds, Professor Michael Arthur, said: 'Our partnership with Marks & Spencer represents a new model for how a world-leading university and an iconic FTSE 100 company can work together. The partnership provides a solid platform for the future, and has already delivered successes for both organisations. The new Michael Marks Building is a fantastic resource for staff and students, the company and the community.'

The rich archive collection includes business papers, advertising materials and merchandise such as clothing, toys and household items. It is expected to be of particular interest to researchers interested in business management, economics, textiles, arts, history, communications, marketing, colour chemistry, food sciences and the social sciences. For the first time, the whole archive collection is available to anyone wanting to do in-depth research in our Reading Room, which operates on an advance-booking basis.

To coincide with the opening of the Michael Marks Building, we've launched our new education and events programmes, our new website complete with interactive learning resources, and our new online catalogue, which enables researchers to search the collection and to book a research visit. For more information, visit our website: marksintime.marksandspencer.com/

Katharine Carter, Company Archivist, M&S Company Archive, Michael Marks Building, Western Campus, University of Leeds, Leeds LS2 9JT.

M&S Company Archive direct line: 020 8718 2800

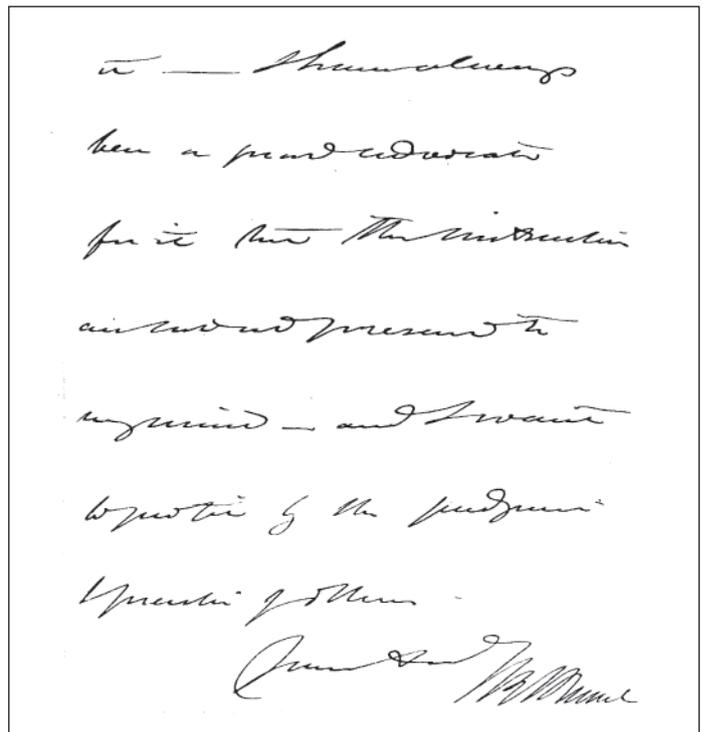
Email: company.archive@marks-and-spencer.com

Historic Railway Images Now Online

Network Rail has recently launched a virtual archive, which gives public access to a special selection from the more than five million records that they hold. These range from architectural drawings of the Forth Bridge and Paddington Station to Isambard Kingdom Brunel's signature. Enthusiasts can buy a print of their favourite railway image or have it made into a range of items such as jigsaws and greeting cards.

Follow this link to visit the site www.networkrail.co.uk/virtualarchive/

Part of a letter signed by Isambard Kingdom Brunel about telegraphic signalling on the London & North Western railway line



Save the Dates!

This year's BAC conference will be on Thursday 8 November at The Baring Archive.

Further details will be provided in the next newsletter.

Following the conference, the Meet the Archivists event will be on Thursday 29 November at The British Postal Museum and Archive. More information, including details of how both archives and students can sign up, will also appear in the next newsletter.

Website Announcement

Institutional members can now access the members' area of the website without the need for a login and password. If you would like to provide other users of your organisation with access simply send the IP addresses of the appropriate computer terminals to clairtwinn_746@hotmail.com. Once the set up is confirmed, access to the members' area will be automatic from the chosen terminals every time the website is visited.

BT Archive

Coventry University and The National Archives have formed a partnership with BT Heritage in a one million pound project, which has been named New Connections. An archive

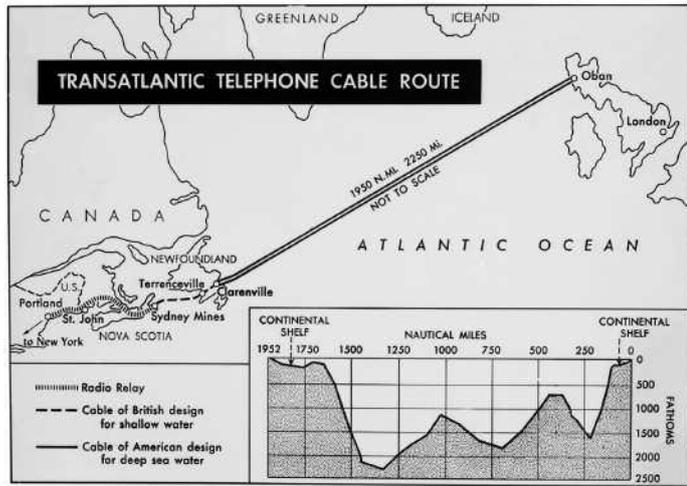


Image courtesy of BT Heritage



Image courtesy of BT Heritage



Image courtesy of BT Heritage

of photographs and documents collected by BT and its predecessors, numbering some 500,000 items, will be catalogued and digitised. The objective is to provide an online archive of records, some dating back to the mid-1880s.

The launch on 11 January at Coventry University was followed by representation at The Archaeology of Communications, a conference hosted by the University of Salford on 3 March at Media City, Salford. The New Connections project will also be promoted at other events during the year. For dates and venues see

www.coventry.ac.uk/researchnet/grandchallenges/digitalmedia/BTarchive/Pages/Events.aspx.

The project manager at Coventry University is Jacqueline Cawston.

jcawston@cad.coventry.ac.uk



Image courtesy of BT Heritage

Cataloguing Grant

In support of the National Strategy for Business Archives, the BAC is delighted to announce that it is once again offering a cataloguing grant for business collections. The aim of the grant, in funding the cataloguing of a business collection in either the private or public sector, is to:

- Provide financial support for institutions/businesses that manage business archives
- Reach 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 business collections
- Make more business collections accessible.

We envisage that the £2000 grant will be used over the equivalent of a four-week period to fund an archive intern or temporary staff member (under professional supervision) to catalogue a discrete collection of business records. This can either be a detailed catalogue of a small collection or a top-level catalogue of a more substantial collection. Grant recipients should provide the BAC with an article for this newsletter, and the catalogue should be made available to the National Register of Archives. Any questions about the grant should be addressed to Lorna Williams,

Email: Lorna.Williams@bankofengland.co.uk

Tel: 020 7601 4889

For more information – criteria and application form – see the BAC's website at www.businessarchivescouncil.org.uk. The deadline for applications is 30th June 2012.

BAC Wadsworth Prize

The **BAC Wadsworth Prize** is awarded annually by the BAC to an individual judged to have made an outstanding contribution to the study of British business history in that year.

The Council awarded its BAC Wadsworth Prize for Business History 2010 on 10 November 2011 at a reception at Unilever House, London to Sir Geoffrey Owen for his study of Courtaulds entitled *The Rise and Fall of Great Companies: Courtaulds and the Reshaping of the Man-Made Fibres Industry*. The three judges for last year's prize were Dr Michael Moss, Dr Peter Jones and Martin Vander Weyer. The award was presented by Dr Terry Gourvish, Chairman of the BAC.



News from the Archives and Records Association

The last 20 years have seen significant capital investment in the UK's archives and the opening of a number of new archive buildings. Now, the first research on the benefits of this investment has been published. Funded by the Archives and Records Association (UK & Ireland) and undertaken by Elizabeth Oxborrow-Cowan, *Research into the Benefits of Capital Investment in Archives* details a significant and broad range of benefits from the multi-million pound investment. Users benefited the most but the benefits to the safety and longevity of the collections were also profound. In all examples studied, the new archive facilities resulted in increased demand and user interest; in the most successful case documented, public usage rose by more than a factor of nine.

As part of her research, Elizabeth Oxborrow-Cowan has devised the 'Staff/Space/Collections Dependency Model':

'At the heart of a good service are three elements: a relevant collection; appropriate types and levels of staff; and appropriately designed and sufficient space. These three resources come together – in the best cases – to maximise benefit to all stakeholders. The provision of good space is a fundamental asset of a successful service.'

An Executive Summary of *Research into the Benefits of Capital Investment in Archives* and the full Report are available on www.archives.org.uk/latest-news/ara-publishes-first-research-into-capital-investment-in-archives.html

Elizabeth Oxborrow-Cowan will be delivering a series of presentations about her research across the UK.

More information about the research and the work of the Archives and Records Association is available from Marie Owens on 01727 838957 or marie.owens@archives.org.uk

The editor of this newsletter is Alan Gall. The next issue will appear in Summer 2012. Prospective copy should be sent to Alan Gall, Tel: 0161 745 7029 (daytime) 01706 344429 (evening) Fax: 0161 745 9649 email: alangall@hotmail.com
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