

The Bank of England's Archive Goes Global!

**Lorna Williams, Assistant Archivist,
Bank of England.**

For the first time, researchers from around the world will be able to search the Bank of England's Archive catalogue. Over 56,000 entries are currently searchable, describing records dating from before the Bank's inception in 1694 (the oldest Bank record is dated 1516) up to recent times.

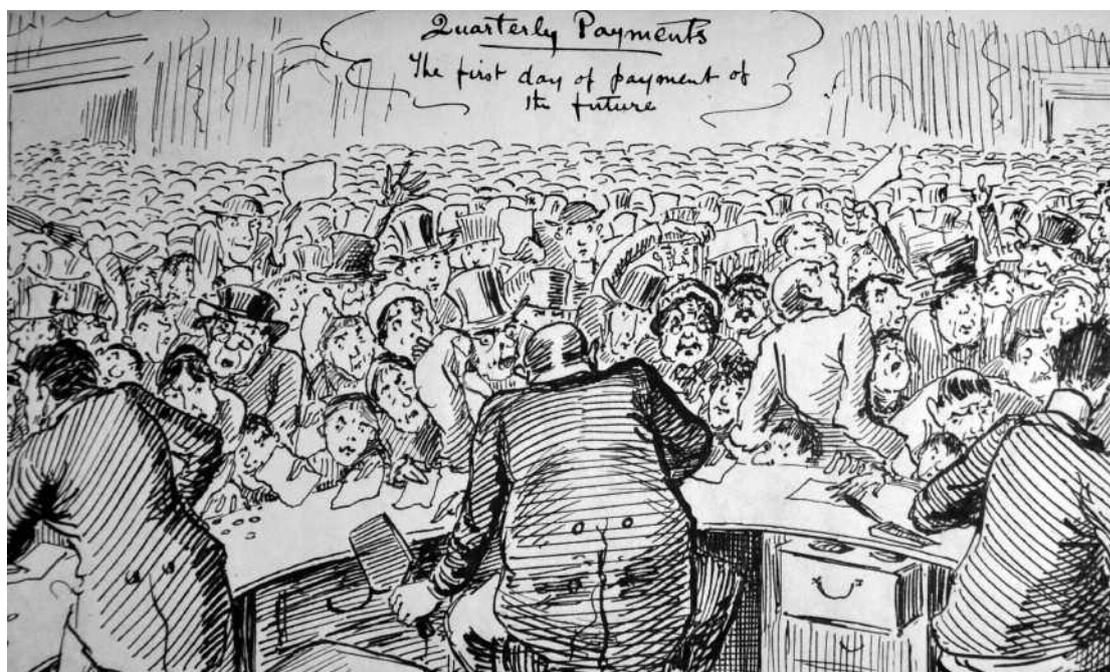
The records reflect all aspects of the history of the Bank and its work, from the expected: the Bank's development as a central Bank, its intervention in historical banking crises, the decision to come off the gold standard, and the creation and operation of monetary policy; to the surprising: tales of pirates, desperate appeals from convicted forgers awaiting the death sentence, and a somewhat unbelievable discovery of 'the Philosopher's Stone' (look in the catalogue for the story).

A new exciting feature developed specifically for the online catalogue is the Name search: a facility enabling users to search biographies of

senior staff and departments of the Bank, and other related organisations. Each name entry is linked to relevant catalogue entries, giving more focussed searching and contextual information at the touch of a button. Type in 'Bank of England' in the Name box, and biographies of the departments of the Bank are returned. Navigate through these entries to build up an understanding of the administrative history of the Bank. Type in a key Bank role such as 'Governor' or 'Chief Cashier', and biographies of individuals who have held these posts are returned. Explore these by date or alphabetically by surname, and learn about some of the characters who have been associated with the Bank, including the Governor, Montagu Norman and author, Kenneth Grahame.

The importance of the Bank's Archive is already well recognised by international researchers, but through the online catalogue we hope its reach will be extended to other users, giving opportunities for new and exciting discoveries.

The catalogue is available at
www.bankofengland.co.uk/onlinearchive/



A cartoon from 'Our Magazine', an early Bank of England staff journal. It was started by the Bank's 'Pen and Pencil Club' and the first edition appeared in May 1884

Business Archives Seminar in Copenhagen

Alex Ritchie, Business Archives Advice Manager, The National Archives.

On 16-17 April 2012 delegates gathered in the Danish capital to attend the annual seminar of the International Council on Archives (Section for Business

and Labour). The seminar was titled 'With Constant Care...the Business Archivist in the 21st Century' and took place at the headquarters of A.P. Møller-Maersk, which

continued overleaf



An impressive view of the Møller-Maersk HQ in Copenhagen

among its activities operates the world's largest container shipping company.

The 96 delegates from 19 different countries, among which the UK was strongly represented, heard presentations on a number of themes, including sustainability, electronic records management and archives management during mergers and divestments. There were also excellent networking opportunities around a timetable that made full provision for this.

In addition to the generous hospitality provided by our hosts, an evening reception was laid on by VKR Holding A/S, a company best known outside Denmark through the popularity of its Velux skylights. The success of the seminar has encouraged early planning and preparation for a similar event, based around the issue of how to present a company's history in the modern world. Although many details remain to be agreed, this is scheduled to take place from 14-16 April 2013, at the offices of F. Hoffmann-La Roche Ltd in Basel, Switzerland.

BAC Journals Digitised

BAC members can now access past copies of the Journal back to 1965. SDS Heritage have kindly digitised these volumes at no cost to the BAC.

The digitised material includes articles, book reviews, bibliographies, lists of business records deposited and obituaries. One of the earliest articles reflects on the first thirty years of the BAC. Members can also read some reflections by John Wadsworth, whose name lives on in the annual BAC Wadsworth Prize for Business History. Developments in technology since 1965 can also be traced through the content of these journals.

BAC members can access the material by logging into the Members' Area and clicking on "Journals". If you have forgotten your password just follow the

instructions to get a new password. If you have not previously used the Members' Area then email Claire Twinn at clairetwinn_746@hotmail.com to get a login. Institutional members can enable automatic login via IP address. Simply send the IP addresses of the appropriate computer terminals to Claire at the above address.

The BAC is grateful to SDS for making this excellent resource available to members. Why not take a look?

More information about SDS can be found at www.sds-group.co.uk/heritage or by contacting Mark Coleman mark@sds-group.co.uk or on 07767 305777.



BAC Business History Bursary

This year the BAC bursary has been awarded to Eoin Drea, an Irish Research Council for the Humanities and Social Sciences (IRCHSS) Scholar at University College Cork. The award is to support his work on 'Continuity and Change in Banking in Ireland 1922-1943: An Anglo-Irish Context'. The bursary will be used to investigate the role played by British financial institutions in financing the Irish economy. As part of the study, he will visit the archives of the Bank of England and the Royal Bank of Scotland

BAC Chairman, Terry Gourvish, presenting Eoin Drea with the bursary award.



BAC Conference 2012

Born This Way: Business Archives and the Digital Record

8th November 2012

We are pleased to announce that the 2012 Business Archives Council Conference, *Born This Way: Business Archives and the Digital Record*, will be held on Thursday 8th November 2012 at The Baring Archive, 60 London Wall, London, EC2M 5TQ.

This year's conference will consider the challenges and opportunities which digital records present to business archivists, records managers and users. Speakers will look at born-digital and digitised records from a variety of perspectives including approaches to access, interpretation and education, enhancing the user-experience, regulation and compliance, and IT solutions.

For the first time this year the conference will include a panel discussion where experts will debate the future implications for the management of digital records in the business environment.

Our Speakers this year:-

- **Oliver Morley**, Chief Executive and Keeper, The National Archives
- **Dr William Kilbride**, Executive Director, Digital Preservation Coalition
- **Simon Rooks**, Multi-Media Archivist, BBC
- **David Hill**, Manager Information and Records, Bank of England
- **Vicky Stretch**, Archivist, Network Rail
- **Clara Harrow**, Archivist, The Baring Archive

Following the conference, a reception will take place for the presentation of the Wadsworth Prize for Business History. All delegates are invited to attend this reception.

To book your place:

A special 'early bird' rate of £70 is available if booking before 30 September. After this, the charge will be £80 for BAC and ABH members and £100 for non-members. A second or third delegate from the same member organisation will cost £60 each. We are pleased to be able to offer a discounted student rate of £20.

A booking form can be found on the BAC website at:

www.businessarchivescouncil.org.uk/activities/objectives/conference/

Any questions, please contact Katie Keys on 020 7332 3988 or Judith Wright on 0115 959 3472

Meet the Archivists

**James Mortlock, UK Corporate Archivist,
HSBC Holdings plc.**

The BAC is once again organising a Meet the Archivists workshop for students. The workshop aims to explore ways in which new research students can identify and use business records in a surprising variety of different research fields. Participants will be able to explore the vast and varied materials available at many of the UK's business archives. The day will commence with an archives skills workshop run by eminent academic historians, followed by a buffet lunch where participants will be able to meet the archivists. This year's event, to be held in on 29 November, will be hosted by The British Postal Museum and Archive. More information is available on the BAC website or at meetthearchivists.org.uk. Archives interested in participating should contact James Mortlock at james.mortlock@hsbc.com

Students wishing to register for the day should email meetthearchivists@businessarchivescouncil.org.uk

Business History Explorer

Members may remember from earlier reports that the BAC has supported Business History Explorer, an online bibliography of UK business and industry. The Council has funded the development of the online application and is making available its website for use as BHE's platform.

The project is now rapidly approaching publication. The bibliography now contains some 24,000 monographs, chapters, theses and manuscript histories covering the entire spectrum of UK business and industry. The application is up and running enabling items within the bibliography to be retrieved by name of business or industry; by city/town, local authority, county or country (including Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland) and by business sector and sub sector. The online database is also accompanied by a hardcopy summary.

Access is by subscription which will be available to BAC members at a substantially discounted rate. The compilers - John Orbell, Richard Storey and Francis Goodall - will be launching BHE at the annual conference in November. More information will be circulated to members before then.

Save the Date!

The second workshop on Archives and Artefacts will be on Friday 12 April and Saturday 13 April 2012. Full details, as well as a report on last April's event will follow in the next newsletter, but the theme is broadly on Commerce and the City of London.

Risks and Rewards Opens up the World of Finance to Young People

Clara Harrow, Archivist, The Baring Archive.

ING, The Baring Archive Limited and the East of England Broadband Network (E2BN) have joined forces to create Risks and Rewards, an interactive educational website.

Aimed at schoolchildren, Risks and Rewards is designed to help teachers raise their pupils' understanding of the financial world and illustrates aspects of the curriculum in mathematics, history, and economics.

The website draws directly from the archive and includes some of Barings' most notable deals. The site includes three main sections:

- **Would you invest?:** Travel through time and try your hand at investment. Animated characters explain potential deals, bringing alive the documents from the archive.
- **All about the City:** Follow the story of an imaginary company and learn about loans, shares and bonds. Interviews with people working in the City provide insight into the financial sector as a career option.
- **The story of Barings:** Learn more about Barings' history, from its establishment as a merchant bank in 1762 through to its eventual insolvency and acquisition by ING in 1995. A library of sources from the archive is also available.

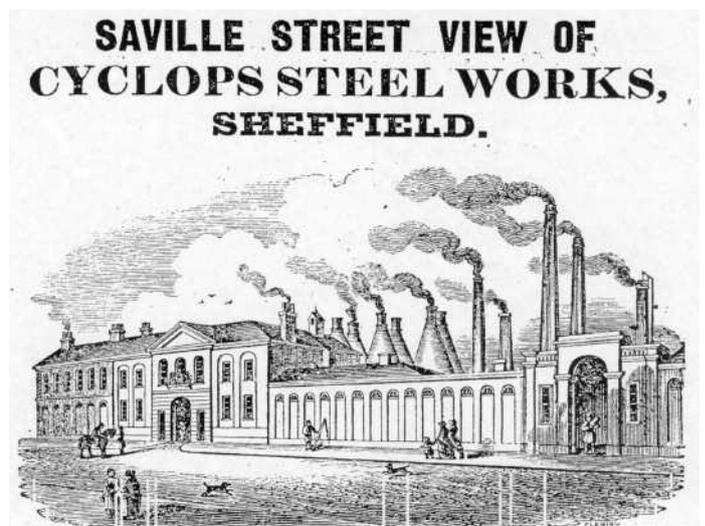
Risk and Rewards can be found at www.risksandrewards.co.uk



Sir Francis Baring (as portrayed by actor Glen Kinch) at the launch of Risks and Rewards

Ephemera Corner

The once dominant role played by Sheffield in the steel industry needs no comment. Note the 'frisky dogs' and passers-by added to this engraving of the Cyclops Steel Works as it appeared in Slater's directory of Sheffield 1852/53. Such embellishments were commonplace. Not all customers of the engraver's art were pleased to see smoke billowing from their factories when they has taken expensive measures to reduce pollution. This caused one engraver to state in the *Typographical Advertiser* of February 1863: 'We request our friends, when ordering engravings of mills, to ascertain if the gentleman giving the order "consumes his own smoke."'



The editor of this newsletter is Alan Gall. The next issue will appear in Autumn 2012. Prospective copy should be sent to Alan Gall, Tel: 0161 745 7029 (daytime) 01706 344429 (evening) Fax: 0161 745 9649 email: alanguall@hotmail.com Post: c/o SDA Electronics Ltd, Unit 30, Willan Industrial Estate, Eccles New Road, Salford M50 2GR.

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