



## FULLY BOOKED - THE BAC ANNUAL CONFERENCE

This year's conference 'Business Records in a Changing Archival Landscape' has been oversubscribed\*. The timeliness of the subject matter, an impressive programme, the opportunity for debate and contact, and no doubt an address by Dame Stella Rimington have proved to be a tempting mix.

The editor is pleased to include in this edition of the Newsletter, the BAC Chairman's address 'Business Archives Council - the Way Forward'. Chairman Terry Gourvish will deliver the address at the conference on 24th November. The 'Way Forward' reminds us all of the core activities of the BAC. Activities the Council can carry out effectively and within its means - activities which the Trustees are confident will make the Council's voice all the more effective in the

debates about the future for archives in the UK.

The trustees would like to take this opportunity to thank John Orbell for his excellent editorial work on the Newsletter over the past year. The Newsletter has remained an attractive and informative source for all of us during a period that has seen difficult times for the Council. Under John's editorship the Newsletter has proved a vital means of communicating with Council members and reassuring them that with a reassessment of priorities the BAC promises to go from strength to strength.

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\*Fiona Maccoll is keeping a reserve list in case of cancellations. To be added please contact Fiona on 020 7753 2123 or [fiona.maccoll@riotinto.com](mailto:fiona.maccoll@riotinto.com)

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## THE WAY FORWARD

Now that the Trustees have stabilised the Council's financial position, the Executive Committee's thoughts have turned to the way forward for the Council in its mission to promote the preservation and use of business records in Britain. This inevitably involves a prioritisation of our activities, in order to maximise the impact we have.

In the future the Council will vigorously maintain its core activities, and specifically:

### 1. Lobbying

The Council considers it imperative to maintain a voice in public debates about archives, heritage and related matters. Since there is no other body which represents business archives exclusively. To that end we gave evidence to the Archives Task Force in August. Here we highlighted a number of ways in which the currently challenging environment facing business archivists might be mediated. The Government should encourage private sector businesses to maintain archive services, for example, by offering tax incentives, facilitating trust arrangements, etc. The National Archives should take the lead in assessing and placing archives jettisoned by a parent company after takeover, merger or liquidation. The Business Archives Council undertakes to raise awareness in the wider business community and among academic institutions. We have appointed from within our trustee base a current awareness and lobbying officer to better co-ordinate efforts of this kind.

### 2. Publications

The Council is determined to maintain the strength and excellent quality of its journal, Business Archives and the two annual issues, 'Principles and Practice', and 'Sources and History.' We also intend to maintain the usefulness and attractiveness of our Newsletter under its new editor, Jane Waller.

### 3. Annual Conference

The Conference is an integral part of BAC life and a particular resource for our membership, since it acts as a recognised platform for debate and contact. The Trustees have put on an impressive programme for our November conference on 'Business Records in a Changing Archival Landscape' and will make every effort to maintain this standard in future years.

### 4. Wadsworth Prize

This Prize is firmly established as the premier award in British business history, and it is our firm intention to maintain it on an annual basis.

### 5. Bursary

The bursary, awarded every two years, has not been vigorously promoted within the community of scholars. However, the Council intends to re-establish it as an annual prize, and see that it flourishes as a support for scholars wishing to

*Continued overleaf*

embark on defined programmes in the exploitation of business archives.

Where possible other activities will be continued, but only if the resources, both financial and staffing, are available. Thus:

#### 6. Surveys

The Council has been particularly successful over the years in producing archival survey volumes of high quality and we welcome the publication of the pharmaceutical industry survey. It is unlikely that new projects will be undertaken in the short-run, but future surveys should not be ruled out, particularly where these were undertaken in partnership with an academic institution. Advice would be taken from the community of business historians as to opportunities for new work.

#### 7. Training

The Council is currently no longer in a position to provide

training courses and workshops. However, it will maintain its support to the Liverpool University archives course, where Sara Kinsey is convenor of the business archives module on the Council's behalf. Additional training events in partnership with others may be considered in the future.

#### 8. Advisory Service

Without an office and appropriate administrative support, the Council is currently unable to sustain an advisory service. It will however continue to act as a point of contact for inquiries about preservation and listing.

As Chairman I fully endorse this redirection in our strategy, which will maintain the unique contribution the Council has made to business archives in Britain over the last 70 years. We are anxious to recruit new members to our endeavours, and if anyone is interested in taking part in a more proactive way, they are invited to contact either me or the Secretary, Fiona Maccoll.

*Terry Gourvish, September 2003.*



## NOEL BUTLIN ARCHIVES CENTRE CELEBRATES 50TH ANNIVERSARY AND INSCRIPTION OF KEY GROUP OF BUSINESS RECORDS ON AUSTRALIAN MEMORY OF THE WORLD REGISTER

Dr. Pennie Pemberton, a long-standing member of the BAC, and her colleagues at the Noel Butlin Archives Centre [NBAC] at the Australian National University, have cause to celebrate this year. It is the 50th anniversary of the NBAC, a particularly significant event given that the future of the Centre has been under threat in recent years. In addition one of the NBAC's earliest collections, that of the Australian Agricultural Company [AACo], formed in London in 1824/5, has been inscribed on the (UNESCO) Australian Memory of the World Register.

**The AACo** was formed in London at the height of the stock market boom of 1824/5. The Company's plan was to raise fine woolled sheep in New South Wales, the wool to be sold in the London market.

The Company obtained a Royal Charter (for incorporation), an Act of Parliament (5GeoIV cap lxxi, regulating shareholding and direction) and a Crown Grant for one million acres of land. The nominal capital was one million pounds in £100 shares although the actual capital did not reach that sum until the 1950s. The Court (Board) of Directors remained in London until 1975 when the head office was removed to Tamworth (NSW) and then Brisbane in 1985.

The first 'establishment' of overseers, shepherds and mechanics arrived in the colony late in 1825. The Grant was taken up in one block at Port Stephens on the NSW central coast, although half was soon used in exchange for two blocks in the 'interior' – Warrah on the Liverpool Plains, and Goonoo

Goonoo at Peel River, the bases of the Company's pastoral operations well into the twentieth century.

In addition the AACo also took over the coal mines at Newcastle (NSW), remaining a major colliery proprietor until World War I. In the twentieth century the Company's operations gradually shifted into Queensland and the Northern Territory, and from sheep to cattle. Today the AACo is the second largest cattle operation and the second oldest company in Australia, after the Bank of New South Wales [Westpac].

**The NBAC**, formerly The ANU Archives of Business and Labour, was established to provide company, and then trade union, archives for research, the Centre's holdings now exceed thirteen shelf kilometres. With the university's own archives, the Centre is part of the ANU Archives Program (website [www.archives.anu.edu.au](http://www.archives.anu.edu.au)).

The first AACo Australian Office Records arrived at NBAC in 1955; the first London Office records in 1966. In all there are about 400 shelf metres of records of the AACo and its subsidiaries. The London Office records include the Court minutes from 1824 and the formal despatches, at least monthly, from New South Wales to London from 1825 to 1975.

**The Memory of the World programme** was established in 1992 to improve awareness and preservation of, and access to, the world's documentary heritage: the "memory" of mankind.

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Its International Register of the crucial documents of human history parallels the longer established World Heritage List, which protects the natural and built environment. In Australia in 2002, UNESCO launched the first register at a national level.

On 30 April 2003, the AACo records held at the NBAC were inscribed on the (UNESCO) Australian Memory of the World Register, they are the first company records to be included. For further details go to <http://www.amw.org.au/>.

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## BAC CHAIR VISITS BAC LIBRARY IN NEW HOME

On 17th July Chairman Terry Gourvish paid a visit to the Centre for Business History in Scotland to see the new home of the Business Archives Council's Library. Located on the ground floor of the Centre's impressive premises in 4 University Gardens, Glasgow, the Centre's Library provides a valuable resource for business historians.

The Council's former collection is housed separately from the Centre's collection, and their combination represents clear evidence of synergy. The Centre's collection is primarily modern and subject-based, while the BAC collection offers a rich vein of corporate and sector-based histories, and a unique collection of business pamphlets.

There is a plenty of space for visitors to consult the collection, and members wishing to do so should contact the administrator, Linda Craig, on 0141 330 6890, fax 0141 330 4889 or e-mail [lcr@socsci.gla.ac.uk](mailto:lcr@socsci.gla.ac.uk)

## GIVING EVIDENCE TO THE ARCHIVES TASK FORCE

As mentioned in 'The Way Forward' above, in August Edwin Green, Eamon Dyas and Melanie Aspey attended the Archives Task Force [ATF] on behalf of the BAC. The ATF, established by Resource at the invitation of the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, is charged with undertaking a detailed investigation and analysis of the state of the UK's archives. The ATF is due to report to government and funding agencies in the winter of 2003. The BAC team produced and presented a written submission (included in a recent mailing to BAC members). The BAC team is confident that their presentation was worthwhile and that the ATF had a greater understanding of the varying nature and complexity of business archives following the meeting. They were assured that business archives would feature more prominently in the ATF report than the ATF had previously expected.

Stuart Davies, Director of Strategy and Planning, Resource, and Member of the ATF is speaking at the conference. His talk, 'Resource – will it make a difference to the business archives community?' will provide an opportunity to debate the subject and to measure the impact of the BAC's submission to the ATF.

The Council has received the sad news that Roger Pearson of South Harrow, a BAC member since 1991, passed away in June. The BAC extends its deepest sympathy to Roger's family.

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*'A magnificent achievement' is how Iain S. Black, of King's College, London, describes John Orbell and Alison Turton's British Banking: A Guide to Historical Records (Aldershot: Ashgate, 2001. 674 pp. £55.00), published under the auspices of the BAC, in his review in the Financial History Review 10(1), April 2003, 105-6.*

## IN BRIEF

- On Friday 14th November the ARLIS Visual Archives Committee will host 'Reaching Out: Marketing and Publicising Your Archives' at the National Gallery, Trafalgar Square, London. ARLIS has organized some excellent training events in recent years. 'Reaching Out' will cover marketing and raising your profile, education, exhibitions, on-line resources and outreach through partnership. Speakers are from both private and public sectors. Contact Adam Waterton, Royal Academy of Arts Library, 020 7300 5740, adamw@royalacademy.org.uk if you are interested in attending the training day.
- If you would like to receive Resource's press releases, weekly ebulletin and other relevant information join *Resourcenews*, Resource's email list. You can join by visiting [www.jiscmail.ac.uk/lists/resourcenews.html](http://www.jiscmail.ac.uk/lists/resourcenews.html) and signing up or by emailing Emma Wright, Resource's Media and Events Manager at [emma.wright@resource.gov.uk](mailto:emma.wright@resource.gov.uk).
- The deadline for submissions for the European Association for Banking History's Biennial Prize for young scholars working on European banking history is 30th November 2004. The EUR 2,500 prize will be awarded in Vienna in 2005. Applicants should not be over 35 when submitting their manuscripts. Contact Ms. Gabriella Massaglia, +49 69 97 20 33 07, [info@bankinghistory.de](mailto:info@bankinghistory.de)
- For those who have not already seen it, *History Books from The National Archives – New Titles Spring-Autumn 2003 and Complete Backlist* is an attractive and useful guide to the results of The National Archive's publishing programme. Go to [www.nationalarchives.gov.uk](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk) for more details.
- September 2003 was Archive Awareness Month [AAM], a national initiative in which 200 organisations prepared over 450 events to celebrate the diversity of archives held in the United Kingdom and Ireland. Many of the initiatives were published online so the well designed AAM website at [www.aamsept2003.com](http://www.aamsept2003.com) is well worth a visit.
- At a recent BAC Executive Committee meeting the trustees congratulated Chairman Terry Gourvish on his appointment to the House of Commons Transport Committee as a Special Advisor.



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## AMBITION AND DISTRACTION: REMEMBERING SILAS MAINVILLE BURROUGHS 1846-1895. WELLCOME LIBRARY 29TH OCTOBER 2003 – 9TH JANUARY 2004

A recent acquisition of personal and business records and a forthcoming biography have made possible an exhibition in the Wellcome Library reading room on the life of Silas Burroughs.

Silas Burroughs unexpected death in 1895 at the age of 49 left his business partner Henry Wellcome sole owner of the company Burroughs Wellcome & Co. His death shocked friends and business acquaintances internationally, and was regarded as a great loss to the pharmaceutical industry. Yet his role in founding the company and contribution to its first successful 17 years has been overlooked. So too has his active work in politics and philanthropy.

The Library recently acquired some of the personal papers of Burroughs and the business records of Burroughs Wellcome & Co. These archives, together with research undertaken for a forthcoming biography of Burroughs, make it possible to exhibit some hitherto unknown aspects of the life of this singular man.

The exhibition is curated by Julia Sheppard. Admission is free and opening times are Monday-Friday 9.45-17.15, with late nights on Tuesday and Thursday until 19.15, and Saturday 9.45-13.00. Wellcome Library for the History and Understanding of Medicine, 183 Euston Road, London NW1 2BE. [www.library.wellcome.ac.uk](http://www.library.wellcome.ac.uk).

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The opinions in this Newsletter are not necessarily those of the Council or the Newsletter Editor.

The Editor of this Newsletter is Jane Waller. The next issue will appear in early 2004. Prospective copy should be sent to Jane Waller at ING Bank NV, 60 London Wall, London EC2M 5TQ; [jane.waller@uk.ing.com](mailto:jane.waller@uk.ing.com).

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