



SPOTLIGHT ON: THE WOOLWICH ARCHIVES

Researchers may be interested to know that a new archival source has recently become available. Barclays took over the Woolwich in 2000 and its archives are now open to the public, subject to the same conditions as the records of Barclays Bank PLC. We are able to make them available so soon because the Woolwich had looked after its archives, and a paper list is currently being converted onto our database. While this conversion will take some time and much of the more recent material awaits listing, the pre-1970 records are available. As few building society records have been (or are) publicly available I hope that this information will encourage researchers looking for fresh areas and/or underused records to make use of the material.

The Woolwich was established in 1847 as one of the first of the new 'non-terminating' societies. It was called the Woolwich Equitable Benefit Building and Investment Association and the entrance fee was 2 shillings and six pence. Many of the early advances went to local tradesmen investing in property to rent. As with much of the financial sector there was little or no regulation during this period, and many societies were incompetent and/or fraudulent. In 1869, the year in which the Woolwich Dockyard closed causing a heavy run on deposits, some of the better-regulated societies, including the Woolwich, came together to promote legislation. This resulted in the Building

Society Act of 1874 under which the Woolwich was incorporated in 1875.

Between 1941 and 1992 twelve building societies, many of which had themselves taken over smaller societies, were taken over by the Woolwich. Between 1948 and 1966 the Woolwich came third in terms of total assets after the Halifax and Abbey National. It was still the fourth largest society in 1987 when the Building Societies Act brought building societies into competition with banks and paved the way for societies to become public companies. The Woolwich expanded its services in line with this increased freedom and in 1996 the society sought its members' permission to convert to a public company. By 2000 it had 6,500 employees, 400 branches and circa 4 million customers.

As financial institutions go through another period of amalgamations and acquisitions, the records of the Woolwich will form a useful source for charting building society history, from 19th century birth as a small self-help organisation and internally-generated growth through to takeover; conversion to bank; the end of mutuality and ultimately takeover by a clearing bank. They are also an excellent source for the study of housing in the areas in which they operated.

*Jessie Campbell,
Group Archivist, Barclays Bank plc*

NEWS FROM THE TERCENTENARIANS' CLUB

Regular correspondent (and 1962 Brain of Britain!) Henry Button has retired as honorary secretary of the Tercentenarians Club after 32 years' service. A presentation was made during the Club's annual meeting at the recently refurbished Dulwich Picture Gallery earlier this year. Membership of the club is open to businesses that have been trading continuously for 300 years or more and retain links with a founding family. The club was founded in 1970 by Geoffrey Durtneil (R Durtneil & Son, builders, founded 1591) and Richard Early (Early's of Witney, blankets & bedding, founded 1669); there are currently nine UK members and six foreign associates. Henry Button points out that if all goes well, the club will welcome the BAC President Sam Twining as its next eligible member in 2006!

PUBLISHER'S ARCHIVES REVEAL DRACULA CONTRACT

The original publishing contracts for Bram Stoker's *Dracula*, signed by the author in 1897, are expected to fetch up to £50,000 at Sotheby's in July. The contracts for *The Un-Dead*, the original title, were discovered by chance among the publisher's archives.

The publisher was A. Constable & Co. (now part of Constable and Robinson), founded in 1890 by Archibald Constable, grandson of Walter Scott's publisher.

Source: *The Times*, Thursday 17 May,
supplied by
Nick Mays, News International plc

GENESIS: DEVELOPING ACCESS TO WOMEN'S HISTORY SOURCES IN THE UNITED KINGDOM

In January 2001 The Women's Library celebrated the news that it had been successful in its bid to the Research Support Libraries Programme (RSLP) to receive funding for a mapping project on women's history sources. I was appointed in April as Genesis Project Manager and am really enjoying my first frantic weeks of developing the initial groundwork into a successful project. The Genesis project will identify, unify and organise information on women's history sources through the dual strategy of:

- A portal which will provide a single web-based access point to women's history research sources, alongside a gateway to electronic information brought together for the benefit of the research community.
- A mapping exercise to locate and describe collections on a database developed using Oracle tools with Internet extensions, linked to the web server holding the Genesis portal. Data will be captured using UKOLN Collection Description templates and all the relevant international standards will be implemented, where appropriate, to ensure future data exchange capability.

Collections have been chosen for their excellence and contribution to a broad representative coverage, enabling researchers from many disciplines to identify and locate relevant resources and so improve the quality of their research. These collections will come from part-

ners representing national, HEFCE funded and independent specialist collections, who will contribute mapping data, with the assistance of the Genesis project team based at The Women's Library (formerly The Fawcett Library) at London Guildhall University. There are currently 43 partners involved in the Genesis project and one area that has been overlooked is sources on women's history within business archives. RSLP funding ends in July 2002 by which time the web portal shall be fully operational, however this means that time is short, so if you have a collection that you believe would be suitable for the Genesis project please contact me at the address below.

Details of all the RSLP projects are available on the RSLP website (due to be launched in June 2001): www.rslp.ac.uk

CONTACT DETAILS

Victoria Killick
Genesis Project Manager
The Women's Library
London Guildhall University
Calcutta House
Old Castle Street
London, E1 7NT
Telephone: 020 7320 1268

NEW ONLINE ARCHIVE RESOURCES: ROUNDUP

Archival Research Projects Register (ARPR)

A pilot version of the ARPR, providing a single reference point for information on a range of archive-related projects, is available via the Historical Manuscripts Commission website at <http://www.hmc.gov.uk/arpr>

The ARPR contains a brief description of each project, together with organisers' contact details. Where possible, links have been provided to project websites, and to those of the parent bodies and any external funders. The ARPR can be searched by the title of the project, the geographical region to which it relates, or by keywords describing the type of project that it is. The site is not yet comprehensive, and anyone wishing to submit details of a project or to amend information already on the register, is invited to do so using the online registration facility provided on the website.

Alternatively, comments can be made in writing to:
Archival Research Projects Register
Historical Manuscripts Commission
Quality House
Quality Court
Chancery Lane
London WC2A 1HP

CASBAH Project

(Caribbean Studies, Black and Asian History)

The redesigned CASBAH website is now live at the URL <http://www.casbah.ac.uk>. The site includes information about the scope of the project, reports, news and events, a searchable database (still in development), links to associated websites. The results of pilot surveys of relevant material at the Labour History Archive & Study Centre (National Museum of Labour History) and the Trades Union Congress Library Collections (University of North London) are also featured.

Heritage Image Partnership

URL: <http://heritage-images.com>

A new online picture library featuring images from leading UK institutions, many of which have not previously been available commercially. Partners with images available via the site comprise the British Library, National Museum of Photography, Film and Television, Science Museum, National Monuments Record, National Railway Museum, Corporation of London Libraries and Guildhall Art Gallery.

New users of the site have the opportunity to win a copy of Photogenic, a showcase of works from the Royal Photographic Society. To enter, simply register as a 'User' on the Heritage Image Partnership website and enter the word 'Photogenic' in the box marked 'Promotion Code'. Entry and registration are free, and the closing date for entries is 1 July 2001.

RESEARCH RESOURCES IN MEDICAL HISTORY

Earlier this year the British Library and the Wellcome Trust launched a £1 million competitive grants scheme funded by the Wellcome Trust. The 'Research Resources in Medical History' scheme aims to support the preservation of documentary material of interest to medical historians and improve access to these and other medically important collections.

The scheme began in January 2001 and will run for two years. The next closing date for preliminary applications is 15 June 2001. The grants are open to all UK institutions. For further details of the scheme, please see <http://www.bl.uk/concord/medical.html>

or contact:

Anna Grundy
The Administrator
Research Resources in Medical History
The British Library
Co-operation and Partnership Programme (Floor 4 Zone 6)
96 Euston Road
London NW1 2DB

Tel: 020 7412 7052

Fax: 020 7412 7155

E-mail: medical-history@bl.uk

TAKING PART: AN AUDIT OF SOCIAL INCLUSION WORK IN ARCHIVES

Taking Part is based on a survey of the Places of Deposit, conducted by the National Council on Archives, in collaboration with the English Regional Archive Council during January and February.

The report looks at the different ways in which archives can contribute to the promotion of social inclusion and assesses how archives are tackling the Department of Culture, Media and Sport's own social inclusion framework which was aimed at museums, libraries and archives.

Examples of good practice are used to illustrate the report's themes. Although the report is aimed at public sector archives, business repositories provided 4% of survey responses, and the results will be of use to anyone interested in the relationship between business archives and corporate social responsibility. If you would like to receive a copy please mail Dawn Routledge at: dawn.routledge@resource.gov.uk.

NEW EDITION OF HMC STANDARD FOR RECORD REPOSITORIES

The Commission announces the publication, in electronic form, of the third edition (2001) of the HMC Standard for record repositories. The text may be downloaded free of charge. Alternatively a hard copy print-out can be supplied by HMC on receipt of a cheque for £3 made payable to the Historical Manuscripts Commission. Revision of the Standard was undertaken in consultation with the Public Record Office, the National Archives of Scotland, the Society of Archivists, the Association of Chief Archivists in Local Government, the National Preservation Office and Resource. Sections 1 to 3 are substantially as in the second edition, but with a few significant changes. Section 4 has been extensively rewritten. The guidelines for repositories seeking recognition, which formed an Appendix to the second edition, have been completely rewritten to take account of BS 5454:2000, and have been incorporated in the body of the Standard as a new Section 5.

The Standard can be viewed in the Electronic Publications section of the HMC website: <http://www.hmc.gov.uk/pubs/>. A PDF version will be available shortly.

NEW ARRIVAL

A transatlantic archive move took place in January this year, when the Parker pen company archives were shipped from the offices of parent company Gillette in Boston, USA, to the Parker headquarters in Newhaven, East Sussex. The archives contain business records, a complete series of advertising material and over seven thousand pens. The material has been partially listed, but the first priority for archivist David Rudeman will be to find a permanent home at Parker House for the collection, which is currently in intermediate storage. George Safford Parker, a telegraphy teacher from Janesville Wisconsin, founded Parker in 1888, after becoming frustrated by the unreliability of his students' pens.

A NEW IDEA IN SELF-FILLING FOUNTAIN PENS

An advance step in Self-Filler construction—the new Parker Self-Filler. No humps, bumps, or outside projections to interfere with your grip or writing. I am sure you will like it.—Geo. S. Parker

PARKER LUCKY CURVE Self-Filling FOUNTAIN PENS

Take off shield cap at end of barrel, drop pen point in any inkwell, press button—fills itself in 2 seconds. At any Parker Dealer. Regular prices prevail.

Parker Jack Knife Safety
A great favorite. Carry it upside down, rightside up or flat—any socket, trunk, travel or hand bag. Can't leak because of locking device which holds in the ink, and the Lucky Curve, the big idea that has made the Parker famous.

Transparent Bakelite Fountain Pen
Looks exactly like clear, transparent amber—shows amount of ink in barrel and how the Lucky Curve draws back the ink.

Over 200 styles—Self-Filling, Jack Knife Safety and Standard. If you cannot locate a dealer, write us for illustrated catalog.
Parker Pen Co., 144 Mill St., Janesville, Wis.

Visit our New York Retail Store, in the Woolworth Bldg., and see every style of Parker Pen manufactured.

No. 03—\$2.50 No. 2475—\$4.00 No. 24—\$1.00
with clip, 2.75 with clip, 4.25 with clip, 4.25

1893 newspaper advertisement for Parker's fifth patent and first real success, *The Lucky Curve*.

LAUNCH OF CHARLES BOOTH ONLINE ARCHIVE

The Charles Booth Online Archive provides free access to a new, detailed online catalogue of materials relating to Booth's survey into life and labour in London (1886-1903). The organisation of trade and industry, the lives and employment of women, the effects of national and international migration, leisure activities, and the religious life of the capital are all described in fascinating detail in the archive of 450 survey notebooks. 31 of the notebooks, describing walks accompanying policemen on their beats, have been digitised and are available to view on line. Visitors to the site can also view and search the digitised images of 12 colour-coded maps of London poverty, produced from Booth's survey.

As well as the information on the website itself, the online catalogue provides details of further material in the LSE's Library archives (where the 450 original survey notebooks are available to view). The Charles Booth Online Archive also offers a catalogue of Booth family papers held at the University of London Library archives and seven digitised editions of the Booth family magazine.

For further information, visit the website at <http://www.lse.ac.uk/booth>, or contact:

Library Archives

London School of Economics and Political Science

10 Portugal Street, London WC2A 2HD

Tel: +44 (0)20 7955 7223 Fax: +44 (0)20 7955 7454

Email: document@lse.ac.uk <http://www.blpes.lse.ac.uk/archives>

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

13th June 2001

Description Training Day,

The Imperial Hotel, Russell Square, London WC1B 5BB

Includes current standards, retrospective conversion and networking finding aids. There will be workshop sessions on arrangement techniques and implementing description standards.

Course fee: £105 including lunch and a handbook

Contact: TASC, May Cottage, Fountayne Road, London N16 7EB or email: janet@archive-skills.com

July 2001 (date to be confirmed)

Business Archives, Society of Archivists training event, *Chelmsford.*

Contact: Susan Bradshaw, SoA Training Officer, tel/fax: 01872 273440, e-mail: susan.bradshaw@archives.org.uk

12 July 2001

Accounting Records, Society of Archivists training event, *London.*

Contact Susan Bradshaw as above.

23-27 July 2001

Managing electronic records

School of Library, Archive and Information Studies summer course to be held at UCL, Gower Street, London.

Intended for practising archivists and records managers who want to increase their expertise in managing electronic records. For more information and a booking form see <http://www.ucl.ac.uk/slais/events/summercourses/index.html>

EUROPEAN BANK FOR RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT : 10TH ANNIVERSARY EXHIBITION

In April of this year the London based European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) celebrated its first 10 years in operation. The commemorative events include an exhibition developed by the Records Management and Archives team. The exhibition comprises 15 panels, covering three broad areas: history and establishment of the Bank, evolution and operations. A number of display cases exhibiting key documents and objects are also featured.

One set of panels illustrates the Bank's conception, establishment and inauguration, with an area devoted to a brief outline of key events between 1945 and the fall of the Berlin Wall. For the 'Evolution' panels, the aim was to gather information to document how the Bank, its strategy and activities, have evolved over the last ten years. They are designed to show how the Bank coped with events such as the aftermath of the 1998 financial crisis in Russia and to reflect the changes in the Bank's countries of operations over the past decade. The final objective was to highlight the Bank's operations in the 26 countries of the former Eastern bloc. Five projects, representing a range of countries and sectors, have been chosen to reflect the Bank's work in the region.

The exhibition was scheduled to run for one month in the main coffee area of the Bank, but due to popular demand, this has been extended for another two months and may lead to permanent displays of the Bank's archival material. All in all, this exhibition has not only been a valuable experience for members of the Records and Archives team, but has equally served to raise wider awareness of the importance of preserving the Bank's archives.

The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) was established in 1991.

It exists to foster the transition towards open market-oriented economies and to promote private and entrepreneurial initiative in the countries of central and eastern Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) committed to and applying the principles of multiparty democracy, pluralism and market economics.

The Business Archive Council's Newsletter is published quarterly by the Business Archives Council, 101 Whitechapel High Street, London E1 7RE (Tel: 020 7247 0024). Registered Charity No.31336.

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

The next issue will appear in September 2001. Prospective copy is welcomed and should be sent to the Council's offices, to arrive no later than Friday 10 August 2001.

© 2001 Business Archives Council

Printed by Paterson Printing Limited,

21 Chapman Way, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN2 3EF

Tel: 01892 511212, Fax: 01892 519566, www.patersons.com