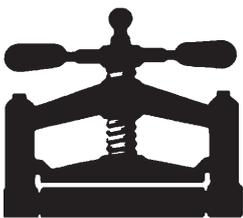


Newsletter



**BUSINESS
ARCHIVES
COUNCIL**

Business Records Development Officer

The Council is delighted to introduce to members the newly appointed Business Records Development Officer. Congratulations to Robert Brown on his appointment and we look forward to working with him when he takes up his post at the end of May.

Background to this key development: In summer 2005 the Council announced in these pages that funding arrangements for the BRDO post had been finalised. The post has been made possible by the generous support of the Business Archives Council, The National Archives (TNA), the Society of Archivists, MLA, CyMAL and the Economic History Society.

Back in 2003 at the Council's AGM it was decided that a Round Table should be established involving representatives of the business archives community and TNA. The Round Table met for the first time in March 2004. In December 2004 the Round Table wrote to The National Archives (TNA) requesting a meeting to discuss the possibility of creating a two year, full-time post for a Business Records Development Officer (BRDO), based at Kew. The BRDO would fill gaps in the business archives map and deal with special cases and emergencies. TNA welcomed the approach and a meeting was then held in April 2005 to discuss the objectives, governance and funding for such a post. Funding arrangements were completed in late 2005 and Robert Brown was recently appointed.

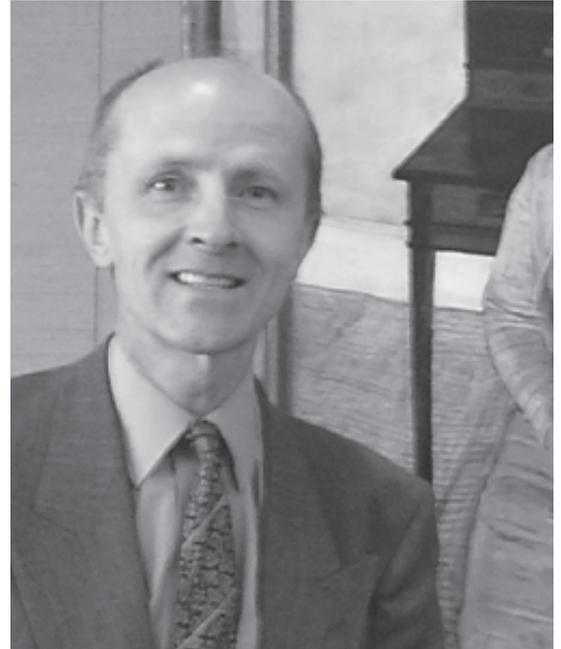
Before officially taking up his new post at TNA Robert kindly agreed to a short Q&A session:

What will be the biggest challenge of the job?

The first and greatest challenge is to consult widely and produce a national strategy, launched by TNA, for the preservation and greater use of business archives. I envisage a policy document akin to the Archives Taskforce report. As well as making sure business leaders are aware of advantageous tax breaks, the benefits of the creation of archive trusts, etc., we also want make sure they, and the CBI, give more consideration to the wider business archival heritage.

What do you think are the current strengths and weaknesses of the business archives sector?

I am generally impressed with the support structures for business archivists via the BAC and the BRG - but the coordination has



Robert Brown
Business Records Development Officer

depended on unpaid commitment to the sector. Hopefully TNA will be able to find funding for more online tool kits and advice. We also hope to look more at backlog issues - business collections tend to sit uncatalogued for too long!

Why did you want the BRDO job?

I have worked in business history, and used business archives, for most of my career - most especially with BP. Having just finished the diploma in archives and records management at UCL, this challenging post seemed perfect for me: I can understand both professional concerns and the needs of users (corporate and academic/public). It is also an exciting time to be joining TNA - its remit is changing so much.

What is the most bizarre thing you have come across in a business archive?

The most bizarre experience was coming across a photo of Dylan Thomas in the BP archive, dating from 1951. It turned out he had visited Abadan with a film crew to make a documentary film about the company's operations in Iran. He wrote the script, but the film was scuppered by the nationalization of the company's oil-producing facilities in Iran shortly afterwards by Dr Musaddiq. I had hopes of finding the script in the archive, but it turned out that Thomas re-used it as a poetic radio monologue.

continued from front page

What would be your ideal holiday?

I like visiting exotic locations, and have been to the Yemen, Uzbekistan and Iran in recent years. I hope to travel next across India by train.

And finally what is your favourite book?

Anthony Powell, *A Dance to the Music of Time*. A very fine 12 volume novel which brilliantly captures early and mid-20th century British life.

Congratulations to Twinings on its 300th Anniversary

Longstanding BAC member Twinings celebrates its 300th anniversary this year – many congratulations. With the associated advertising campaign, featuring actor Stephen Fry exclaiming “An everyday tea you can drink all day long. 300 years? What took them so long?!” Twinings sets an excellent example of how knowledge of and respect for a distinguished corporate history can make a very real contribution to a successful modern business.

Sam Twining has been the Council’s President since 1995 and was of course Chairman from 1972 until 1995. The Council takes this opportunity to thank Sam for his leadership over several decades – a tremendous commitment to the Council.

Twinings have had a shop on the Strand in London since 1717 and today the firm’s history can be experienced at 216 The Strand, London, WC2R 1AP. The Strand shop boasts a small museum, which charts the history of the Twinings family, along with examples of tea caddies and more unusual items from the world of tea. Many members will remember Twinings’ hospitality at the Strand shop for BAC events and meetings over the years.

In Brief:

- The Royal Automobile Club Archives Catalogue Goes Online. Since November 2005 the online catalogue has been available to RAC members and the general public at <http://www.royalautomobileclub.co.uk>.
- The National Archive Currency Converter. In 1680, employing a craftsman for 13 days would cost you the equivalent of just one hour with a modern plumber. In 1270, for the same amount, you could add five extra days of craftsman work, 14 lbs of wool and a bale of wheat. These are just some of the many interesting facts you can look up on TNA’s new currency conversion program at <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/currency/>. You can convert old money into new equivalent values, and you can also see what the relative buying power of money was in days gone by.
- The Institute of Historical Research (IHR) is pleased to announce that it has been awarded US\$900,000 by The Andrew W Mellon Foundation to develop British History Online (<http://www.british-history.ac.uk>), the digital library for the medieval and early modern history of the British Isles. The award, made under the Foundation’s Scholarly Communications Programme, will fund additional digitisation, the creation of new partnerships, outreach activity and the establishment of a sustainable long-term business model. Phase II of the project, from 1 August 2006, will see the expansion of the British History Online digital library to include the National Archives Calendars of State Papers, Domestic (1547–1704, 1760–75), a further 40 volumes of the Victoria County History and a range of sources for the social, administrative, economic and political history of Britain.
- The Women’s Committee of the Economic History Society are holding their Annual Workshop in November 2006 at the University of Leeds on the theme of ‘Gender and Business’. All enquiries to Katrina Honeyman, School of History, University of Leeds, LEEDS, LS2 9JT; k.honeyman@leeds.ac.uk

Important Changes for Readers at Kew

Following the discovery of forged papers in the archives last year The National Archive (TNA) has revised the rules on notebooks and loose sheets that can be taken into the reading rooms as follows:

- Only notebooks or pads that are bound by spiral wire, staples or stitching will be permitted
- Notebooks or pads that have a glue binding, or have ‘easy tear’ micro-perforations will not be permitted.
- Loose sheets, or pads with unacceptable bindings, must be stapled before arrival, or can be stapled at the security desk before being taken into the reading rooms.

These changes have been introduced following consultation with regular users, and are intended to help us to continue to protect the security and integrity of the records in its care.

In addition to this change, TNA are currently running a

three month trial which permits a wider range of personal technology devices into the reading rooms. These changes are as follows:

Any personal device (such as a laptop, palm computer, camera, mobile phone or mp3 player) may be taken into and used in the reading rooms as long as the following conditions are met:

- Use of the device does not disturb other users, or the general quiet nature of the reading rooms (for example: devices must operate in ‘silent’ mode)
- Use of the device does not pose a threat to the safety of the records, or other people
- Devices that are to be used as cameras in the reading rooms must be registered with Record Copying before use in the reading rooms.

The outcome of this trial will be judged on feedback from staff and users.

MISSING LADIES INSPIRE PERFORMANCE ART

*Collaboration between Wimbledon School of Art,
the National Maritime Museum and ING Bank NV*



*Image by Peter Farley, Wimbledon School of Art,
featuring Sir Francis Baring, 1804 by Benjamin West*

On 23rd May a rather unusual Private View took place at the City offices of BAC member ING Bank. The Private View, the culmination of a project involving ING, Wimbledon School of Art (WSA), the National Maritime Museum and several secondary schools, featured performance artists responding to a historical portrait in ING's prestigious London art collection.

The project, *Re-Inventing*, was initiated and led by Professor Eileen Hogan of WSA. *Re-Inventing* involved school children and students and tutors from WSA responding to the permanent art collections at ING and the National Maritime Museum. The results will hang at ING for a couple of months and then later in the year at the Museum. At each venue the responses will be exhibited alongside the original work – at ING the original works include paintings by Stanley Spencer, LS Lowry, Leonard Rosoman, Carel Weight and Ivon Hitchens.

The evening was made particularly special by WSA performance artists with their response to an 1804 Benjamin West portrait of Sir Francis Baring, founding partner of Baring Brothers the investment bank acquired by ING in 1995. Legend has it that although the portrait now contains just the solitary figure of Sir Francis it originally featured the ladies of Sir Francis' family and that the ladies' dislike of the portrait caused it to be cut down to its current size. Using the bank's archive and published histories the WSA performing arts students and tutors created a performance piece inspired by the life of Harriet Baring, wife of Sir Francis. The performance was well received and brought to life, albeit via a fictional script, several personalities featured in The Baring Archive.

Rod Bugg, Principal of Wimbledon School of Art said of *Re-Inventing*: "It is a rare and creative partnership, weaving bonds between communities which might otherwise never meet, and triggering new work for exhibition within the context of the existing art collections at the offices of ING and the National Maritime Museum."

Re-Inventing is one event in ING's UK Art Programme. The Programme is managed by the firm's archivists. Enquiries to Jane Waller, ING Bank NV, +44 207 767 1944, jane.waller@uk.ing.com.



**Centre for
International
Business History:**

Doctoral Research Opportunities



Reading's Centre for International Business History (CIBH) is one of the leading international centres for research into business history and related areas. CIBH welcomes applicants (including part-time and mature students) for doctoral research in any field of business history and is particularly interested in students who might be interested in undertaking research on the following topics:

- **History of advertising**
- **Financial institutions and the development of new/small businesses**
- **The development of modern retailing**
- **Financial history**
- **Economic development of the film industry (UK or internationally)**
- **The development of the British electrical goods industry, 1919-1939**
- **Emergence of intensive rearing regimes in the modern food industry**

A number of bursaries/studentships are available. For further information, please contact Peter Scott (p.m.scott@reading.ac.uk). Information regarding CIBH and its activities is available via <http://www.rdg.ac.uk/business/default.asp?id=90> and for information on bursaries and studentships at the University of Reading Business School, see <http://www.rdg.ac.uk/business/default.asp?id=135>

Date for your diary



Exciting news about this year's conference. We are going north of the border to Edinburgh to join forces with our sister organisations – the Business Records Group of the Society of Archivists, the Business Archives Council Scotland and the Section on Business and Labour Archives of the International Council on Archives. Our conference title is 'Managing Business Archives: a global perspective' and the line-up of distinguished speakers includes archivists from Hong Kong, the US and Europe in addition to archivists and academics from the UK.

The conference will tackle such issues as globalisation and digitisation, and will also include a session which will examine the different strategies and initiatives that have been adopted by different countries for managing their records of business.

The venue is the conference centre of the Royal Bank of Scotland in Edinburgh; the date is Friday 17 November. We will be posting details and forms out in due course and we'll see you there!

Reintroduction of London Visits

Wednesday, 19 July, 6-8pm. ING, 60 London Wall, EC2M 5TQ.

The Council is reintroducing its popular London Visits programme. ING Bank has kindly agreed to host the first event and members are invited to an evening at the Bank's City offices on 19 July 2006. ING's fine art collection and The Baring Archive are referred to in the article *Missing Ladies Inspire Performance Art* above.

ING's London art collection includes historical portraits by the likes of Sir Thomas Lawrence, Gilbert Stuart and Benjamin West; twentieth century British paintings by artists such as Sir Stanley Spencer, Sir Mathew Smith and LS Lowry; and a beautiful collection of English watercolours including works by Samuel Palmer, John Cotman and Paul Sandby.

The Baring Archive, owned by ING since its acquisition of Baring Brothers in 1995, is an extraordinary record of the development of an eighteenth century merchant house into an international investment bank and is one of the finest financial institution archives anywhere in the world. The financing of the 1803 Louisiana Purchase and the construction of railroads around the globe are just two examples of landmark deals described in the archives.

If you would like to join us on the 19 July for a glass of wine and tour of ING's art collection and The Baring Archive, please email archive@uk.ing.com.

National Register of Archives - 50,000 online links

The National Register of Archives (NRA) has reached a major milestone with the creation of over 50,000 online links to networks, including A2A, AIM25, Archives Network Wales and Archives Hub, as well as repositories' own online catalogues. The NRA is continually adding more links at a rate of approximately 20,000 per year.

The NRA contains information on the nature and location of manuscripts and historical records that relate to British history held both publicly and privately, throughout the United Kingdom and abroad. Researchers using the NRA can now click on the links to find full catalogue descriptions. The NRA can be easily searched at www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/nra/.

STOP PRESS

HSBC Archives will be closed from the end of June until mid-October this year as the archive collections are moved into new and improved storage. HSBC Archives would be grateful if BAC members could bring this to the attention of any researchers who are thinking of visiting during this time. It will still be possible to contact the archivists during this period but there may be some occasional delays in responding.
HSBC Archives +44 207 992 1560.

The Editor of this Newsletter is Jane Waller. The next issue will appear in Summer 2006. Prospective copy should be sent to Jane Waller at ING Bank NV, 60 London Wall, London EC2M 5TQ; jane.waller@uk.ing.com.

The Hon Secretary is Karen Sampson, Archivist, Lloyds TSB Group Archives, 25 Gresham St, London EC2V 7HN (tel: +44 (0) 207 860 5945);

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