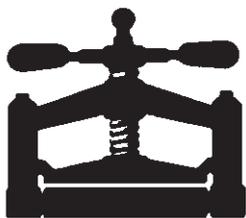


Newsletter



**BUSINESS
ARCHIVES
COUNCIL**

250th Anniversary Celebrations at The Baring Archive

Moira Lovegrove, Archivist (Projects), The Baring Archive.



1037 visitors saw The Baring Archive's travelling exhibition at Devon Record Office (19th September to 31st October 2012)

To celebrate 250 years since the establishment of Barings on Christmas Day 1762, The Baring Archive has organised several temporary exhibitions and events.

The programme began in September 2012 with a six-week exhibition at Devon Heritage Centre in Exeter. Francis Baring and his brothers, the firm's founders, were born in Exeter, so this was certainly an appropriate place to begin our celebrations. The exhibition featured a large timeline display board and a display of original archives from both the Baring Archive and Devon Heritage Centre.

The next stop for the exhibition was the Manor House, Lee, where the timeline remained until the end of the year. The Manor House was purchased by Sir Francis Baring and owned by the Barings for over a hundred years. It is now a public library.

The Barings have many connections with Hampshire, owning several estates in the county at various times. Consequently the timeline display board and some original archives then travelled to Hampshire Record Office in Winchester for display from 11 February to the end of March. On 4 March the Record Office hosted a talk by one of their archivists and Lara Webb, deputy archivist of the Baring Archive, about the Barings at home, abroad and at work.

Finally, after a delay caused by Hurricane Sandy, Barings in America: An Interactive Investment Experience opened at the Museum of American Finance in New York (www.moaf.org/index). The exhibition, sponsored by ING US, will run until 27 April 2013. Visitors are able to view archives themed around five of Barings' US transactions and decide whether they would have invested in the deal – and then find out if they would have made a profit! This exhibition draws on the idea of www.risksandrewards.org.uk, an educational resource launched by The Baring Archive in 2012.

In addition to the exhibitions outlined above, The Baring Archive also hosted a symposium at the beginning of January. Speakers included Professor Youssef Cassis of the European University Institute and Dr John Orbell, BAC trustee and former archivist of The Baring Archive. Professor Cassis placed Barings in its historical context, while Dr Orbell talked more specifically about the history of Barings and the firm's archives. The event also saw the official launch of An Oral History of Barings, a project undertaken by The Baring Archive in partnership with National Life Stories at the British Library. A booklet has been published giving a taster of the material gathered through the interviews and copies are available from the Archive via the email below.

For more information, please visit the relevant websites or The Baring Archive's website at www.baringarchive.org.uk or contact baring.archive@uk.ing.com.



Documents on display at Devon Record Office

Cataloguing Grants

In support of the National Strategy for Business Archives, the BAC is delighted to announce that it is once again offering a £2000 cataloguing grant for business collections. Additionally this year, in an effort to support an under-represented area of business archives, and to compliment wider initiatives for archiving the arts by The National Archives and the recently launched Campaign for Voluntary Sector Archives, we will also be offering a £2000 cataloguing grant specifically for cataloguing business archives related to the arts.

The aim of both grants, 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 both grants 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 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 its newsletter, and the catalogue should be made available to the National Register of Archives (published by The National Archives).

The Cataloguing Grant for Business Archives 2013 was launched on 1 April 2013 and the deadline for applications is 28 June 2013.

The Cataloguing Grant for Business Archives Related to the Arts will be launched on 1 May 2013 and the deadline for applications is 31 July 2013.

For more information – criteria and application forms – see the BAC's website at www.businessarchivescouncil.org.uk.

Any questions about the grant should be addressed to Lorna Williams, Trustee of the Business Archives Council, at lorna.Williams@bankofengland.co.uk, telephone 020 7601 4889.

Digital Archiving and Preservation for Business – Getting Started Is Easier than You Think

Colin Smith.

There is always something that stops me getting started

Speaking with a number of corporate archivists and record managers I often hear that it's easy to become stuck formulating the perfect archiving solution, and not really get started on implementing it. The scenario is very familiar. When you believe you've got it covered, along comes someone with a new requirement or question: can we archive that website, how should we manage emails that need to be archived, can we integrate the physical archive catalogue, or what should we do about these videos associated with that collection? And so your carefully considered plans are upset and you end up going back to the drawing board.

You do have a challenge, as William Kilbride, Executive Director of the Digital Preservation Coalition, acknowledged at the Business Archive Council's conference in November 2012: 'An Archivist's ability to deliver is constantly challenged due to the reality that digital data is growing in volume at an alarming rate, as well as complexity, and the expectation by users to have instant/easy access wherever they need it on the device of their choice.'

Then there is the subject of money – how can we create a business case to secure a budget to address this?

Getting started doesn't have to be complicated

In his presentation at the same event, Oliver Morley, The



National Archives chief executive and keeper, wisely recommended that when trying to develop a digital archiving strategy suitable for your organisation, you should first ask yourself the question: how will the records be used?

Establishing an archive/preservation model to meet your business needs, answering Oliver's question, and identifying what you don't know, would be a lot easier if you could undertake a practical, low cost and low impact proof of

concept. Fortunately the emergence of cloud computing has made this possible because it has changed the economic model of IT to one of 'software as a service' (SaaS).

Digital archiving and preservation as a service

A number of organisations have embraced this new model and offer digital preservation as a service. Generally these are available with no upfront costs, no hardware or software to procure, maintain or secure and services are scalable. In fact the real beauty of these services is that you only pay for the resources used - a monthly subscription

and storage. Simply sign up and access the service securely via a web portal, which makes it ideal both as a proof of concept and a long-term solution.

These types of services allow you to test what is needed to ingest, validate content, check for malware, characterise files, identify files at risk (obsolescence), apply metadata schema, test collection layout and verify search performance.

Colin Smith, Digital Archiving Accounts Director, Tessella Ltd.
www.preservica.com

BAC Conference 2013

We are pleased to announce that the 2013 Business Archives Council Conference, Show me the money! – Securing Funding for Business Archive Projects, will be held on Thursday 7th November 2013 at the Boots Archive, Nottingham.

The title reflects the theme this year, which will be funding and the ways in which business archives can seek to finance projects of all sizes.

The organisers of the conference this year will be Josette Reeves of Unilever Archives and Adam Hillhouse of the British Postal Museum and Archive.

Full details will be announced in due course.

Oral History Society's Annual Conference 2013

Anne Gulland, Publicity Officer, OHS.



The conference will feature papers discussing a range of professions [Photo credit www.istockphotos.co.uk]

Anyone interested in business history or archives should attend this year's Oral History Society annual conference, which focuses on corporate oral histories. The conference, which takes place on 5th to 6th July at the University of Sussex, will explore the hidden histories of organisations, including private companies, public institutions, hospitals, universities, museums and charities.

One of the keynote speakers is Bruce Weindruch, founder of the History Factory in the United States, who has worked on corporate histories for clients such as Subaru, Campbell Soups and Prudential. The other keynote speaker is Professor Abdel Aziz EzzelArab, director of the Economics and Business History Research Centre at the American University in Cairo, Egypt. He will talk about a unique oral history archive in Egypt and discuss the impact of the Arab Spring.

More than 50 papers will be presented at the conference, focusing on topics including business archives, banking and finance, health and medicine, the media and academia. Papers will look at what interviews with the staff of institutions and organisations tell us about organisational history and memory. There will be plenty of opportunity for networking and discussion and the conference will bring together oral historians with historians of business, education and health.

For more information on the conference, Corporate Voices: Institutional and Organisational Oral Histories, go to www.ohs.org.uk/conferences/2013.php.

Ephemera Corner



directors, Major-General Sir John William Campbell, to invest in a hunt for buried treasure in Bolivia. Like previous attempts made to uncover the booty, it failed and Ormsby lost his money.

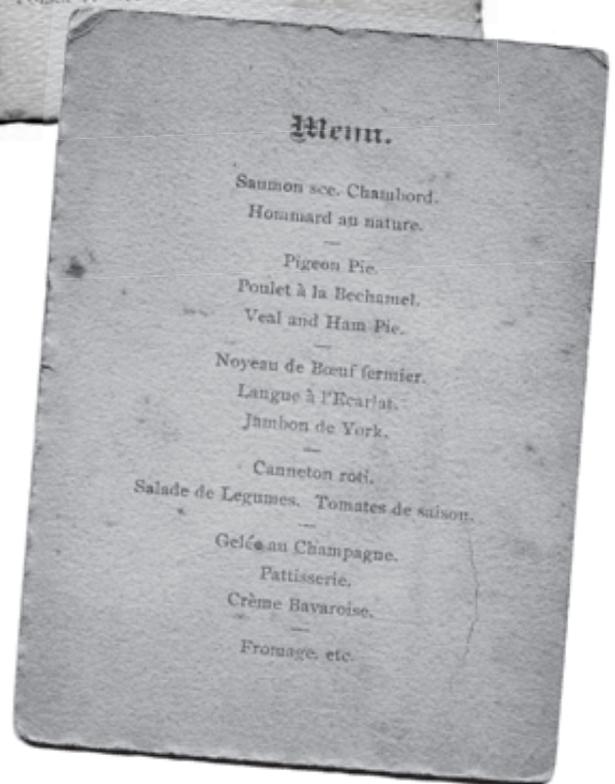
Thanks to Peter Foulsham, grandson of Haldane Gwilt Cotsworth, for the Tagg's Island programme of events.



Near to Hampton Court, sitting approximately in the centre of the River Thames, lies a patch of land at one time known as Walnut Tree Island. It is now called Tagg's Island, an area totally devoid of the buildings that once stood there, and is home to a flotilla of houseboats that crowd around its periphery.

On 20 June 1898, invited guests, members of the press and directors of The 'Cotsworth' Arc Lamp and Electric Lighting Syndicate gathered on Tagg's Island for a promotional event. Being demonstrated was a carbon-arc lamp with patented improvements that prevented flickering of the light. The batteries onboard an electric boat provided the necessary current and inventor Haldane Gwilt Cotsworth was on hand to make sure all functioned correctly.

Press coverage indicates that the reporters were impressed with the display of bright lights (said to cover the whole island), no doubt put in a receptive mood by free drink, food and good music. However, the Syndicate did not attract sufficient investors to be viable and seems to have lasted for only about a further year. The company's promoter, Arthur Ormsby, went bankrupt in 1912. He was unwisely persuaded by one of the Syndicate's erstwhile



The editor of this newsletter is Alan Gall. The next issue will appear in Summer 2013. Prospective copy should be sent to Alan Gall, Tel: 0161 745 7029 (daytime) 01706 344429 (evening) Fax: 0161 745 9649 email: alangall@hotmail.com Post: c/o SDA Electronics Ltd, Unit 30, Willan Industrial Estate, Eccles New Road, Salford M50 2GR.

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