

NEW HOME FOR BAC LIBRARY

Following the decision to close the Council's office earlier this year (as reported in BAC Newsletter 130), the Trustees began an urgent and far-ranging search for a suitable new home for the BAC Library. The Trustees were particularly concerned that the remarkable collection of books and pamphlets on business history should not be split up and that members and researchers should continue to have access to the Library.

The Trustees are delighted to announce that the BAC Library has now been acquired by the Centre for Business History in Scotland, University of Glasgow. The Centre, under the direction of Professor Tony Slaven, is one of the leading units in the study of business history and of course the BAC has a long and productive relationship with the University of Glasgow. The Centre has made special provision for the Library in its offices in University Gardens and Council members and other

researchers will be able to visit and consult the collection in its new home. In this respect the Trustees believe that access to the Library will be an improvement on the limited arrangements which we could offer in recent years. In welcoming the agreement, Tony Slaven commented that "we are excited at the prospect of the acquisition and plan to let it be known widely that we now hold this valuable collection as a reference and research resource."

The proceeds of the acquisition will be an important addition to the Council's resources during this exceptionally difficult time for small charities and the Trustees are especially grateful to Tony Slaven, Terry Gourvish and Lesley Richmond (our Library Adviser for many years) for their efforts in negotiating a secure future for the Library. The Centre for Business History can be contacted at 4 University Gardens, Glasgow G12 8QQ (tel: 0141 339 8855).

BAC ANNUAL CONFERENCE AND AGM 2003

'Business Records in a Changing Archival Landscape' is the title of this year's BAC annual conference. It is to be held on Monday, 24 November 2003 from 11.00am to 3.30pm *following the AGM*. The venue is the corporate headquarters of Rio Tinto Plc, 6 St James's Square, London SW1Y 4LD. Please see enclosed sheet for further details.

To date, archivists whose responsibilities embrace business archives and those interested in their preservation and accessibility have often felt on the sidelines of major initiatives within the archives sector. Our voices have not been heard in the debate about the future for archives in the UK. Hopefully the Conference will give a good airing to issues such as how to deal with the archives of those nationally spread big businesses who do not themselves make formal provision for their archives.

This conference, which includes speakers *Sarah Tyacke* of the National Archives and *Stuart Davies* of Resource, will give the business archives community a unique opportunity to hear how the bodies responsible for developing national archival strategy view the issues affecting business archives and to discuss the findings of the Archives Task Force.

Sara Kinsey from HBSC will provide an overview of the challenges facing business archives and innovative solutions that have been found to meet them. The event will finish with a discussion forum, led by *Vic Gray* of The Rothschild Archive who will be chair for the day. Other speakers are yet to be announced.

The Conference is preceded by the AGM which will begin promptly at 10am. Registration is from 9.30 am.

We are hugely grateful to Rio Tinto for agreeing to host this event. This London based business is a world leader in the international mining industry with a history dating back to the nineteenth century.

Important notice. Ten free places are available for members of the Society of Archivists undertaking the Society's registration scheme, who would otherwise not be able to attend. BAC is making this offer to broaden the constituency of archivists interested in issues underlying business archives – please do apply. For further details contact Fiona Maccoll (tel: 020 7753 2123;

fiona.maccoll@riotinto.com) or Karen Sampson (tel: 020 7860 5945; Karen.Sampson@LloydsTSB.co.uk).

STOP PRESS!

As we go to press we are delighted to announce that Dame Stella Rimington has agreed to address this year's Annual Conference. Dame Stella is, of course, well known as a former Director General of the Security Service and today is, inter alia, a non-executive director of both Marks & Spencer Plc and BG Group Plc. She had an early background in archives administration and her present day appointments include membership of the Archives Task Force. She will speak on Influencing Decision-Makers.

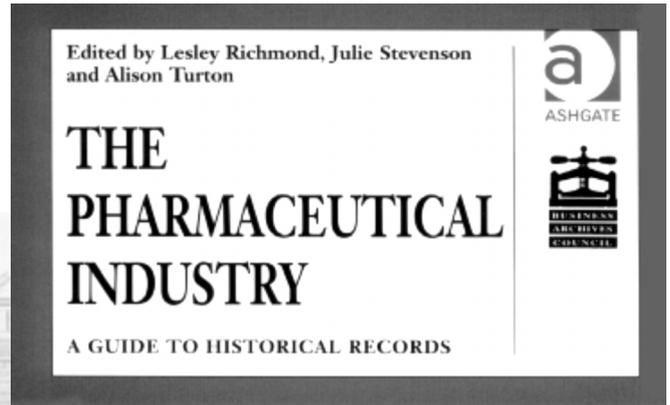
PUBLICATION OF PHARMACEUTICAL INDUSTRY ARCHIVES BOOK.

We are pleased to announce the completion of another major Council project – the publication in June of *The Pharmaceutical Industry: A Guide to Historical Records*, the fifth in the series *Studies in British Business Archives*, edited by Lesley Richmond and Alison Turton.

The book is based upon a Wellcome Trust funded survey of the historical records of the pharmaceutical industry carried out between 1995 and 1997 by Dee Cook and Julie Stevenson under the supervision of a project board comprising Derek Oddy, Lesley Richmond and Alison Turton. The survey's success is in the main due to the collaboration of over 50 pharmaceutical businesses, including many of the major players within the industry, and the assistance of many local record offices and specialist repositories.

We are enormously grateful to the Wellcome Trust for their generous funding of the project. Their longstanding support for the study of the history of medicine is well known and the existence of this book should go far to facilitate study in this and related disciplines.

The Pharmaceutical Industry is of international importance. It contains a company by company guide to primary resources for the history of the industry and synoptic histories of the companies included. Two historical essays on the industry's history have been contributed by Dr T Corley and Dr J Burnby and Dr G Tweedale has provided an essay on the nature and use of the industry's records. The book is completed by a select bibliography and comprehensive indexes.



This classified guide is a vital research aid for historians examining the performance of one of Britain's most important and successful industries in the twentieth century. It also has immense value to those studying economic, social, business, medical, chemical and healthcare history.

Precise details are: Lesley Richmond, Alison Turton & Julie Stevenson, *The Pharmaceutical Industry: A Guide to Historical Records*, Ashgate, 2003, 561pp.

Important notice: The book is available until 30 September from the BAC at a special offer price of £45 plus postage. Thereafter the price is £50 plus postage.

Orders should be sent to Lesley Richmond, Glasgow University Archive Services, 77-87 Dumbarton Road, Glasgow G11 6PW (fax: 0141 330 4158).

NEW BAC MEMBERS

We are delighted to welcome as new members:

- Dr Iain Black
- Compagnia di San Paolo
- European Association for Banking History
- The Newsroom, Guardian and Observer Archive & Visitor Centre
- Royal Mail Heritage

MAPPING AUDIOVISUAL COLLECTIONS IN THE SOUTH EAST

The South East Museum Library and Archive Council – or SEMLAC to its chums – has initiated a project to map the region's audio-visual collections and devise a development strategy.

The focus is on 'time-based' audio-visual formats (film, video, sound and digital) created by amateurs or professionals and held in the public and private/commercial sectors within the South East Government Office region – the arc around London from Kent to Milton Keynes and embracing Sussex, Isle of Wight, Hampshire, Surrey, Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire.

The project consultants are particularly keen to include business archives in the survey and a questionnaire will shortly be available. In the meantime contact Paul Habbeshon, project leader, at paul@habbeshon.co.uk or on 0790 5273914.

SAVING ART FOR THE NATION

Sir Nicholas Goodison is heading a Treasury-sponsored committee under the label *Goodison Review* 'to review the effectiveness and efficiency of support to regional and national museums and galleries to help them acquire works of art and culture of distinction that might otherwise be sold abroad and to make those items accessible to the public'.

As part of the review, the Committee is anxious to hear the views and ideas of individuals and organisations and to have any supporting evidence. These are needed in order to give a thorough review of current taxation and funding arrangements. It all sounds rather dry but it is hugely important. There is certainly a need for a good response regarding archives and this is anticipated.

The consultation document 'Saving Art for the Nation' is available via the Treasury's website – www.hm-treasury.gov.uk or by post from Art Review, HM Treasury, 1 Horse Guards Rd, London SW1A 2HQ.

IONIAN BANK ARCHIVE

Sue Donnelly, Archivist of the London School of Economics, writes to give details of a project involving one of the collections in her care.

'The autumn of 2003 will see the start of a major project to improve access to the records of the Ionian Bank, funded by Alpha Bank, Greece, and managed by the Archives Division of the LSE, home to the Ionian Bank archive since 1980. This two-year project will include cataloguing, preservation and digitisation to open up this major resource for the study of the economy of the eastern Mediterranean.

'The Ionian Bank's archives were deposited with the London School of Economics in 1980 following the cessation of trading in the UK in 1978. Although the archive has been available to researchers visiting the LSE, effective use has been hindered by the lack of a full catalogue or index. The current project will provide a detailed, indexed catalogue to the collection, available online, alongside digital access to the main series of Director's minutes from 1839. A preservation assessment survey will also form part of the project.

'The Ionian Bank archive, 1837-[1979], comprises central and branch records and includes:

- Material relating to its foundation and constitution, 1837-1942.
- Company reports and accounts, 1839-1974.
- Minute books and corporate records including minutes of the Court of Directors, 1839-1969, General Meetings, 1842-1977 and committees, 1886-1899 and 1959-1975.
- Papers relating to shares, 1839-[1979], including registers, certificates and correspondence
- Accounting records, 1839-1977, including central ledgers, 1839-1848 and 1924-1957, and balance sheets, 1890-1929 and 1957-1975.
- Branch records, 1839-1957, notably branch managers' yearly reports, 1945-1956.
- Papers of the Athens and other Greek branches, 1839-1949, and Cyprus Branch records, 1926-1957.
- Material relating to take-overs and sale of assets, 1953-1960.
- Papers concerning bank staff, 1839-1868, 1881-1903.
- Notes and typescript material on the history of the Ionian Bank, [1930-1975].
- Series of files on relations between London and the Bank's branches, mainly post World War I.

'For further information about the project and the archives contact the Archives Division, LSE Library (tel: 020 7955 7223; Document@lse.ac.uk)'

Editor's Note: The BAC and its newsletter editor will have to be forgiven for the following high plunge into a very small puddle of pride. In 1980, when surveying work was underway in connection with the first edition of Council's bank records book, we discovered that the Ionian Bank, which had fallen on hard times, was about to vacate its offices and reduce significantly in size. I went round to see this distinguished old bank, one of the very few 'independent' survivors of British nineteenth century over-seas banking, which had introduced modern banking activity across a large part of the eastern Mediterranean. In the basement I found a safe stuffed full of wonderful archives but the building was to close and speed was of the essence. Initially no record office could be found to take the archives. In the end I hired a transit van and loaded it by carrying – the lift was broken – the archives out of the basement volume by volume. That night the loaded van was parked outside my bedsit in a rather down at heel part of inner London and I remember rehearsing the story I should have to relate to the Ionian Bank's court of directors if the van was stolen. It was not and the LSE soon volunteered itself as a much more suitable home. Needless to say, it is immensely gratifying for BAC to see the records now appreciated in this way. Given their importance to the history of banking and, more so, to the history of Greece and the eastern Mediterranean, it is not surprising that one of Greece's largest banks should be sponsoring the project in the way that Sue describes.

TIME FOR REFLECTION

If your days can sometimes be trying or you stay awake at night worrying about your backlog of cataloguing or conservation then spare a thought for the so-called Puzzle Women of Nuremberg. This 31-strong team is painstakingly reassembling personnel files maintained by the East German Stasi secret police. The problem is that they are torn to shreds and fill 15,000 sacks. If a full team of 40 was available it is reckoned the task would take 375 years to complete. There might be a comic side to this but salute the commitment to restoring and maintaining the documentary evidence of abuse of people and their rights.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

The National Life Story Collection, based in the British Library, is fast expanding existing projects and creating new ones; many have a distinctly business flavour to them. For example, *Food: From Source to Salespoint*, sponsored to date by Northern Foods Plc, has undertaken some 102 recordings featuring such notables as Joe Barnes (Sainsburys), Christopher Haskins (Northern Foods), Hector Laing (United Biscuits) and Harry Soloman (Hillsdown Holdings) but also people at work on the factory floor.

Moves are now afoot to make the overall project more representative of the underlying population and to this end Tesco has agreed to support between 40 and 50 interviews of its past and present staff at all levels within the company. Similarly the Vintners Company and the

Institute of Masters of Wine are funding interviews with those involved in the wine trade. Perhaps more exciting is The Economic & Social Research Council/Art & Humanities Research Board's £150,000 funding of *Manufacturing Meaning Along the Food Commodity Chain*. This examines how the cultural meaning of food, as well as its economic value, is transformed as it moves along the commodity chain.

But NLSC has more up its sleeve than this and new projects are hinted at in its summer newsletter. Industries in focus are the utilities (including water and electricity), chemicals and newspaper publishing. Go to www.bl.uk/collections/sound-archive for more information.

IN BRIEF

- The publication of the rewritten *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography* draws closer. Key facts are 50,000 biographies; 10,000 contributors; 10,000 illustrations; 60 million words; 60 volumes; £25 million project cost; £6,500 cost per set prior to 30 Sep 2004 and £7,500 afterwards. Most important, for those of us without the space and money, the *NewDNB* will be online with emphasis on structured and text search, extensive internal cross-referencing and external links to entities such as the NRA and NPG. For more details go to www.oxforddnb.com/info.
- The Royal Historical Society has announced that its Bibliography of British and Irish History is now available free of charge over the internet. Comprising 300,000 references, it is by far the most complete bibliographical resource of its kind and covers the earliest periods for which written evidence survives to the present day. It is hoped to link to the NRA and the DNB (see above) and to integrate records on the history of London compiled by London's Past On-Line project of the Centre for Metropolitan History. Financial support has been received from the Arts & Humanities Research Board, British Academy, Leverhulme Trust, Andrew Mellon Foundation, Esmee Fairbairn Trust, Newton Trust and University of Cambridge. For more details go to www.rhs.ac.uk/bibwel.
- The influence of the History of Advertising Trust within the advertising industry has been extended further through its formal appointment as archivist to the Institute of Practitioners in Advertising. The Institute joins a string of other organisations for which HAT acts as archivist. For more details re HAT go to www.hatads.org.uk.
- *PhotoLondon* is a new website facilitating access to London photographs past and present. Five of the largest collections – held by English Heritage's National Monuments Record, Guildhall Library, London Metropolitan Archives, Museum of London and Westminster City Archives – have united to create the site. Between them they hold one million images. Go to www.photolondon.org.uk.
- A conference to mark the centenary of Ford Motor Co in Europe takes place in Bordeaux, 13-15 November. It is a preliminary to the publication of the two-volume study *Ford, 1903-2003. The European History* which includes an essay by Elizabeth Adkins, manager of Ford Archive Services in Detroit, titled 'Ford Archives and the European History of the Company'. For further details of the publication contact PLAGE, 29 rue Jean-Jacques Rousseau, 75002 Paris.

ROTHSCHILD RESEARCH. A NEW PLATFORM FOR DISCOVERY

In a move that confirms The Rothschild Archive as one of the most innovative centres in the UK for archive management, a new web-based platform has been established to facilitate use of the Archive and publicise research findings. Loyd Grossman, Chairman of the 24-Hour Museum, launched it in May.

The Archive – which administers historical records created by the London merchant bank of NM Rothschild & Sons Ltd as well as by other Rothschild business entities and family members – has joined forces with another great centre of Rothschild research, Waddesdon Manor, the Renaissance-style chateau built by Ferdinand de Rothschild in Buckinghamshire. Put simply, the business archives explain amongst other things how the Rothschild wealth was accumulated while the wonderful collections of fine art and furnishings at Waddesdon illustrate how part of it was spent. Catalogues of the Waddesdon collections have become one of the great international reference points for art historians and the team based there is actively engaged in research into the history of collecting.

The result of this collaboration is the Rothschild Research Forum, an online resource for historians working on every aspect of Rothschild history where they are able to register their research interests, find out more about new discoveries, exchange news and opinions and publish their findings. The Forum can be approached from either the Archive's website (www.rothschildarchive.org) or the Waddesdon Manor website (www.waddesdon.org.uk).

Registering in the Forum opens up to researchers a wealth of information not previously accessible. There are biographical sketches of members of the Rothschild family, details of connections with 40 or so countries, summaries and transcripts of key correspondence from agents around the world, and information about archival sources for

the history of collections, publications, exhibitions and images. A particular resource is the letters of Baroness Charlotte de Rothschild, wife of Lionel, the head of the London bank from 1836 to 1879 and the first Jewish MP. These throw light on a huge range of political and social activity and are text-searchable.

"After less than two months of activity the members directory lists over 100 names and the areas of study are almost as numerous", says Melanie Aspey who looks after the archive. "We are delighted and we look forward to a growing number of virtual as well as real visitors."

The Business Archive Council's Newsletter is published quarterly by the Business Archives Council, Registered Charity No 31336.

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

The Editor of this Newsletter is John Orbell. Jane Waller will edit the next Newsletter.

The next issue will appear in the autumn, 2003. Prospective copy should be sent to Jane Waller at ING Bank NV, 60 London Wall, London EC2M 5TQ.

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