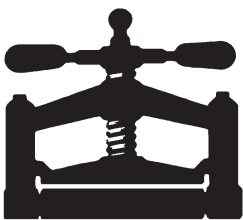


Newsletter



**BUSINESS
ARCHIVES
COUNCIL**

ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Managing Business Archives: A Global Perspective

Edinburgh, Friday 17 November 2006

This year's conference is a joint one-day conference of the BAC, the Business Archives Council Scotland, the Business Records Group of the Society of Archivists and the Section for Business and Labour Archives, International Council on Archives.

Sessions will focus on 'Globalisation – managing archives and heritage overseas'; 'Digital records – a universal issue'; 'Different solutions – the records of business across the world'; 'Access – serving diverse user communities'.

The conference programme and application form is included in this Newsletter mailing and a .pdf version is available on www.businessarchivescouncil.org.uk.



**BUSINESS
ARCHIVES
COUNCIL**

 **International Council on Archives**

BAC ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND WADSWORTH PRIZE RECEPTION

This year the Council's Annual General Meeting will be held at the new headquarters of Barclays plc, 1 Churchill Place, London E14 5HP, at 5pm on Thursday 7 December. The nearest stations are the Canary Wharf stop on the Jubilee Line from Central London and the Canary Wharf stop on the Docklands Light Railway from Bank or Tower Gateway.

The Annual General Meeting will be followed at 6pm by a reception to announce the award of this year's Wadsworth Prize for Business History. All those attending the AGM are warmly invited to attend the reception. If you are able to attend the AGM and reception, it would be helpful if you would notify the Honorary Secretary by post or by e-mail well beforehand (Karen Sampson, c/o Group Archives, Lloyds TSB, 5th floor, Princess House, 1 Suffolk Lane, London EC4R 0AX; Karen.Sampson@LloydsTSB.co.uk).

The Council is very grateful to Barclays for this generous hospitality and we are sure that members of the Council will enjoy this visit to the bank's splendid new building. We are especially grateful to Maria Sienkiewicz and Nicholas Webb in Barclays Group Archives



Barclays Group Headquarters, 1 Churchill Place

and Mia Mifsud in Churchill Place for their kind efforts in preparing for these events.

BAC Rescue Work

In recent months the Council has reacted on behalf of members to developments impacting on the future of the archives of Duckworth & Co, the Confederation of Paper Industries, Typhoo Tea, The Tea Council, Pilkingtons and National Gas. Working in

partnership with the Business Records Development Officer, the BAC can play an effective lobbying role in rescue initiatives. The next issue of this Newsletter (Autumn 2006) will focus on the BAC's rescue related activities in 2006.

Strategic Planning and Change Management Capacity Building Programme launched by MLA London

MLA London has selected five services to participate in its pilot Strategic Planning and Change Management Capacity Building Programme.

Application was open to any archive, museum or library within London that offers a level of public access to its collections, and that is a small service embedded within a larger organisation. The programme will be facilitated by Public Sector Providers, a consultancy experienced in supporting capacity building and personal and organisational development, and will be built around working in supportive “learning sets” with peers, underpinned by personal coaching.

There was a tremendous response to the programme, demonstrating that small services welcome development support. The selected group of five participating services includes a business archive - the Sainsbury Archive.

Sainsbury Archivist Clare Wood says:

“The timing of the programme is ideal for us, as the Sainsbury Study Centre has been up and running for almost a year, so we

can use our experiences so far to identify strategies for profile-raising and future development. This is a great opportunity to share experiences with colleagues from across the sector, receive expert support and analysis and reflect on the running of our service outside the day-to-day work environment.”

Isobel Siddons at MLA London said “we are very pleased to be working with the Sainsbury Archive, as we are keen to support more business archives. Our grants, training and development support are very inclusive and generally open to all archives who offer even a minimal level of public access.”

Other business archives recently supported by MLA London include the British Postal Museum & Archive who are members of the the MLA London community participation programme, and BT archives and Lloyds TSB archives who have received funding for Preservation Audit Visits.

For further information, or to talk about the programme, please contact Isobel Siddons, 020 7549 1701, Isobel.Siddons@almlondon.org.uk

BAC Business History Bursary Awarded

The Council is delighted to announce that this year’s Business History Bursary has been awarded to Bridget Williams. Here Bridget describes her research and how she intends to use the bursary:

It’s a particular honour for me to have won the BAC’s Business History Bursary having been associated with the Council and its work for over twenty years. For most of that time I was archivist and historian of the Sainsbury Group and benefited greatly from the professional support and fellowship that membership of the BAC offers.

I’m intending to use the Bursary to further my research into the development of self-service supermarkets in postwar Britain. I began working on this subject soon after becoming a Visiting Fellow at Reading University’s CIBH in the early 1990s, and formalised it into studying for a part-time PhD, sponsored by Sainsbury’s, in 1999. It’s proved a fascinating and fertile field.

My PhD explores the context of self-service introduction, the stimuli for change and the management challenges faced by early innovators. It shows that the introduction of self-service methods by British food retailers in the postwar period bore the hallmarks of a classic economic ‘revolution’ in generating sustained economic growth in a stagnant sector through the use of capital-intensive technology and factory-style forms of organisation.

I believe the importance of this study is not only that it will contribute to our knowledge and understanding of a sector which remains under-represented in business historical analyses, particularly for the critical period 1945-1975, but also that it will contribute to the wider debate about productivity in the service industries.

The Bursary will allow me to expand the scope of my research in two ways. Recently I have been working with Andrew Godley on a research project funded through the Museum of English Rural Life’s Fellowship programme into the development of the broiler chicken industry in the 1950s and 1960s. This work has reinforced my understanding of the contribution of product innovation to the success of the self-service formats. I’m therefore intending to revisit the Sainsbury Archive - which, as BAC members will be aware, is

now an independent charity - to research sales figures for individual products. I’m expecting that this will help me to better understand their relative contributions to sales and profitability, as well as to improve my knowledge of the management processes and technologies involved.

I’m also intending to use the BAC’s funding to research the archives of the Portsea Island Mutual Co-operative Society, held by the Portsmouth Museums and Records Service and I know them to be a particularly rich source. The co-operatives generally, and Portsea Island Co-op in particular, were pioneers in self-service development. The work that I have done so far, which draws on secondary sources, suggests that there were important differences between their strategy of substituting labour for capital with Sainsbury’s practice of investing in these factors in parallel. I’m hoping that the opportunity to study an individual society’s records will help me to understand the management decision-making which underpinned the trading styles of different types of retailer.

One of the conditions attached to the award is that I submit an article based on my work to *Business Archives Sources and History*. I look forward to fulfilling this brief! *Bridget Williams*



Bridget Williams receiving the BAC Business History Bursary for 2006 from BAC Chair Terry Gourvish.

THE ROTHSCHILD BANKS AND EASTERN EUROPE: COLLOQUIUM

The Rothschild Archive and the Centre des archives du monde du travail (CAMT) are pleased to announce a joint colloquium, to take place at Roubaix, France, 16 and 17 November 2006. The impetus for the colloquium is the unification of the surviving records of all the Rothschild houses, the most recent phase of which has been the transfer of ownership of the records of de Rothschild frères, housed at CAMT, to The Rothschild Archive Trust. There will be 19 papers split into sessions on

state loans, the Rothschild banks' relationships with other banks, business and politics, and the Rothschild banks and economic development. Speakers are from France, Austria, Croatia, Poland, Russia, Hungary, Romania, Israel, the Ukraine and Great Britain. Professor Alice Teichova and Professor François Crouzet jointly chair the academic committee of the colloquium. For further information contact Melanie Aspey at info@rothschildarchive.org or telephone +44 20 7280 5874.

Carpet Museum Online



You can now access the catalogue of the Kidderminster-based Carpet Museum online thanks to a Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) grant of £49,000. The Carpet Museum Trust was established in 1981 to set up the museum in order to preserve the memory of the town's



once dominant industry. The manufacture of carpets was the mainstay of Kidderminster's economy from the 1730s. The museum is expected to open in 2007/8 and further information on the Trust is available at www.carpetmuseum.co.uk. The catalogue includes comprehensive listings of the printed holdings and museum collections, and of 80% of the archival material.

Thought to be the most important of its type in the UK, the Museum's collection has grown rapidly in recent years with donations from individuals and local business. It includes photos, films and personal records as well as unique items such as a piece of the first Spool Royal Axminster carpet woven in 1878. Over 15 companies are represented in

what will be a valuable resource for the local community and visitors alike. In addition the Museum maintains a detailed database of information on people, firms and places associated with the industry across the whole of the UK.



Images reproduced with kind permission of The Carpet Museum Trust.

New faces at the BAC Executive Meeting

The BAC Executive welcomed some new faces to their meeting in June. In attendance were the Business Records Development Officer (BRDO), Robert Brown, and two BAC regional representatives, Cheryl Bailey for the West Midlands and Lesley Owen-Edwards for the North West. This initiative is intended to ensure

good communications with key people in the BAC network. The meeting was a great success, with valuable information and ideas being exchanged by participants. Following this success the Executive has extended a standing invitation to its meetings to the BRDO and intends to invite regional representatives on a regular basis.

Equitable Life Assurance Society Archive Saved

Earlier this year the Institute of Actuaries appealed for public donations to save the Equitable Life Assurance Society Archive. The following appeared in the Institute's newsletter:

The Actuarial Profession has been offered the opportunity to purchase the archive of the Equitable Life Assurance Society. Items in the archive are of the highest significance in the history of actuarial science and practice, comprising original work by Thomas Bayes, James Dodson, William Morgan, and Richard Price, amongst others. The archive places the origins of the profession in context and comprises a virtually complete record of over 200 years of life insurance practice.

Failure to secure the archive is likely to result in it being broken up, with significant items possibly going abroad. We therefore appeal for donations from companies and individuals by 31 March 2006 to secure the purchase of the archive and make it accessible to members, researchers and the public. Donors who so wish may have their name permanently associated with the archive.

The Institute received an overwhelming response from companies, actuarial associations and individuals in the UK and around the world - the appeal was oversubscribed by around £27,000. At least part of the surplus will be used to conserve and promote the archive and create a related website on the history of actuarial science.

In Brief:

- On 10 July 2006 Culture Minister David Lammy launched a consultation on whether the current statutory and other legal restrictions which prevent national museums from de-accessioning works of art in their collections, should be lifted to allow restitution of items which were lost during the Nazi era. Responses to Mark Caldon, Cultural Property Unit, Department for Culture, Media and Sport, 2-4 Cockspur Street, London SW1Y 5DH.
- **Mining landscape of Cornwall and West Devon becomes a UNESCO World Heritage Site.** The mining landscape of Cornwall and West Devon has become a World Heritage Site, following a decision by the World Heritage Committee, Culture Secretary Tessa Jowell on 13 July 2006. Cornwall and West Devon has supplied much of the western world's tin and copper over the last 4,000 years and, for a time during the 18th and 19th centuries, the area was the world's greatest producer of these metals. As such, it contributed substantially to Britain's Industrial Revolution and influenced mining technology and industrialisation throughout the world.
- **The MLA Partnership.** MLA and the nine independent regional agencies joined forces in April to create "The MLA Partnership". The new national board will include the Chairs of all the regional agencies to collectively lead the transformation of England's museums, libraries and archives and promote their unique contribution for the future. For more information see www.mla.gov.uk.
- **Basic Archive Skills Training Day London, run by The Archive-Skills Consultancy, 27 September 2006,** Mathematical Society, De Morgan House, 57-58 Russell Square, London WC1B 4HS. See www.archive-skills.com/training/index.php for more details. The course will be run in Manchester on 23 November and again in London on 5 December.
- **An updated version of The British Postal Museum & Archive online catalogue is now available following essential upgrade work.** The catalogue contains details of over 40,000 items from the museum and archive collections. Recent additions to the online catalogue include POST 59: Staff Establishment Books which provides details of established staff of the Post Office such as name, job title, salary etc., covering the period 1691 - 1983. www.postalheritage.org.uk.

BT Heritage launches People's Connected Earth

BT has launched a brand new section of the Connected Earth website, accessible via www.connected-earth.com/memories, where people can record their own memories of communications history. The aim of the project is to collect people's memories of communications, throughout history.

BAC Annual Accounts

Enclosed with this mailing are the Council's financial statements for the year ending 31 March 2006.

PRESTO Space Update

In his article titled 'Preservation of Audiovisual Media' in *Business Archives. Principles and Practice*, 2003, Richard Wright, BBC Information & Archives, introduced Council members to the PRESTO Space project. The project has now moved online and Richard has provided an update.

Project Background: The PRESTO project was formed to allow broadcast archives and technologists to join forces to understand better the issues and problems of audiovisual preservation, and to develop solutions and joint standards. This joint effort was made possible by funding from the European Commission Fifth Framework Programme in Information Society Technologies: Cultural Heritage Applications. PRESTO was a 24-month, EUR 4.8 million project to develop broadcast archive preservation technology, which ended in August 2002.

The project also considered future methods of archive usage (and revenue generation) in order to achieve the true 'best cost' when considering the possibilities, over the next 20 years or more, for usage of the preserved content. The project was led by the BBC, with, as full partners, two of the other largest European national archives: INA (Institut National de l'Audiovisuel) and RAI (Radiotelevisione Italiana).

Richard writes 'The PRESTO Space project in conjunction with various other efforts to save the audiovisual heritage of the 20th century - some of which is in business and commercial archives - has moved to online technology in an attempt to collect comprehensive, accessible information about audiovisual preservation, and keep it up to date. We have launched a wiki, so the information can benefit from 'many hands' and be living and maintained, www.bbcarchive.org.uk. There are instructions on the site on how to comment, criticise, complain, commend - or even contribute.'

2007 Bicentenary Pamphlet

'Reflecting on the past and looking to the future'

The Department for Culture Media and Sport and the Home Office, has published a pamphlet titled "Reflecting on the past and looking to the future: The 2007 Bicentenary of the Abolition of the Slave Trade in the British Empire". The pamphlet looks at past and current issues surrounding slavery in the context of the 2007 Bicentenary, and also outlines the Government's commitment to supporting the Bicentenary. The pamphlet is available in .pdf format at www.culture.gov.uk/global/publications/archive_2006/reflecting_on_the_past.htm

The Editor of this Newsletter is Jane Waller. The next issue will appear in Autumn 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, 5th Floor, Princess House 1 Suffolk Lane, London EC4R 0AX (tel: +44(0) 207 489 3945):

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