

# Newsletter



**BUSINESS  
ARCHIVES  
COUNCIL**

## BAC Conference

We are pleased to announce the theme of this year's Business Archives Council conference will be Business Archives: The Unexpected! The conference will showcase the breadth of business archives and history with a focus on the unexpected and obscure. It will include talks on unusual businesses and collections

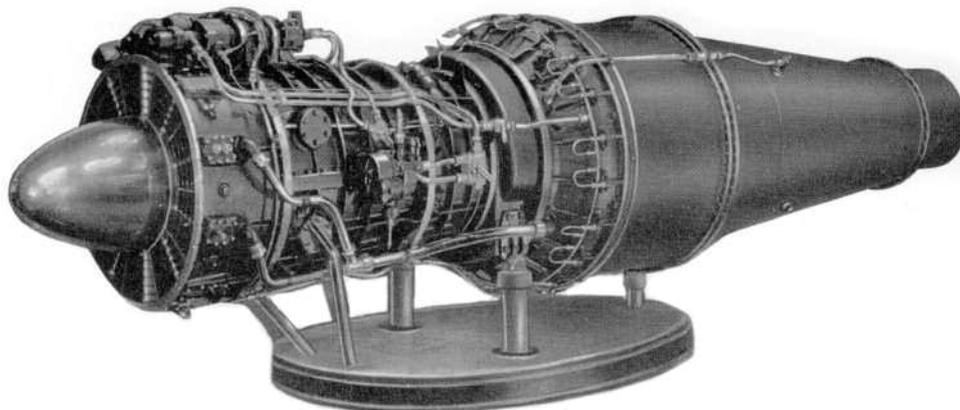
and efforts to reveal and promote hidden business history.

The conference will be held at Freemasons' Hall in London on Thursday 11 November.

Further details and a booking form will be available in due course.

## Developments at the Museum of Science and Industry

Jan Hicks, Senior Archivist, MOSI, Manchester.



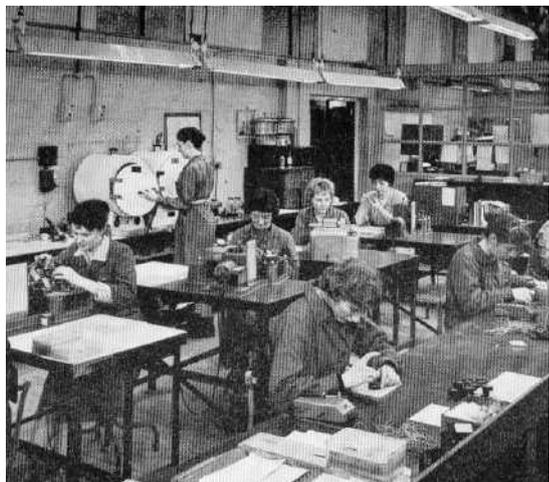
*The Beryl jet propulsion engine manufactured by Metropolitan Vickers Electrical Co Ltd. When fitted to Donald Campbell's Bluebird K7, it raised the water speed record to 225.63 mph on 20 September 1956.*

While we've been closed to the public, the archivists at MOSI have been working on uploading digital image files to our collections management database for publication online. The images now available represent a small proportion of the approximately 275,000 images held. There are plans to add more of our existing digital surrogates to the catalogue over the next two years, before moving on to new digitisation projects.

of our machines meant that we could at least convert the image files to tiff format and burn them to new CDs. Over a period of five months we resized, uploaded and catalogued the images. Since then, we've worked on other existing digital surrogates to create jpegs that are of good enough quality to view online, but not so good that researchers can just pinch the images! The last four months has seen us uploading the files and creating the catalogue entries.

The work started last summer when we realised there were 15-year old Kodak Photo CDs that could no longer be accessed. A frantic installation of Photoshop CS2 on one

**COCKCROFT**, Sir John Douglas, K.C.B., C.B.E., M.A., Ph.D. (*St. John's College, Cambridge*), M.Sc. Tech. (*Manchester*), Hon. L.L.D. (*Toronto*), F.R.S., M.I.E.E., F.Inst.P., 20-22. b. 1897. Fellow, St. John's College, Cambridge. Demonstrator and Lecturer, Cavendish Laboratory—Jacksonian Professor of Natural Philosophy, Cambridge University. Asst. Director of Scientific Research, M.O.S. Chief Supt., Air Defence Research and Development Establishment. Director, Montreal and Chalk River Labs., National Research Council of Canada. **Director, Atomic Energy Research Establishment. Member, Atomic Energy Authority.**  
*Scholarship:* Miles Walker Schol. B.E.A.M.A. Schol. Strathcona Student, and Clerk Maxwell Scholar, St. John's College, Cambridge. Hon. Fellow, St. John's College, Cambridge. Hon. Associate, Manchester College of Technology. Foreign Member, Swedish Academy of Sciences. Nobel Prize for Physics, 1951. Royal Society, Hughes Medal. Faraday Medal, I.E.E.  
*Address:* 1 South Drive, Harwell, Berks.



*Sir John Cockcroft's entry in the 'Register of Ex-Apprentices and Ex-Trainees 1902-1957', Metropolitan-Vickers Electrical Co Ltd.*

*Potentiometer assembly at Ferranti Ltd, 1950s.*

continued from front page

Obviously, having put the image files up there, we would now like to encourage people to use them. Our Collections Online catalogue isn't the easiest thing to navigate so, at the same time as letting people know that there is some image content on the catalogue now, I've prepared some notes on how to search to get the best results. The collections covered so far are: Beyer, Peacock & Co Ltd, Metropolitan-Vickers Electrical Co Ltd and Ferranti plc.

To access the material go to:

<http://emu.msim.org.uk/htmlmn/collections/online/search-the-collections.php> and choose Image Collections.

### **Beyer, Peacock & Co Ltd**

1. Choose 'Beyer, Peacock & Co Ltd' from the drop-down list for Collection Name.
2. If looking for works photographs or general arrangement drawings, enter the Order No (not the Works or Progressive number), or the name of the railway company that placed the order, in the Object Summary box. NB. You have to do a separate search for each order number.
3. Click on search.
4. To view the image details, click on the image. To view the catalogue details click on the item description (e.g. photograph - negative or engineering drawing).

### **Metropolitan-Vickers Ltd**

1. Choose 'GEC – Alstom' from the drop-down list for Collection Name.
2. As per steps 3 and 4 of the Beyer, Peacock instructions.

### **Ferranti plc**

1. Choose 'Ferranti' from the drop-down list for Collection Name.
2. As per steps 3 and 4 of the Beyer, Peacock instructions.

This is the easiest way of searching. The Object Summary box can be used to free text search our item descriptions, to narrow searches down. The Subject box can be used to search using LCSH I thesaurus terms (it's a bit hit and miss, though). If you start from <http://emu.msim.org.uk/htmlmn/>, you can do more advanced searching using the Research the Collections link, but the interface is geared towards object collections, so isn't necessarily any better for searching for archive items.

---

## **A New Research Project for The Baring Archive**

### **Moira Lovegrove, The Baring Archive**

During May The Baring Archive ([www.baringarchive.org.uk](http://www.baringarchive.org.uk)) hosted an exhibition entitled re:Searching: playing in the archive. The exhibition was the result of a collaboration between The Baring Archive and the University of the Arts, London.

Led by the Graduate School at CCW (Chelsea College of Art and Design, Camberwell College of Arts and Wimbledon College of Art), re:Searching enabled artists and researchers across a number of disciplines and institutions to select artefacts in The Baring Archive and to create a new piece of work in response to them. The new work was displayed alongside the archival documents which inspired them.

The new work included sculpture inspired by nineteenth century correspondence from Italy; paintings inspired by the content of the firm's first ledger; book art inspired by the account of writer Nathaniel Hawthorne; and prints inspired by the designs of Argentinean bearer bonds. In addition, guests at the private view on 6 May were able to enjoy X:17, a piece of performance art inspired by bearer bonds for the City of Moscow loan of 1908.

Although it is current practice for artists to produce work in response to collections and archives, re:Searching is unusual in that the artists responded to a financial archive which is more often used by historians.

re:Searching will continue over the coming year, with a series of seminars planned and some artists looking to produce further work, and we hope to produce a publication about the project in 2011.

*'My word is my bond' by Brian Webb, who was inspired by the designs of Argentinean bearer bonds in The Baring Archive.*

# The First Overseas Corporate Archive Now on ARCHON

The archive of Swiss pharmaceutical giant Roche is now on ARCHON - the online directory of repositories, maintained by the National Archives.

The ARCHON Directory includes contact details for record repositories in the UK and worldwide for collections that are of significance to British history.

Alex Ritchie, Business Archives Advice Manager at The National Archives said 'This is a really exciting development.

Roche was really enthusiastic about putting information about their archives on ARCHON. We hope that other overseas corporate archives will join them, and I'd welcome ideas for new entrants.'

You can contact Alex Ritchie at [asd@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:asd@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk)

Visit ARCHON at <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/archon/>

---

## Meet the Archivists Workshop and Fair 2010

Christopher Colvin, Department of Economic History, London School of Economics.

The BAC is pleased to announce that the third outing of the highly successful Meet the Archivists workshop will take place on 23 November 2010. The event combines an archive skills workshop for new university researchers, which as always will be led by eminent business historians, with an archive fair, where participants can find out about individual business archives. Meet the Archivists will this year be hosted by the HSBC Archives in Canary Wharf.

The BAC is now looking for delegates from the UK's many different business archives to attend the event. Archivists will have the opportunity to present their archive's holdings to advanced undergraduates, master's and doctoral degree students, and even postdoctoral researchers looking to start new historical research projects. The fair will be held at lunchtime, after the conclusion of the morning workshop.

Meet the Archivists has in previous years drawn students from across the UK. By moving the event to the autumn, we hope this year to catch students before they have made firm decisions about their research topic. This way, archivists

should be even more useful to students than previous years in that they can advise them of areas in which they have the potential to make the biggest impact on their field, for instance by introducing them to historical sources in their archive that still remain underused by scholars.

Participating archivists have in the past brought leaflets, posters, archive catalogues and other materials with which to entice students. This year we hope that delegates can also bring along some actual samples of items (or copies) from their archives. We hope that this will better enable students to understand what different archives have to offer.

Meet the Archivists has its own website at [www.meetthe Archivists.org.uk](http://www.meetthe Archivists.org.uk), where the event will be advertised to students and where a list of participating archives will be posted.

If your archive wishes to participate at this year's event by sending a delegate to speak to students, please get in contact with Michele Blagg at [Michele.Blagg@Rothschild.com](mailto:Michele.Blagg@Rothschild.com) for further information.

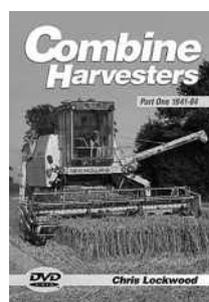
---

## Snippets

- The National Council on Archives, the Association of Chief Archivists in Local Government and the Society of Archivists have now merged. The new body, which was officially established on 1 June 2010, is called the Archives and Records Association.
- At the beginning of July, American Sugar Refining Inc acquired Tate & Lyle for £211 million. Tate began refining sugar at Silvertown, London in 1878. After combining with Lyle in 1921 the company continued to expand and is now the biggest sugar refiner in the European Union. Lyle's Golden Syrup is listed in *Guinness World Records* as Britain's oldest brand name.
- Recently published by Routledge is *The International Tin Cartel* by John Hillman, who is Professor Emeritus at Trent University, Ontario. The book is a detailed study of how collapsing commodity prices during the depression of the 1930s induced the governments of tin producing

countries to form a cartel, and the ramifications. The author draws on a wide range of archival sources. See [www.routledge.com/9780415554121](http://www.routledge.com/9780415554121) for further details.

- Ipswich based Old Pond Publishing Ltd offers a range of DVDs and books that feature the history of various machines used in land-based industries like forestry, earthmoving and farming. See [www.oldpond.com](http://www.oldpond.com) for the full range of titles.



# Advice on How Maintaining an Archive Can Benefit Your Business

Many small and medium sized enterprises could benefit from unlocking the business potential of their archives. That's why The National Archives sent 'Your company's biggest asset could be its history – Your Guide to Business Archives' to repositories with business collections earlier this year.

It's a snappy, informative leaflet, produced as part of the

National Strategy for Business Archives, on the benefits of keeping archives and how businesses can safeguard their history. The leaflet is easy to read and offers practical advice on the first steps to setting up a business archive and where to go for further information or bespoke solutions.

You can obtain free copies of the leaflet by contacting Alex Ritchie at [asd@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:asd@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk)

## The Scientific Instrument Society

There are many non-mainstream sources of business histories. One of these is the Bulletin of the Scientific Instrument Society, published quarterly. Some recent articles in the Bulletin relevant to the subject are:

The Ribrights, Opticians in the Poultry, London (June 2010)

For a Dictionary of French Scientific Instrument Makers (March 2010)

History of Negretti and Zambra 1920 to 1980 (December 2009)

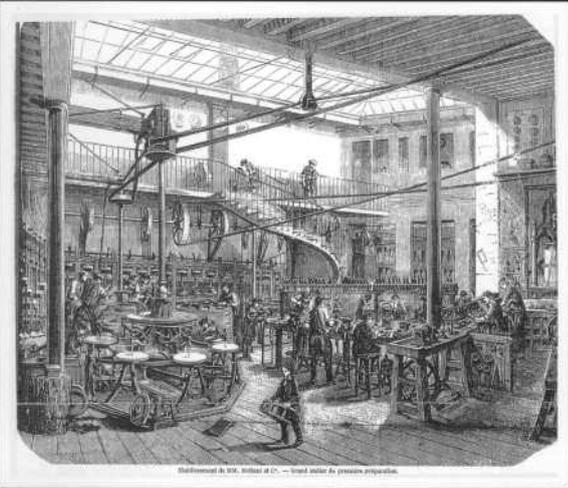
Reading Between the Lines: The Instrument Trade in the Newspapers of Early 18th Century London (September 2009)

Rooker: Four Generations of Scientific Instrument Makers Covering the Period 1780-1960 (June 2009)

P & J Dollond Catalogue: A Trade Handbill of c. 1780 (March 2009)

Formed in 1983, the varied membership of the SIS includes museum staff, instrument collectors, antiques traders and professional historians. The editor of the Bulletin is Dr Willem Hackman who can be contacted by email at [bulletin@sis.org.uk](mailto:bulletin@sis.org.uk). The Society's website is [www.sis.org.uk](http://www.sis.org.uk).

Scientific Instrument Society



Bulletin  
No. 87



December  
2005



Directory advertisement for balances made by W & T Avery (Pigot & Co, 1835).

The editor of this newsletter is Alan Gall. The next issue will appear in Autumn 2010. Prospective copy should be sent to Alan Gall, Tel: 0161 745 7029 (daytime) 01706 344429 (evening) Fax: 0161 745 9649 email: [alangall@hotmail.com](mailto:alangall@hotmail.com) Post: c/o SDA Electronics Ltd, Unit 30, Willan Industrial Estate, Eccles New Road, Salford M50 2GR.

The Hon Secretary of the BAC is Karen Sampson, Head of Archives (London), Lloyds Banking Group Archives and Museums, 2nd Floor, 48 Chiswell Street, London EC1Y 4XX. Tel: +44 (0)20 7860 5762 Fax: 020 7522 4337 email: [karen.sampson@lloydstsb.co.uk](mailto:karen.sampson@lloydstsb.co.uk)

© 2010 Business Archives Council