



## Business History Bursary 2014

The winner of the 2014 BAC Bursary for Business History Research is Ioanna Iordanou of Warwick Business School. Ioanna will use the bursary to look at the origins of organisations in the early modern era using the example of Venice. She will be using a range of diplomatic material held at The National Archives in Kew which reported on business practices in Venice. Much of this was actually industrial espionage, which is another element of Ioanna's research. The award was announced by Peter Scott, one of the judges, at the annual conference of the Association of Business Historians held in Newcastle. Ioanna could not attend the conference so the cheque for £1,000 was presented to her in London by the BAC Chair, Mike Anson.



*Mike Anson and Ioanna Iordanou*

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## Business Archives Council Conference 2014

### Let the Right One In? - Challenging Perceptions of Access to Business Archives

This year's conference will be held on Thursday 13 November 2014 at the Elgar Room in the Royal Albert Hall, Kensington Gore, London SW7 2AP.

The aim of the conference is to discuss ideas and issues around access to business archives. This will be enabled on the day through group discussions, case studies and practical advice. The conference will benefit all professionals who facilitate both internal and external access to their archives and also benefit those who seek to gain access to archives. Specifically the conference will explore:

- the balance between commercial needs of a business and external access
- how effectively social media can be used
- how cataloguing enhances access
- how access can be given to digital records.

The conference will also include a panel session where delegates will have the opportunity to hear from, and put questions to, a variety of speakers on the issues discussed during the day.

It is intended that the results of the conference will form a BAC policy statement on Access - a resource designed to assist managers, professionals and users in the field.

Speakers this year include:

Maria Sienkiewicz, Barclays Group Archive  
Christopher Hilton, Wellcome Library  
Duncan Campbell-Smith, business historian  
Kiara King, Ballast Trust  
Rachael Griffin, Pentabus Theatre Company.

The conference will be followed by drinks to celebrate the 80th anniversary of the BAC.

The BAC is pleased to announce that it is offering five bursaries that will cover the cost of the conference fee. Applicants whose employers would not normally be able to fund their attendance will be given priority, as will those not already working in the business archive sector. Successful applicants will be expected to take and compile notes from the day to form the basis of the BAC's policy document on Access. For more information on what will be required, and to apply, please email Adam Hillhouse at [adam.hillhouse@postalheritage.org.uk](mailto:adam.hillhouse@postalheritage.org.uk) stating your name, organisation and why you would like the bursary, by 29 August. Applicants will be informed of the outcome by mid-September.

For booking details see: [www.businessarchivescouncil.org.uk/activities/objectives/conference/2014.conf](http://www.businessarchivescouncil.org.uk/activities/objectives/conference/2014.conf)

## BAC Backs ARA Initiatives

When Mike Anson met with John Chambers and Marie Owens of the Archives & Records Association recently, he offered BAC support for two important initiatives:

The *Don't Risk It!* campaign is designed to raise awareness amongst decision makers and employers about the crucial importance of records management and records managers. A website and toolkit went live on 17 July, and then in September letters and leaflets will be sent to 1,000 employers to emphasise the message.

[www.archives.org.uk/campaigns/knowyourrecords.html](http://www.archives.org.uk/campaigns/knowyourrecords.html)

*Explore your Archive* was launched last year and many BAC members will be familiar with the very successful 'ArchI've' branding. This year the main events are planned for the week beginning 10 November. Some business archives did participate last time, but Mike agreed with John and Marie that it would be great to see even more BAC members taking part this year. So please put that week in your diaries, do something and use the branding.

Further details and the toolkit can be found here: [www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/archives-sector/explore-your-archive-toolkit.htm](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/archives-sector/explore-your-archive-toolkit.htm)

## Recent Books

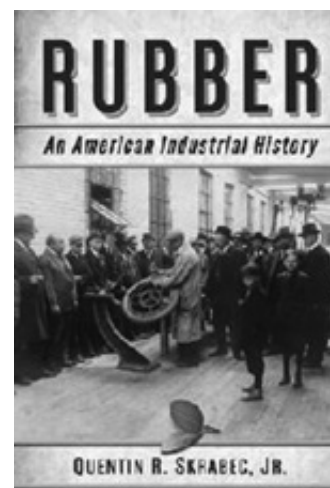
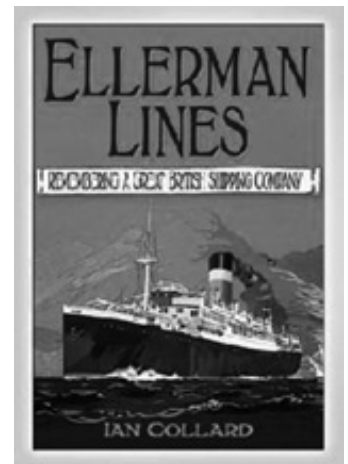
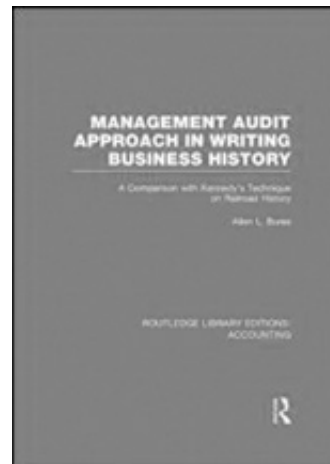
Allen L. Bures, *Management Audit Approach in Writing Business History*, Taylor & Francis, October 2013, 268 pages, 616 grams, rrp £75 (hardback), ISBN 0415854210.

Ian Collard, *Ellerman Lines: Remembering a Great British Shipping Company*, The History Press, December 2013, 240 pages, 512 grams, rrp £16.99 (paperback), ISBN 0752489631.

Paul Jarvis, *British Airways: An Illustrated History*, Amberley Publishing, February 2014, 160 pages, 520 grams, rrp £17.99 (paperback), ISBN 14456118508.

Quentin R. Skrabec, *Rubber: An American Industrial History*, MacFarland, January 2014, 236 pages, 340 grams, rrp £33.95 (paperback), ISBN 0786469986.

John F. Wilson, Anthony Webster and Rachael Vorberg-Rugh, *Building Co-operation: A Business History of the Co-operative Group 1863-2013*, Oxford University Press, October 2013, 440 pages, 1152 grams, rrp £30 (hardback), ISBN 0199655111.



## Welsh Newspapers Online Beta

A useful resource for business historians and others is a digitised collection of over 100 newspaper titles published in Wales over the period 1804-1919. These have been made freely available by the National Library of Wales in a project that should see a growth to over one million pages during this year.

Welsh Newspapers Online Beta is part-funded by the Strategic Capital Investment Fund and the European Regional Development Fund through the Welsh Government.

To use the search facilities log on to: [welshnewspapers.llgc.org.uk/en/home](http://welshnewspapers.llgc.org.uk/en/home)

# By Air, Sea and Land - Transport and Mobility Through the Archives

This workshop, organised by A2SN for hosts the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland (PRONI), is supported by the Historical Model Railway Society, the Business Archives Council and the Postal History Society. It is the fourth in a series begun in 2012.



*Short man meets tall animal - a photograph from the Short Brothers Collection (Image reproduced by courtesy of PRONI)*

The workshop seeks to explore and expand co-operation between volunteer-led societies involved in business history fields and the academics, archivists and museum professionals working in the same areas. The event aims to start a dialogue between the enthusiast and the academic, which may lead to co-operation in preserving and using collections, and furthering our understanding of the past and its relevance to the future.

Belfast is a centre for business, a place where the technologies of transportation come together. It is not surprising therefore to find a vast array of transport archives held in PRONI. Whatever your passion, we aim to give you new opportunities, avenues of exploration and fresh insights.

Speakers at the event will be:

Dawn Livingstone - CEO Waterways Ireland

Professor Alan Woodside - School of the Built Environment, University of Ulster

Dr Peter Rigney - Irish Railway Record Society

Ian Montgomery - PRONI

Robert Corbett – Belfast City Council



*The last White Star Line ship still in existence, photographed in 2012 (Image reproduced by courtesy of SS Nomadic)*

Gayle Campbell - Nomadic Belfast

Dr Graham Brownlow - Queens University, Belfast

Professor Colin Divall - Institute of Railway Studies, University of York.

The event will be held on 8 September 2014 at The Public Record Office of Northern Ireland, 2 Titanic Boulevard, Titanic Quarter, Belfast BT3 9HQ.

After the workshop finishes at around 16.30, there will be an opportunity to tour the SS Nomadic, the last remaining White Star Line ship.

Further details and a booking form can be downloaded at: [www.proni.gov.uk/proni\\_brochure](http://www.proni.gov.uk/proni_brochure)

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## Wanted

Do you have any interesting images that would look good on the BAC website? If you would like to include your organisation on the BAC website please send any images that reflect the depth and breadth

of business archives, whether these are documents, photographs or images of researchers using the archives, to: [clairetwinn\\_746@hotmail.com](mailto:clairetwinn_746@hotmail.com) along with a caption and 'courtesy of' text.

# Ephemera Corner

## Batterium Metal

The November 1929 issue of *Motor Sport* commented on a lead-acid battery recently introduced: 'The great advantage of this battery is in the use of a new proved Acid resisting Metal - Batterium - for all metal parts other than lead parts of the Battery. This alloy was invented by the TUNGSTONE ACCUMULATOR Co., who are to be congratulated on their enterprise and success.'

Advertisements began to appear, such as the example shown here, and the apparent virtues of Batterium started to attract the attention of the engineering world. *The Practical Electrical Engineer* (published by Newness c.1932) reported: 'A new metal has recently been discovered and put on the market under the name of 'Batterium'; it has somewhat remarkable properties for electrical and other purposes'. In 1933 the Royal Aircraft Factory performed metallurgical tests, records now lodged at the National Archives. But almost as soon as this alloy made its debut, it quietly slipped away from sight for reasons unknown (to this author).

*Woldman's Engineering Alloys*, 9th edition (2000) describes the material as an aluminium bronze with composition: copper 89%, aluminium 9%, nickel 1% and the balance 'other metal', tagging the product as 'renamed, obsolete or no longer manufactured'. These metal percentages fit in very well with an alloy proposed by Walter Haddon in patent 329,361, accepted by the Patent Office on 16 May 1930.

Walter Haddon started his career as an apprentice to the printing trade in 1879. He went on to establish his own type foundry and do battle with vested

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Free Batterium sample for test under your own conditions on your stating nature of proposed test; also post free, copy of reports of tests by Royal Technical College, Salford, proving its chemical properties and the National Physical Laboratory its physical properties.

**Tungstone is the Only Car Battery in the World sold with a free Guarantee that its Plate Terminals made of Batterium will not Sulphate or Corrode.**

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interests when attempting to introduce standardisation to the industry. In this he was successful.

Before the First World War he met George (Gogu) Constantinesco, a brilliant Romanian engineer, the man responsible for devising the means by which machine gun bullets could pass between the blades of a rotating aircraft propeller. The principle behind the system came from Constantinesco's study of fluid compressibility that Walter Haddon had sponsored at an experimental laboratory in Alperton, near Ealing. Constantinesco (the spelling is sometimes given as Constantinescu) established the study of 'sonicity', the science of transmitting mechanical energy via the elasticity of fluids, both practically and theoretically. Haddon was named as co-inventor on several related patents and acquired the rights

to them for the British Isles and the Dominions after the 1914-18 war.

The printing-type factory run by William Haddon, in Market Harborough, began making batteries in the mid-1920s under the name Tungstone. So the story goes, Haddon received a walking stick made from the wood Greenheart (*Chlorocardium rodiei*). He was so impressed by its properties that he adopted the material for use in making 'printers spaces'. The notion that the wood was as hard as tungsten and as buoyant as stone led to him derive the word Tungstone.

Battery manufacture at Market Harborough continued until 2002 when the factory closed because of increasing competition from abroad. More recently, the brand name has been revived.

The editor of this newsletter is Alan Gall. The next issue will appear in Autumn 2014. 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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