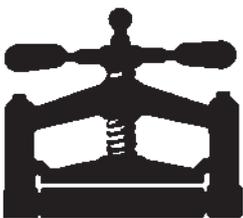


Newsletter



**BUSINESS
ARCHIVES
COUNCIL**

Chairman's address to the Annual General Meeting of the BAC, held on 12 November 2008

Members, let me begin by setting out the changes to our Executive Committee. Stepping down are Jane Waller and Alex Ritchie. Jane, Archivist at The Baring Archive, has decided to take a mid-career break. In recent years she has most enthusiastically supported our newsletter and website work. Alex Ritchie has served the Council for a considerable time, first as a survey officer, then while working for the Historical Manuscripts Commission, and latterly at The National Archive. My sincere thanks to them both. I should now like to introduce their successors on the Executive. Moira Lovegrove has been an archivist of The Baring Archive since 2000, and is reviews editor for *Principles and Practice*. Richard Wiltshire joined the LMA in 2002. He is currently Senior Archivist for Business Archives held by the City of London Corporation. Based at the Guildhall Library he has cross-site responsibilities for business records at the Guildhall and LMA. We are delighted that they are on board.

The year 2007-8 has been an exciting time in the Council's history. The work done on the development of a strategy for the business archives sector has been a principal concern. The work started by Robert Brown has been most effectively completed by Katey Logan. This is now in the final stages of production, after extensive consultation, and I hope you have all taken the opportunity to contribute to the shaping of it. The strategy lays down the steps we can take towards making business archives better managed, better preserved and better understood, and I look forward to your continuing support over the coming years as we work towards implementing the recommendations of the strategy.

The Council also continued to raise the profile of the business archives sector with key decision makers. We were invited to join the All Party Parliamentary Group on Archives and one of the deputy chairs of the Council, Sara Kinsey, attended the inaugural meeting of this group at the House of Lords in the summer – where the importance of business archives was mentioned by many of the speakers.

We also played a leading role in a 'Meet the Archivists' session for graduate students held at The Baring Archive in November 2007. Executive members Peter Scott and Valerie Johnson gave papers, a number of our corporate members gave presentations, and the event was chaired by Mike Anson.

Your Council has also continued its core activities:

Publications: Journal, Newsletter, Web

Business Archives number 93 (*Principles and Practice*), edited by Valerie Johnson, was an instructive and insightful issue. It contained important contributions from Judy Faraday on the promotion of business archives in the private sector and Victoria Rea on the state of in-house archives, identifying opportunities for collaboration and partnership. There were also articles on the performance history of the Royal Shakespeare Company, HSBC's regional archive in the Asia Pacific region, and BP's R&D archive. Number 94 (*Sources and History*), edited by Mike Anson, was equally impressive. It contained a provocative piece by John Quail on the survival prospects of the archives of our largest companies – John is talking at our conference – and by Bridget Williams, one of our bursary winners, on the value of Sainsbury's sales data as a guide source for food retailing trends. There were also pieces on shipbuilding, coal, and a diverting article on the 'Mr Micawber of Gas'. Bibliographic contributions to our journal were generously provided by Emma Stagg, Richard Hawkins and Mike Anson. Jane Waller's four Newsletters continued to inform. Jane has now stepped down as our editor. Our sincere thanks to her for all the work she has done on the Council's behalf. She is succeeded by Alan Gall, managing director of SDA Electronics Ltd and part-time archivist for the Institute of Science and Technology. The Council's website was further enhanced, thanks to the work of Claire Twinn, and I should like to draw your attention to the 'Hidden Assets' section which promotes the professional management of archives. I am also delighted to report that Jane's work in overseeing the website will be continued by a new member of the Executive, Moira Lovegrove. Once again, I record my sincere thanks on your behalf to everyone concerned in these ventures.

Conference 2007

On 13 November 2007 we held another successful conference, which was generously hosted by Barclays at its Canary Wharf HQ. The theme was 'Initiatives and Innovation: Business Archives Today and Tomorrow'. Richard Coopey from Aberystwyth University gave a keynote address on the archival challenges of pursuing research on the popular music industry, and there were papers on Barclays' use of a corporate exhibition in outreach to local communities (Maria Sienkiewicz), the rescue of the

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important Equitable Life archive (David Rayment), and the MLA's designation scheme (Yvette Burrows). In the afternoon we heard from Kate Murphy on her research into the role of women in the BBC, Cheryl Bailey on her work in documenting the Black Country's role as Workshop of the World, and from Steve Capes and his colleagues on their enthusiastic approach to community archives in Cambridgeshire. The conference concluded with an innovative and lively open forum, supported by an on-the-spot SWOT analysis, the results of which were used to guide our development of the archive strategy. The event was once again conceived by Judy Faraday. The conference was supported by our hosts, Barclays, and thanks to Maria Sienkiewicz and her team for ensuring its efficient organisation.

Wadsworth Prize 2007

The Wadsworth prize reception was held at the Museum of London Docklands immediately after our conference. Our thanks to Judy Faraday for organising a very successful event. The 2007 prize, awarded to a book published in 2006, was won by me (I am somewhat embarrassed to report). Perhaps I should state here that the judges function entirely separately from the Council. I received the prize from Peter Mathias, one of our stalwart vice-presidents, for my book, *The Official History of Britain and the Channel Tunnel*, which was published by Routledge.

Bursary 2007

After another competitive round of judging, I am delighted to announce that our 2007 Bursary was won by Drew Keeling, from the University of Zurich. Drew has been using the bursary to research 'Passenger fares of the

Cunard Line and the business of mass migration across the North Atlantic'. A paper based on the research will be appearing in Business Archives. My thanks to Peter Scott, and to all our judges for the Wadsworth and Bursary awards, for their work in identifying our worthy winners.

Finally, I announce a major change in our line-up. Our President, Sam Twining, is stepping down after 40 years of much-valued support and encouragement. He joined the Executive Committee in 1968, became Chairman in 1972, and succeeded Peter Mathias as President in 1994. I am sure you would want me to thank him for all he has done for us in what has been an exceptional level of continued support. I am delighted to say that he has agreed to be nominated as a Vice-President. It is also my pleasure to introduce his successor, Sir Geoffrey Owen. Sir Geoffrey had a distinguished period at the Financial Times, and has enjoyed a second career at the LSE. He is a Senior Fellow in the Department of Management, was from 1991 to 1996 Director of Business Policy in the Centre for Economic Performance, and has contributed the impressive textbook, *From Empire to Europe: The Decline and Revival of British Industry since the Second World War*. He is currently working on a modern history of Courtauld's. Welcome to the Council, Sir Geoffrey!

And I must finish by thanking our hosts at the Wellcome for their generosity in hosting our AGM.

Terry Gourvish

Chairman

12 November 2008

'Meet the Archivists' Workshop

How many new research students are aware of the vast array of opportunities within business archives? Or indeed how to make the most of these opportunities? Meet the Archivists is a one-day workshop sponsored by the London School of Economics and The Rothschild Archive that seeks to address these issues.

During the workshop, students and archivists will talk about techniques of archival research and enjoy lunch around an exposition by business archives. The event is designed for advanced undergraduate students, research masters students, and beginning doctoral or post-doctoral students embarking on new research projects. The event will take place on Thursday 15 January 2009 at the offices of Rothschild in the City of London.

The workshop's aims are:

- To promote business archives to new researchers
- To acquaint new researchers with available business archive resources in the UK
- To provide skills for maximizing time spent on archival research
- To identify specific research opportunities within business archives
- To enable researchers to understand how business archives can be used in general history research as well as in economic and business history

There is no charge for the event but places will be restricted and allocated on a first come first served basis. BAC members wishing to participate in the day either as researchers or representatives of business archives should contact Chris Colvin at c.l.colvin@lse.ac.uk. Chris is keen for the business archives sector to be well represented in the exposition. Last year's workshop – which was hosted at The Baring Archive – was judged to be a great success and led to many new and interesting research projects. We expect this second workshop to be just as successful.

Provisional programme for Thursday 15 January 2009

10:00 – 10:30	Registration
10:30 – 11:30	Valerie Johnson, National Archives: 'What's the use? Your research and business archives'
11:30 – 12:30	Peter Scott, University of Reading: 'Where to begin? Searching for primary sources in business history'
12:30 – 15:00	Sandwich lunch around the archive expositions – a chance for researchers and archivists to meet
15:00	Close

As details are finalised updates will be published on www.businessarchivescouncil.org.uk

BT Archives Launches Online Catalogue

Did you know that BT's predecessors date back to the early telegraph companies – the first being the Electric Telegraph Company founded in 1846?

This makes BT the world's oldest communications company.

With the launch of a new online catalogue this November, BT's fascinating past, packed with intriguing stories, is now easier to access. This is the end of a two-year project to describe for the first time ever details of BT's oldest historical documents, and to place this information online.

BT is committed to safeguarding its communications history, which includes a nationally significant archive collection. BT recognises it has a duty of care to look after these records and to make them accessible for the benefit of our whole society. The online catalogue is a huge step forward in making this possible. The project is funded by BT's committee for responsible and sustainable business.

The archive collection includes the records of BT plc, the historical phone books, the Post Office telecommunications business, a reference library, and visual materials consisting of both images and film. There is a vast array of material covering numerous topics documenting the development of telecommunications from its very beginnings, both in the United Kingdom and across the world.

The first part of the project was to catalogue to international standards many of the earliest records of the company inherited by BT from the Post Office. Those prior to privatisation are classed as public records. So far this has seen an extra 3000 records added to the catalogue at BT Archives. The majority of these consist of registered files of cases presented to the Postmaster General for a decision. This is an interesting section of the collections at BT Archives as many are split with the British Postal Museum and Archive (BPMA). The files of a telecommunications nature were transferred to BT Archives as BT is the successor company to these once Post Office functions.

These files cover a huge range of telecommunication topics, anything from arrangements with railway



The 'articulating telephone' in 1877 (BT Archives ref: EHA 5608)

companies for call offices at train stations to telegraph facilities at horse racing meetings, or the provision of refreshment clubs at exchanges to the uniforms worn by crew aboard cable ships.

With the broad range of subjects covered by the registered files our understanding of the development of telecommunications is being greatly improved. Some interesting stories have been discovered during cataloguing.

In a file on the development of wireless telegraphy in the USSR (BT Archives ref: POST 30/1321C), a memorandum by A V Burbury of the British Mission in Moscow quotes Lenin describing wireless telegraphy as "the news-sheet which abolishes paper and distance".

As cataloguing continues there are a lot more stories still to be uncovered!

Discover the stories for yourself at www.bt.com/archivesonline

Call for Coleman Prize 2009

Association of Business Historians

To be awarded at the ABH Conference

3-4 July 2009

University of Liverpool Management School

www.busman.qmul.ac.uk/abh

The Association of Business Historians invites submissions for consideration for the 2009 Coleman Prize. This prestigious prize is open to PhD dissertations in business history either having a British subject or completed at a British university. All dissertations completed in the calendar years 2007 and 2008 are eligible (with the exception of previous submissions). The value of the prize is £200. Named in honour of the British Business Historian Donald Coleman, this prize is awarded annually by the Association of Business Historians to recognise excellence in new research in Britain. The Prize is now sponsored by Adam Matthew Publications Limited, a scholarly publisher that makes available original manuscript collections, rare printed books and other primary source materials in

microform and electronic format. It is a condition of eligibility for the Prize that short-listed finalists present their findings at the Association's annual conference, to be held at the University of Liverpool Management School, 3-4 July 2009.

For consideration of your PhD dissertation, please send the title and a brief 200-word abstract to Dr Valerie Johnson by 31 December 2008. A longlist of candidates will be requested to send hard copies of their thesis by 25 February 2009, from which a shortlist of finalists will be chosen.

Dr Valerie Johnson

Corporate Research Manager

Research and Collections Development

The National Archives

Kew Richmond

Surrey

TW9 4DU

England.

Email:valerie.johnson@nationalarchives.gov.uk

GODREJ ARCHIVES ONLINE

Vrunda Pathare of Godrej & Boyce Manufacturing Co Ltd describes some of the features of the Godrej Archives and also a newly instigated lecture series to promote interest in business history.

About Godrej

The Godrej story started in 1897 when Ardeshir Godrej, a young man of 29, infused with the swadeshi¹ spirit, began manufacturing locks in a tiny shed at Lalbaug, in Mumbai, India. Ardeshir moved on restlessly from locks to safes and then to soaps. His brother, Pirojsha Godrej, who joined the business in 1906, focussed on nurturing these growing and already thriving industries and placed them on a strong business footing. Under his stewardship, furniture, cupboards, typewriters and refrigerators were added to the portfolio. The Godrej Industrial Township at Vikhroli (a suburb of Mumbai) was also developed during his time. The vigorous efforts and devotion of these two siblings eventually laid the foundation of a flourishing business that has made 'GODREJ' a household name in India.

Godrej Archives is a step towards preserving the Godrej heritage. Its aim is to highlight the contribution made by the Godrej Group to the industrial history of India, as well as to the country's future.

About Us

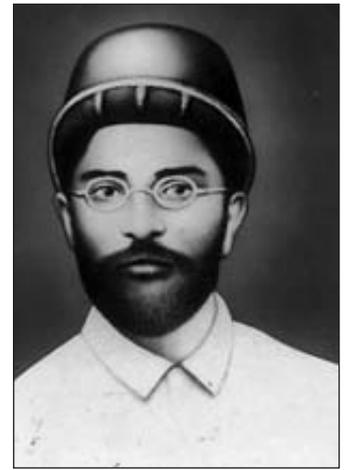
The idea of setting up the Archives was conceived in 1997, the 'Godrej Centenary Year'. It was the brain-child of former Chairman and Head of the Godrej family, the late Sohrab Pirojsha Godrej, who over many years dedicated himself to the task of collecting old documents and photographs reflecting the history of Godrej. He envisioned the archives to be a heritage centre offering invaluable archival material for reference and research. The objectives of the Godrej Archives as laid down by him were:

- To help people understand the company's ethos and its growth
- To appreciate the people who shaped these
- To trace the company's values and commitments realised through the founder's vision - to become one of the largest privately held and diversified industrial corporations in India.

It was in February 2006 that Godrej Archives made its formal beginning. We are engaged in tracing the history of Godrej through the collection and preservation of archival records in all media. Currently housed are: an assortment of agreements, letters, technical drawings, press clippings, old catalogues, advertisements, testimonials from clients and customers, audio-visual recordings, photographs, awards, medals and unique memorabilia items. It also has in its collection papers pertaining to the Godrej family. The Archives team, to aid researchers in understanding the essence of the company, is continually developing effective methods for arranging, cataloguing and preserving these records.



Pirojsha Godrej



Ardeshir Godrej

Our collections

- Manuscript Collection (1836- 2007)
- Photograph Collection (1880-2007)
- Audio-Visual Collection (1990-2007)
- Memorabilia Collection (1893- 2006)
- Printed Material Collection
- Oral History Collection

The history of any company is incomplete without including the role played by those who contributed substantially to the growth of the organisation. Godrej Archives has started recording reminiscences of such former employees. These first-hand experiences will be of immense interest to the next generation. For now, we hope that these oral memoirs will contribute to a better understanding of the organisation.

Our Activities

Godrej Archives has started a lecture series to promote an appreciation of the value of archival records and popularize the subject of business history.

The first lecture in this series was organized jointly with Tata Central Archives and the Museum Society of Bombay at the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalaya (formerly Prince of Wales Museum of Western India), held on 20 September 2006. It was a slide-illustrated talk by Prof Douglas Haynes of Dartmouth College, USA, on 'Soap Wars: Indian Capitalism and Advertisements in a Highly Competitive Business Environment, 1915-1950'.

The second lecture was organised last year. Dr. Dwijendra Tripathi, formerly Professor at IIMA, delivered a talk on 'Indian Business History: Fallacies of Interpretation'.

Our Website: www.archives.godrej.com

¹ The Swadeshi movement, part of the Indian independence movement, was a successful economic strategy to remove the British Empire from power and improve economic conditions in India through following principles of swadeshi (self-sufficiency). Strategies of the swadeshi movement involved boycotting British products and the revival of domestic-made products and production techniques. Swadeshi, as a strategy, was a key focus of Mahatma Gandhi.

The editor of this newsletter is Alan Gall. The next issue will appear in Spring 2009. Prospective copy should be sent to Alan Gall, Tel: 0161 745 7029 (daytime) 01706 344429 (evening) Fax: 0161 745 9649 email: alanguall@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, Group Archivist, Lloyds TSB Group Archives, 5th Floor, Princess House, 1 Suffolk Lane, London EC4R 0AX (Tel: +44 (0) 207 489 3945); Karen.Sampson@LloydsTSB.co.uk.

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