

Chairman's address to Business Archives Council AGM, 24 November 2009

Review of year 2008-9



Some of the BAC Executive at a meeting in September 2009

Left to right: Peter Scott, Roy Edwards, Moira Lovegrove, Terry Gourvish, Edwin Green, Judy Faraday, Katey Logan and Richard Wiltshire.

Let me begin by setting out the changes to our Executive Committee. Since we last met, Sara Kinsey has resigned from the Executive. Sara joined the Executive in 2003 and became a deputy chair in 2005. She was not only a highly effective deputy, but inspired and led the initiative which resulted in the creation of the multi-institutional project to formulate a strategy for business archives. The many and varied commitments she currently has, not least at HSBC, where she is manager of group history projects, prompted her decision. We will certainly miss her, but I am pleased to announce that the Executive has been able to appoint Judy Faraday in her place as a deputy chair, and I will be seeking your endorsement to this decision in due course. Serena Kelly is also stepping down, having decided not to seek election this year. She was for some years an archivist at The Baring Archive, and latterly has worked for both the Victoria & Albert Museum and the British Library. Her current commitments with Williams Lea leave her little time to attend meetings and she has therefore decided not to stand again. After 15 years on the Executive she certainly merits our sincere thanks for her sterling service to the Council, not least in the areas of training and publications. I should now like to introduce the newcomers to the Executive. Katey Logan, as I am sure you all know, served on the Executive some years ago, and was the consultant whose drive and determination took forward the business archives strategy. She is a highly effective advocate of business archives and we are delighted to have her back on board. Our second newcomer is Mariam Yamin, who has generously agreed to act as editor of *Business Archives: Principles and Practice*, in succession to Valerie Johnson. Mariam has worked for RBS and is currently archivist of Guardian News and Media. We will be seeking your endorsement of these nominations very shortly. Also a big thank you to Valerie Johnson for serving as editor of *Principles and Practice*; we are delighted she is staying on the Executive.

The Credit Crunch

The onset of the 'credit crunch' provided some resonance with the circumstances which led to the formation of the Council in the 1930s. Then, as now, an economic downturn brought with it risks to the business archives world, either through receivership or mergers and acquisitions. Given the country's current financial difficulties, it was clearly wise of us to develop our major initiative, the strategy for business archives. This has been much talked about in previous meetings, and in the year under review we produced a strategy for consultation, though the formal launch, at the House of Lords on 9th July 2009, is to be reported on next year. But at this stage I should state that I feel we can make a difference, and that the strategy provides not only an opportunity, but also a challenge, for us to respond with positive actions and activities.

Your Council's core activities continue to thrive:

Publications: Journal, Newsletter, Web

Business Archives Number 95 (*Principles and Practice*), edited by Valerie Johnson, contained important contributions from Nigel Hardman, Maria Sienkiewicz and Jeannette Strickland on a 'model archivist'; Janet Inglis and Caroline Venamore on the measurement and control of risk in records management; Vicky Parkinson, Adrian Steel and Jeannette Strickland on business archives and the MLA designation scheme; and Maria Sienkiewicz on the value of an archive to corporate reputation. There was also a tribute to Len McDonald (1933-2007), a pioneer of records management and an important figure in the Council's history. Number 96 (*Sources and History*), edited by Mike Anson, contained articles from Roy Edwards on the records of the Railway Clearing House; Drew

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Keeling, our bursary winner of the previous year, on the voyage abstracts of the Cunard Line; Kate Murphy on the pioneering women of the BBC; Kevin Tennent on the use of the dissolved companies files in the National Archives of Scotland; and Lesley Whitworth on the Design Archive as a resource for business historians. Bibliographic contributions to our journal were generously provided by Emma Stagg, Richard Hawkins and Mike Anson. Alan Gall's four Newsletters continued to be an important medium of dissemination. The Council's website continues to develop as a major resource, with further enhancements, thanks to Claire Twinn's work and the assiduous oversight of Moira Lovegrove. Again, I record my sincere thanks on your behalf to everyone concerned in this work.

Conference 2008

On 12 November 2008 we held our annual conference, generously hosted by Christopher Hilton and the Wellcome Trust. The theme was 'Out of the Ordinary', intended to tease out the varied ways in which archives are promoted by their parent body. The speakers were: in the morning, Sam Twining, former president of the Council, who reflected on the progress of business archives since the council's formation in 1934; John Quail, who advocated a legislative approach to the protection of business collections; Richard Wiltshire, from LMA, who spoke on public repository collections; Louise Ray, the Archive Lottery Adviser, who advocated the development of a partnership approach to secure lottery funding for business collections; and Ellen Collins, from MLA London, who advanced the idea of using case studies to highlight a collaborative, public-private sector approach to the exploitation of business collections. In the afternoon, Joan Heggie from the British Steel Collection, Teresa Wilmshurst from the Waterways Trust and Richard Taylor from the National Railway Museum set out the different ways in which they approached the promotion of their collections. Finally, Katey Logan updated colleagues on the progress of the strategy and the consultation process. The conference was once again conceived and organised by Judy Faraday, for which many thanks.

Wadsworth Prize 2008

The Wadsworth Prize reception was held immediately after the conference at Unilever, where our most generous host was Jeannette Strickland, Head of Art, Archives and Record Management. Once again a big thank you to Judy Faraday and Karen Sampson for organising the event. The prize, awarded to a book published in 2007, was won by Professor Peter Scott from the Henley Business School of the University of Reading, for his book *The Triumph of the South: a Regional Economic History of Early Twentieth Century Britain*, published by Ashgate.

Peter was the 30th winner, and to mark this milestone we published a special number of *Business Archives*, Number 97, entitled *Reflections and Speculations*. This marked the anniversary and the retirement of Sam Twining as President of the BAC. It allowed us to take stock of the state of business history, and its relationship with archives. Former prizewinners were invited to contribute to a collection of essays edited by Mike Anson, and the response was extremely positive. We received essays from Roy Church, Leslie Hannah, Geoffrey Jones, Christine MacLeod, Robin Pearson and Geoffrey Tweedale. This formidable team discussed issues ranging from the problem of survivor bias in business history to the use of archives by business historians, and the challenge of litigation archives.

Bursary 2008

The winner in 2008 was Felipe Fernandes, from the London School of Economics. Felipe's area of study was 'Telegraphs and Shipping: Shrinking Economic Distances, 1850-1914', and he conducted research at the telegraph archive in Porthcurno. A short article based on the research will be appearing in *Business Archives*.

On your behalf I should like to thank Roy Edwards for organising the Wadsworth judging, and Peter Scott for organising the bursary judging.

Other Activities

Your Executive was active in contributing to training activities. We organised a training day for archives students on 27 January, and played a leading role in another successful 'Meet the Archivists' session for graduate students held at Rothschild's on 15 January.

Karen Sampson and Richard Wiltshire manned the BAC's stall and promoted business archive collections at the MLA's 'Meet student teachers in London' event on 17 March. The aim was to inspire student teachers to develop learning opportunities using resources beyond the classroom. I should like to thank all those who took part in these events.

This year the Council also provided help and advice on record-keeping to the Royal Warrant Holders' Association and to the Institute of Financial Services.

I am also pleased to report that work is in progress on an entirely new bibliography of business history. This project is being undertaken by the Council's stalwart supporters, John Orbell and Richard Storey, and I look forward to reporting on their progress next year.

Finally, I must finish by thanking The National Archives for their generosity in hosting our AGM.

Terry Gourvish

Chairman

24 November 2009

The Brewery History Society

Mike Brown.

The Society was founded in 1972 and at present there are about 500 members comprising individuals, corporate members and small brewers. There is a wide range of interests, from collecting breweriana through to the impact of the temperance movement. The society publishes a quarterly journal,

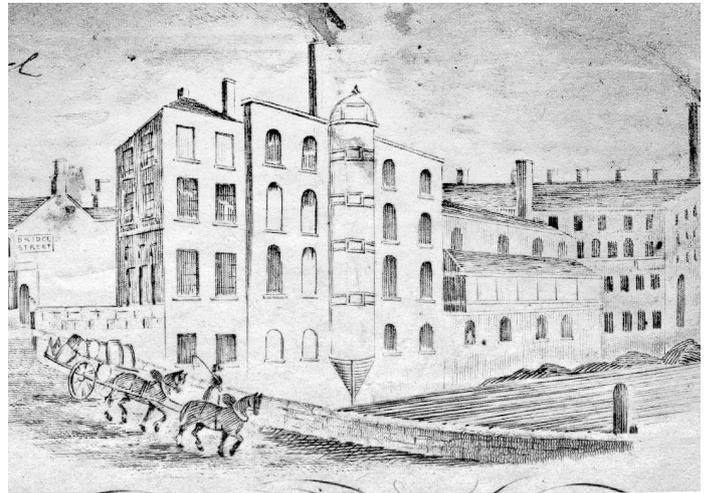
which provides in-depth analysis of the industry's history, and a newsletter, which details current developments, provides links and updates and includes a correspondence section for answering queries. Articles submitted to the journal can be peer-reviewed on request. The BHS publishes

its own books and is gradually building a county-by-county coverage of the UK. One key publication is *Century of British Brewers*, which aims to provide brief details of all the UK's commercial and pub breweries since 1890. These and other brewery related publications are available from our bookshop. Further details on the Society can be found at www.breweryhistory.com

The Society's archive collection is held at Birmingham Central Library. This is located in the centre of Birmingham and is perhaps best travelled to by rail, being only 10 minutes walk from the station. The library is open from Monday to Saturday, although the archive serving area is closed on Mondays and you may need to give some warning of your visit. The Archives and Heritage Service is located on the sixth floor of the building. You will need some proof of identity to access material – see the BCL website for more details. As a point of interest, there is an excellent set of trade directories covering much of the country in this section.

The library has a catalogue of our material and is working towards electronic access. In addition, we are looking to include a version within our own website. Bearing in mind that the catalogue runs to over 300 pages, you can imagine how much material we have managed to collect. Many of the original records came from the Brewers Society and include some rare historical items.

We have 250+ books, including brewery histories, general texts on the industry and pubs and some technical publications. We also have several bound sets of Journals



John Youil, *Hen and Chickens Brewery, Manchester*. 'Ale brewer to his late majesty William the 4th' (dated 1846)

and Directories, such as: *The Brewers Journal* from 1880, *Brewing Trade Review* from 1908, *Manual of Brewers* from 1899, *Brewers Almanac* from 1915. Magazines and papers include *The Brewer*, *What's Brewing*, and a nearly full set of BHS Journals and Newsletters from the beginning. Other societies, such as the Labologists and Beermat Collectors, are also well represented and we now receive current copies. The collection also contains many local CAMRA branch newsletters, which often contain articles of research interest.

As well as our collection, the library also holds the papers for the firms of Ansell's, Davenport's and Showell's - however these have yet to be catalogued. Some of these papers came from the Allied Breweries Archives at Burton, which were disposed of by Punch Retail. Dr Ray Anderson, currently president of the BHS, organised the dispersal of the Allied material, which now resides in 70 or more Record Offices. At present, Birmingham Library is in the process of planning a new archive and this means that they cannot, for the time being, accept any major deposits unless there is a clear threat to the survival of the material.

For further information, please contact the BHS Archivist by emailing archives@breweryhistory.com

Catalogue overview: MS1865 Acc94/134 BREWERY HISTORY SOCIETY COLLECTION at BCL



Trade Mark registered 1889



Trade Mark registered 1926

Government Policy on Archives

Dr Melinda Haunton, Archives Sector Development, The National Archives.

The National Archives and the Museums Libraries and Archives Council (MLA) are delighted to announce that the new government policy on archives has been published. This note is to brief you on what's happened, and also to ask you for your help in turning this policy into action.

The National Archives and MLA welcome the new government policy on archives – *Archives for the 21st Century* – which was laid before Parliament on 24 November 2009. *Archives for the 21st Century* is a strategic vision for the archives sector, and is the first such policy for ten years. In challenging times, the policy re-asserts the vital importance of archives as the gateway to the nation's common heritage, while reflecting the extraordinary

advances in technology that offer both challenges and unprecedented opportunities. *Archives for the 21st Century* recognises the role archives have to play in linking people with their communities, their heritage and their responsibility to future generations, and places archives in a present-day political and professional context, ensuring they remain relevant in a digital age. Designed to support archive services around the country – particularly publicly funded services – *Archives for the 21st Century* outlines the challenges currently facing the archives sector and highlights the important contributions that archives can make to local communities. This policy does not offer a single blueprint for the way forward, but suggests a range of options that can be applied to short and long term planning

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in archives, according to local need and priorities.

This publication follows an extensive consultation exercise that took place in summer 2009, generating over 600 responses from individuals, organisations and institutions across the country. The finished policy incorporates many of these contributors' valuable suggestions. Our next step is to create an action plan and, over the coming months, The National Archives and MLA will discuss and agree a detailed action plan with key stakeholders from all parts of the archives sector. The action plan we develop will carry forward the recommendations of the policy that require Government action and is scheduled for publication by the end of January 2010.

With such widespread support received for the policy, we now want to encourage professional bodies, individual institutions and other key stakeholders to get involved in

this process – to help us shape and deliver the work streams proposed in the action plan. We also hope that this will be an opportunity for you to review your own plans, both individually and collectively, against the principles of *Archives for the 21st Century* and identify actions you can take to bring about the policy objectives it identifies, bringing major benefits to the whole sector.

To see the final policy document please visit our website on www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/policy/Aft21C, and if you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact either TNA or MLA.

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Three Business History Collections Designated

Moira Lovegrove, The Baring Archive.

Three business archive collection have recently been awarded Designated Status by the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council (MLA). Designated Status recognises the pre-eminent collections held in England's non-national museums, libraries and archives.

The three collections are:

- **The Baring Archive** (www.baringarchive.org.uk), which contains the business papers of Baring Brothers & Co and historical portraits of key figures in the firm's history. The Archive contains material of international significance and is a vital resource for economic history and business history.
- **Porthcurno Telegraph Museum's** (<http://www.porthcurno.org.uk/>) core collection of submarine telegraphy objects and the historic archive collections of key international telegraph cable companies. The collection tells the story of the development of international communication that changed the world.
- **Unilever's archive collections** (http://www.unilever.com/aboutus/ourhistory/unilever_archives.aspx), which reflect the global significance of the company and its predecessor companies in world trade.



Telegram delivery girls in the 1940s (Porthcurno collection)

BAC Milestones: 75 and 100

We would like to mark the 75th anniversary of the BAC, in what coincidentally will be the 100th issue of *Business Archives*, by drawing together a collection of reminiscences. If members would like to share their memories of the Council (good or bad!) then please get in touch with Mike Anson who will be drawing them together in an article.

(michael.anson@bankofengland.co.uk)

Springboard

The 13th annual Records Management Society Conference will take place at the Manchester Central Convention Complex from Sunday 21 to Tuesday 23 March 2010. In keeping with the overall theme of utilising the latest technologies, and a multi-disciplinary approach, the Conference title is 'Springboard'. Keynote speakers will represent both private and public sectors.

For further information please visit www.rms-gb.org.uk/conference

The editor of this newsletter is Alan Gall. The next issue will appear in Spring 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 Post: c/o SDA Electronics Ltd, Unit 30, Willan Industrial Estate, Eccles New Road, Salford M50 2GR.

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