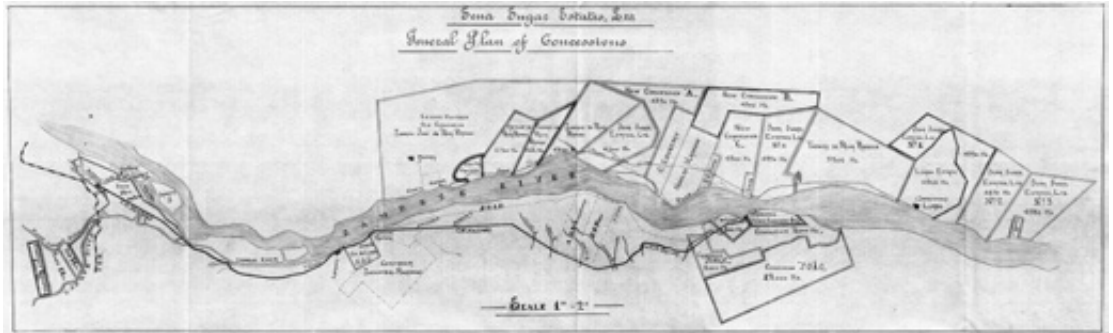


Newsletter



**BUSINESS
ARCHIVES
COUNCIL**

Winners of the BAC Cataloguing Grant for Business Archives - 2013



Concession map belonging to the Sena Sugar factory dated around 1900

The Business Archives Council is delighted to announce the winners of the cataloguing grants for 2013. The first BAC cataloguing grant for business archives was launched in April 2010 in support of the National Strategy for Business Archives. Additionally this year, in an effort to support an under-represented area of business archives, and to compliment wider initiatives for archiving the arts by The National Archives and the recently launched Campaign for Voluntary Sector Archives, the BAC also awarded a grant for the cataloguing of business archives related to the arts.

An impressive set of applications were received for both grants, representing a variety of business collections and localities in the United Kingdom. The judging panel, on behalf of the Council, has awarded the annual grant of £2000 to West Sussex Record Office for the cataloguing of archives of the Hornung papers.

For the new grant for businesses related to the arts, the panel decided that two applicants were particularly good and so exceptionally awarded two grants of £2000 - one to IRIE! Dance Theatre for the cataloguing of their performance collection, and one to Pentabus Theatre for the cataloguing of their company records.

West Sussex Record Office

Hornung & Co Ltd were empire builders, founders and owners of the Sena Sugar Estates in Mozambique, the Compania de Cha Oriental Estate in Malawi, sugar refineries in Portugal, and the West Grinstead Stud in West Sussex, amongst other concerns. A microcosm of the European colonial system, the records of Hornung & Co Ltd present a rare opportunity to shed light on the development, maintenance and eventual downfall of perhaps the most significant English agricultural business to operate in colonial East Africa. After almost

a century of dominance, the Hornung sugar estates – which formed one of the largest sugar plantations in the world, and directly employed some 14,000 people – were sacked during the 1980s and literally left to rot, as a result of Mozambique's civil war. Although pockets of records exist elsewhere, it is understood that many of the company's records were destroyed, along with the estates. Consequently, this significant collection represents a rare survival and priceless opportunity for social and economic historians to study and assess the nature and infrastructure of an important and influential business, including its role in supporting colonial East Africa, and the impact of the colonial plantation system on a local, national and international scale.

The judging panel recognised the rarity and importance of the collection, not least to those researching local and African history, specifically Mozambique, but also more widely, for example to industrial and agricultural historians, as well as agronomists investigating plantation systems and production. The project plan was clear and realistic with its aim to describe the collection to sub-fonds and series level and create an accurate box list. Further funding from an identified source will be sought by West Sussex Record Office to complete the catalogue in the near future. Outreach was also a key element of the application, including: collaboration with a Dutch university and repositories that hold complimentary archives; interaction with the local Portuguese community to establish a voluntary translation programme; publicising the collection on the Archives Hub and in a paper at the SCOLMA conference 'Hidden Collections in African Studies'; and potentially using the records to develop and support local 'remembrance' or oral history projects, particularly amongst former employees of the estates.

IRIE! Dance Theatre



Image of Irie! Dance Theatre performance taken by Rod Leon

IRIE! dance theatre is a charity and leading exponent of African Peoples' Dance from 1985 to the present day. IRIE! have developed groundbreaking initiatives such as Europe's first Diploma in Dance, incorporating African and Caribbean dance as intellectually valid for study and research. These dance works reflect the development of African-Caribbean music and dance styles as adopted by young black people living in the UK in that era. The performance collection relates to the historic touring dance shows of the company, from 1985-2004, and is composed of series each relating to a specific touring dance show.

IRIE! is a unique company and its records reveal an under-represented section of the arts and the wider community, which was formally highlighted in research produced by State of Emergency Productions. The judging panel was impressed that IRIE!, with very limited funds, had already made a huge effort to ensure the preservation of the company's records in-house, including establishing archival standard strong rooms, an access policy, and a digitisation strategy. The proposed plan is to catalogue the entire performance collection, which IRIE! demonstrated could be done within the constraints of the costs and time. The project will also be used to develop a sustainability plan for the archive. The application particularly excelled in outlining the activities that the cataloguing would benefit. The performance records form part of a larger collection that has been put forward as an educational resource supporting the Foundation Degree programme in dance run in partnership with IRIE! Dance theatre, City & Islington College and London Metropolitan University. Additionally, the project will facilitate IRIE's future aim to integrate catalogues with Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music & Dance and build partnerships with other archives such as the British Black Dance Archives Project (at the National Resource Centre for Dance) and the Black Cultural Archives. The collection also holds clear potential as a resource for the study of dance history, dance ethnography and migration studies and for engaging the African-Caribbean community, volunteers and others.

Pentabus Theatre

Pentabus Theatre is a contemporary theatre company producing original plays about the rural world for local and national audiences. It was one of the founding theatres of the community arts movement in the early 1970s, of which only a few, including Pentabus, have survived. The performances of these companies changed the face of theatre, breaking down the conventions of traditional theatre and taking productions directly to communities in their locale, offering site specific theatre experience in castles, fields and underground, and offering opportunities for audience members to partake in largescale community theatre productions.

Pentabus's application highlighted that the records will be of huge use to the over 100 universities in the UK, and further afield, that offer a range of theatre performing arts degrees, almost all offering modules in community arts practice, the popular theatre tradition and political theatre. The judges were very impressed that Pentabus were able to produce a cataloguing proposal of archival standard despite not yet having an established archive or a company archivist. Pentabus had done so by gaining a large amount of support and professional advice in a very short space of time. The project proposal is to create a summary catalogue of the entire collection - the company committing additional funds to do so - and then depositing the collection with Shropshire Archives to ensure access and preservation. The judges were extremely pleased that the grant will help to establish Pentabus's company archive, especially as it will help to promote the company's 40th anniversary next year. Outreach was a key element of the application, specifically the 40th birthday celebrations, but including the use of volunteers to seek out further material and testimonials from former staff, performers, and audience members; to create an exhibition; and to create a history section on their website which will include digitised archives.

The panel believe that the three collections are very worthy recipients of this award and that once catalogued, these collections will receive wider attention from researchers.



Lorna Williams of the BAC (right) presenting the £2000 award to Rachael Griffin of Pentabus Theatre (left)

Chairman's Statement to the 2013 AGM

National Strategy for Business Archives

The Council has continued to support the promotion of the National Strategy for Business Archives, in association with The National Archives, ARA, and CyMAL, including managing the strategy website, www.managingbusinessarchives.co.uk, and providing personnel for the Crisis Response Team. Our marketing leaflet has raised awareness of the strategy website and promoted our aims more broadly.

The BAC has continued to lobby both government departments and businesses on the need to safeguard business archives, pressing the Insolvency Practitioners Association to consider action to safeguard archives affected by liquidation or administration.

One of the Council's major initiatives, the cataloguing grant for business collections, continues to attract high quality applications. In 2012-13 the grant was awarded to Durham County Record Office, to catalogue the records of the Consett Iron Company and its subsidiaries. My thanks go to Mike Anson, Sara Kinsey and Lorna Williams for acting as judges.

The Architecture, Building and Construction Survey for England & Wales, mounted in collaboration with The National Archives, and led by Annabel Welsh, the Resource Discovery Officer, has been completed. Nearly 250 firms were contacted, and, although the overall response of the building and construction sectors was rather disappointing, collections, where available, were surveyed and added to the NRA and ARCHON. A final report is due to be published.

In April 2012 the Council sponsored an outreach event, in collaboration with the Historical Model Railway Society. A Workshop entitled 'Archives, Artefacts, Amateurs & Academics' was held at Derby and Butterley, and attended by over 60 delegates. Further events were planned, under the banner A2SN (Archives and Artefacts Study Network). My thanks go to Roy Edwards for all his efforts in supporting the initiative and setting up the Network with Keith Harcourt.

Finally, the BAC continues to support the *Business History Explorer: a Bibliography of the History of UK Businesses and Industries*, which was published in November 2012, and is available both in print and online.

Publications

Numbers 104 and 105 of the Council's journal, *Business Archives*, were published. They were edited by Mariam Yamin, who was joined in the course of the year by a new editor, Stefan Schwarzkopf, from Copenhagen Business School. Thank you to all the editors and contributors for their work.

Four editions of the Newsletter were produced by Alan Gall. The website was further enhanced thanks to the oversight

of Claire Twinn. The members area now contains digitised copies of past journal articles, from the 1960s onwards. Again, thanks to Alan and Claire for their hard work.

AGM and Conference 2012

The AGM and Annual Conference were held on 8 November 2012 at ING, 60 London Wall, hosted by The Baring Archive. The theme of the conference was 'Born This Way: Business Archives and the Digital Age'. Attended by over 100 delegates, the conference examined the challenges and opportunities that digital records present for business archivists, record managers and users. The conference was followed by a demonstration by John Orbell of the *Business History Explorer*.

My thanks go to Judith Wright and Katie Keys for planning and organising such a stimulating day, and our generous hosts, The Baring Archive.

BAC Wadsworth Prize for Business History 2011

The Council's Wadsworth Prize for 2011 was awarded to Duncan Campbell-Smith for his book, *Masters of the Post: The Authorized History of the Royal Mail*, published by Penguin. The prize was presented by the BAC's chair at a reception held at The Baring Archive, following the conference. Thanks go to Clara Harrow and The Baring Archive for their generous hospitality, the Wadsworth organiser, Dr Roy Edwards, and the independent judges, John Marshall, Dr John Quail, and Sara Kinsey.

Bursary 2012

The winner of the 2012 Bursary was Eoin Drea of University College Cork, whose research focussed on continuity and change in Irish banking, 1922-43. The award was presented at the annual conference of the Association of Business Historians in Aston in July 2012.

Other Activities

The Council's contribution to training has continued. In 2012-13 the BAC ran a training day for archive students in conjunction with ARA's Section for Business Records. It was hosted by The Baring Archive and attended by over 40 students from University College London, Aberystwyth and Dundee. A further 'Meet the Archivists' event was held at the British Postal Museum & Archive in November 2012, and was attended by 60 students contemplating the use of business records in their academic research. The event was chaired by Mike Anson, and there were presentations by Valerie Johnson and Roy Edwards.

Vote of Thanks

My thanks go to Adam Hillhouse and Josette Reeves for organising the 2013 conference, and to Judith Wright, Sophie Clapp and the Boots Archive for generously hosting both the AGM and the Conference in Nottingham.

Personnel Changes

Some changes in the Council's composition have taken place over the year. Edwin Green stepped down as treasurer, after an impressive 37 years' service on the executive, and Moira Lovegrove took his place. We also took the opportunity to restructure officers' duties: Judith Wright became membership secretary, and Claire Twinn the trustee responsible for the newsletter and website.

Finally, I will not be seeking re-election as chair. I have really enjoyed my time on the Council, and have made many friends. I am confident that I am leaving the BAC in good hands.

Terry Gourvish, BAC Chairman, 7 November 2012.

Revised Pricing for Business History Explorer

The latest issue of *Business Archives* includes a review of the *Business History Explorer* (BHE). A new pricing structure has recently been introduced and online subscriptions (which include a hard copy of BHE) now last for a period of one year. In addition, hard copies of BHE are now available to purchase separately. Prices vary according to membership category but range from £45-100 for the online/hard copy option, and £35-50 for the book only. For further details visit www.businessarchivescouncil.org.uk/publications/business_history_explorer/subscribe

BAC Wadsworth Prize 2012: The Strange Death of the British Motorcycle Industry

The winner of the 2012 Business Archives Council Wadsworth Prize for British Business History is Steve Koerner for his study of the British motorcycle industry. The BAC awarded the Wadsworth Prize in Business History for books published in 2012 in a reception held at the HSBC Headquarters. The prize was presented to the publisher Alistair Hodge, as Dr Koerner now lives on Vancouver Island in Canada. However, he was able to address the gathering via a video message recorded earlier. The prize was presented by the Vice President of the BAC, Edwin Green. The judges for this year's prize were Duncan Campbell Smith, last year's winner, Gerald Crompton and Sara Kinsey, HSBC Archives, who acted as chair of the judges.

The judges congratulated the publisher for the design of the book, and in particular the many pictures that illustrate the narrative. The origins of the book lie in a thesis written while the author was at the University of Warwick in the early 1990s, and is reflected in the use of archival material from the Modern Records Centre at Warwick. The judges were impressed by the variety of evidence gathered: the Motor Cycle Industry Association, trade press and government records from The National Archives were all consulted. This is used to illustrate the decline of an industry that while technologically sophisticated, produced unreliable

designs largely unappreciated by customers. This, along with increased competition put the industry in a difficult position from which it was unable to recover.

Steve Koerner, *The Strange Death of the British Motorcycle Industry* (Crucible Books, 2012).



BAC Vice President Edwin Green presents the award to publisher Alistair Hodge

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

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@lloydsbanking.com
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