



Newsletter

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Review of Archives and Records Management sector

Earlier this year, the Society of Archivists (SoA), National Council on Archives (NCA) and the Association of Chief Archivists in Local Government (ACALG) commissioned consultants to review the representative structure of the archives and records management sector in England and Wales to identify ways in which it could be made more effective in presenting its case to the outside world and in supporting the work of the sector.

The three organisations have agreed to work to explore the development of a single body to take on the work of the three separate organisations. As each is differently constituted, each will engage and consult their members in different ways over the coming months about this proposed development.

The first result should be a memorandum of understanding by March 2009. A possible legal merger is hoped to follow by August 2009. Full integration will take some time after that.

Peter Emmerson (SoA), Jonathan Pepler (NCA), Bruce Jackson (ACALG).

National Archives Collecting Strategy Consultation

The National Collections Strategy was officially launched at the Society of Archivists' Conference last year and The National Archives sought feedback on the strategy's vision, aims and principles and suggestions for its successful implementation. The three-month consultation period ended in November 2008 and a review of the findings is due to be published on The National Archives website by the end of February 2009.

Overview

The National Collections Strategy is an initiative to identify in what areas the documentary heritage of England and Wales is under represented or not represented in archives and to address the reasons why. Its aim is to ensure that the records of key events, of the lives and activities of individuals and communities and of public, private and charitable organisations are retained in the most appropriate places, preserved and made easily available for as many pur-

poses as possible.

Through collaborative partnerships, The National Archives will provide a framework of support, help and guidance in developing individual archive strategies: for example, for the health and business sectors, for the performing arts and sporting events, and for websites and digital information.

A consultative panel of representatives from archival and other relevant bodies has been established to oversee the implementation of the National Collections Strategy. The Terms of Reference for the panel are now available online: <http://nationalarchives.gov.uk/about/operate/meetings/strategy/default.htm>

Consultation process
The strategy document has been published at <http://nationalarchives.gov.uk/archives/national-collections-strategy.htm> where you'll find the following questions for consideration, though general comments are also welcome.

1. Do we need a National Collections Strategy?
2. If so, is the approach to building new collections or supporting and nurturing 'at risk' collections as outlined in the Strategic Aims and Principles, the right one?
3. How do we identify gaps in the nation's archive collections and existing collections which might be deemed 'at risk'?
4. Which sectors, themes or formats are endangered and would benefit from strategies?
5. What will the big challenges be and what would make a 'successful' strategy?
6. How do we open debate with the broadest range of communities and how can we encourage continuing engagement from them?
7. How can we best communicate progress on the development of strategies: through The National Archives website and those of other stakeholders? mailing lists or online forums?

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Complete Calendars of State Papers Online

British History Online is pleased to announce that 200 volumes in the AHRC-funded State Papers project are now live. The goal of the project is to complete the digitisation of the Calendars of State Papers, in order to make these important documents freely accessible to the academic community and the general public alike; we are able to ensure a reliably searchable result by creating verbatim transcriptions of at least 99.9% accuracy.

In order to foster scholarly collabo-

ration we have also included a feature which allows any interested user to update, correct, or enhance the calendars for the benefit of all. We plan to make the remaining 150 books in this project live within the next twelve months.

Highlights of the project are:

* Letters and Papers of Henry VIII, 21 volumes

<http://www.british-history.ac.uk/catalogue.aspx?type=3&gid=126>

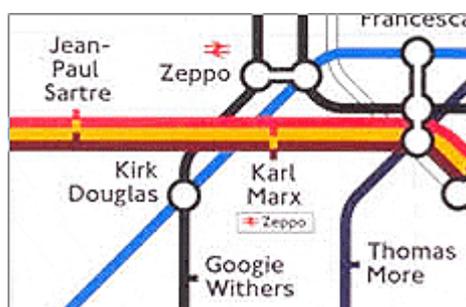
* State Papers, Foreign - Edward, Mary and Elizabeth, 25 vols.

<http://www.british-history.ac.uk/catalogue.aspx?type=3&gid=124>

* State Papers, Venetian (1202-1675), 38 volumes

<http://www.british-history.ac.uk/catalogue.aspx?type=3&gid=140>

The total number of volumes on British History Online is now just over 800, of which 85 percent are completely free; the remainder is included in a subscription service which supports and sustains the free publications.



London Transport Museum

The art of the poster 16 October 2008 - 31 March 2009

Over 60 original artworks are on display as part of a new retrospective exhibition at London Transport Museum. 'The art of the poster' celebrates a century of outstanding poster design for London's public transport network.

Featuring leading artists of their day and many previously unseen artworks, the exhibition explores how the first graphic poster commission for London Underground in 1908 led to the company becoming a pioneering patron of poster art - a legacy that continues today. Visit <http://www.ltmuseum.co.uk/whatson/131.aspx> for linked exhibitions and events.

Survey of London—Clerkenwell

In 2008 the Survey of London published two volumes covering Clerkenwell, volume 46 for the south and east, volume 47 for the north and Pentonville, the latter including the site of LMA, AfL's registered address. These handsomely-produced volumes show two departures from previous volumes in the series, in that the pictures are integrated with the text, and many are in colour. Although geographically within

its area, volume 46 does not include the Charterhouse, for which a separate monograph is scheduled for publication in 2009.

For those able to get there, the volumes are on the open LMA library shelves at reference 74.21 and 74.1.

To see the survey's current work, visit <http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/server/show/nav.1651>

Anglo-American Legal Tradition website updates

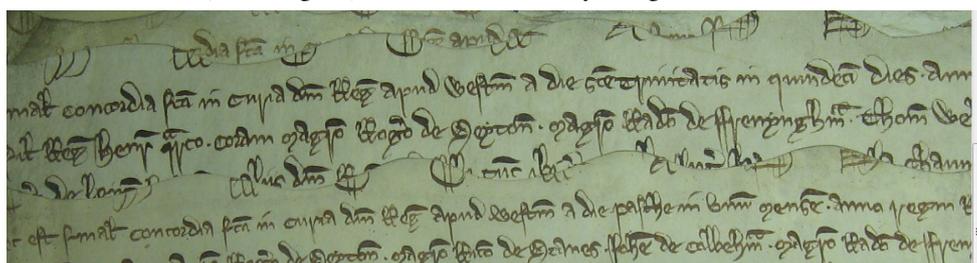
The Anglo-American Legal Tradition website has now posted its Summer 2008 acquisitions. The AALT operates under a license from the U.K. National Archives and makes available for free access a wide variety of the main series of TNA documents from 1218 to 1650. Now available are 2.6 million frames of material of both common law and equity records, and they can be browsed on-line or downloaded in quantity by FTP. The site is available at <http://aalt.law.uh.edu>.

The material is useful for legal, local, governmental, economic, social, and institutional religious history; it is also extremely useful for teaching palaeography (both Latin and English). The TNA series currently licensed to the site and available in whole or in part are CP40, CP25(1), KB26, KB27, KB29, E13, E159, E368, E123, E124, E125, E126, JUST 1, C33, REQ1, CHES14, and DL5. A few other series (including C1) are licensed but not yet begun.

The site is non-commercial and is a holding of the O'Quinn Law Library of the University of Houston Law Center. AALT launched in January 2007.

Acquisitions will continue but at a somewhat slower pace this Spring and then accelerate again in the Summer of 2009.

The site contains numerous images of documents from 1176 to 1660. Part of a final concord is illustrated: practice your palaeography!



500 YEARS OF LONDON HISTORY TO LAUNCH ONLINE – 77M NAMES

London Metropolitan Archives and Guildhall Library Manuscripts Section are delighted to announce a new partnership with Ancestry™ to digitise genealogical sources.

The first records will launch on Ancestry.co.uk in early 2009, with the following prioritised for launch in the coming year:

Parish records – from more than 10,000 Greater London parish registers of baptisms, marriages and burials dating from the 1530s to the 20th Century

Poor Law documents - relating to the administration of poor relief, including workhouse registers from 1834 onwards

London school admissions – records from 843 individual London schools dating from the early Victorian times through to 1911, providing admission

and personal details for millions of London students

It is anticipated that the full digitisation and indexing program will include:

- Parish baptisms, marriages and burials
- Bishops transcripts
- Parish poor law records
- Boards of Guardians records
- Diocesan marriage bonds and allegations
- Non-conformist baptisms, marriages and burials
- School admission and discharge registers
- Electoral registers, overseers returns and poll books
- Land tax records

- Wills
- City of London Freedoms
- Middlesex Sessions – Transportation Contracts
- Consistory Court of London Matrimonial and Testamentary Papers

We will provide free access to view the indexes and images through Ancestry.co.uk on the computer terminals in our public rooms. The programme will start shortly and we will release further information about the project over the coming months.

You can keep up-to-date with news about the project on the Guildhall Library Manuscripts' website at www.history.ac.uk/gh/digitisation.htm.

Tunnels under Holborn

Previously secret tunnels below Holborn that were used for a short period by the then Public Record Office to store public records.

Later used to house an underground telephone exchange, BT is now offering this accommodation for sale, so please feel free to pass this on to any colleagues who have need of central London storage space!

The Central London Railway was incorporated in 1891 to build a tube line between Shepherd's Bush and Bank. Construction started at Chancery Lane in April 1896 and the line was eventually opened on 30 July 1900 with ten intermediate stations at Post Office (later renamed St. Paul's), Chancery Lane, British Museum, Tottenham Court Road, Oxford Circus, Marble Arch, Lancaster Gate, Queens Road, Notting Hill Gate and Holland Park. When the CLR excavated the running tunnels it routed them to avoid passing under surface buildings in order to limit the risk to buildings from vibration. At Chancery Lane, the tunnels are placed with the eastbound tunnel 15 feet above and slightly to one side of the westbound.

There is masses of information, and many more pictures, at <http://www.subbrit.org.uk/rsg/sites/k/kingsway/index.html>.



Chancery Lane station entrance in c. June 1914

Document despoiler convicted

Mr Farhad Hakimzadeh, a former British Library Reader, appeared at Wood Green Court on Friday 21 November. Hakimzadeh has pleaded guilty to ten counts of theft from the Library, and asked for further charges to be taken into account. He has also admitted theft from the Bodleian Library in Oxford.

The case was covered in the press. Hakimzadeh used considerable skill, deceit and determination to steal leaves, plates and maps from collection items.

In many instances his thefts were initially difficult to detect. The items he mutilated are mainly 16th, 17th and 18th century items, with a lesser number of 19th and a few 20th century items. The predominant subject area is the West European engagement with Mesopotamia, Persia and the Mogul empire (roughly the area from modern Syria to Bangladesh), and western travel and colonisation / exploration.

Readers should be assured that theft from the British Library is an extremely rare occurrence. As Readers will appreciate, we are a library, not a museum. We are committed to making our collections available in the interests of scholarship and research, and to do this an element of trust is necessary. Hakimzadeh fundamentally betrayed this trust.

BT Archives launches new online catalogue

Did you know that the history of the world's oldest communications company is based in London? BT Archives, currently at 268-270 High Holborn, holds the records of BT and its predecessors. The collections date back to the earliest telegraph companies, the first of which being the Electric Telegraph Company founded in 1846. This history has now become easier to access with the launch of a new online catalogue in November 2008. 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.

The collections at BT Archives include 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 topics documenting the development of telecommunications from its very beginnings, in the United Kingdom and across the world. 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.

Many of these fascinating stories from the archive take place either wholly or partly in London. For example did you know:

That the first successful experiment in telegraphy took place in London? On 25 July 1837 William Fothergill Cooke and Charles Wheatstone demonstrated their telegraph (five-needle) to the directors of the London and Birmingham Railway. Wheatstone, in Euston, sent the first message, to which Cooke, in Camden, replied. The trial was watched by railway pioneer Robert Stephenson. Although the demonstration was successful the railway directors told them to clear their wires away from the track.

Or that the 999 system began in London in 1937? This was the first such emergency service in the world. The introduction of the service was the result of a fire that caused the death of five women. The fire brigade arrived to the blaze before the operators had taken calls from the public alerting them to the incident. In the first week of the service there were 1336 emergency 999 calls, 91 of which were considered practical jokes! A poster advertising the emergency service is shown.

Whether you have an interest in the early private telephone companies, greetings telegrams, cable laying, wireless telegraphy, vehicles or finding out about the history of communications' impact on the world you will be able to find relevant records at BT Archives. With the new online catalogue, access to this information is now easier.

To celebrate the launch of the online catalogue BT Archives have produced a limited number of BT Archives' mug. Be one of a small number of people to own one of these special edition mugs. All you have to do is simply answer the following question using the online catalogue at www.bt.com/archivesonline:

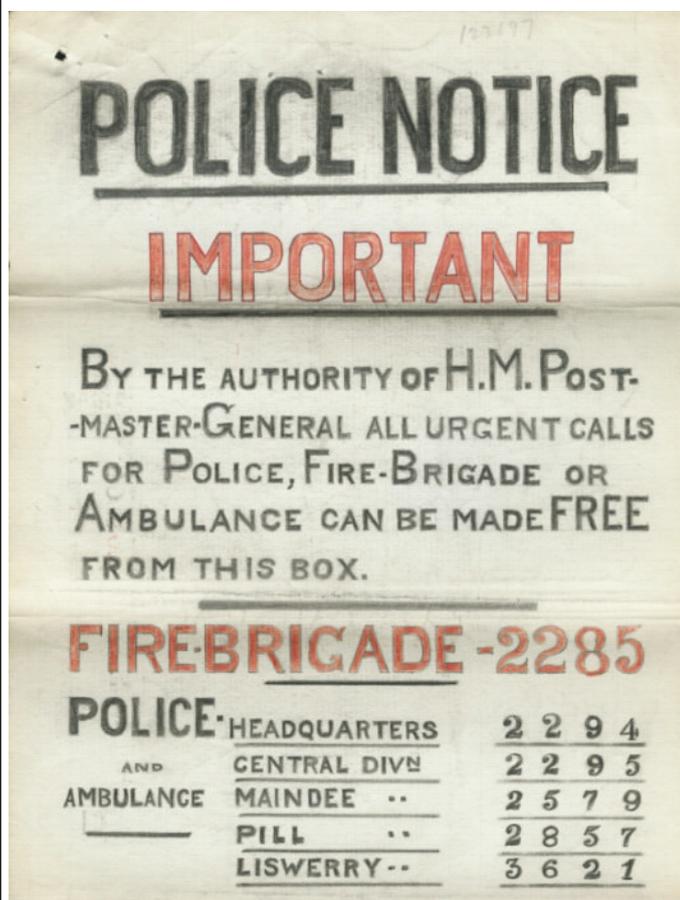
What is the finding number for the lease of premises at Falmouth for a telephone exchange (1911)?

[A finding number is the reference number for the document. Each record at BT Archives has a unique finding number that helps us locate the item when it is requested]. Send your answers to Claire Twinn with your name and full postal address. The first 10 correct answers will all receive a BT Archives mug. Answers no later than 9 March 2009, by post or email as below.

Cataloguing continues at BT Archives and there are sure to be more stories waiting to be uncovered!

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

Claire Twinn ; Archivist (Archives Online Programme) ;
Email: archives@bt.com; BT Archives, Third Floor, Holborn



National Maritime Museum: Caird Library closure

The Caird Library at the National Maritime Museum, Greenwich closed at the end of last year due to the move of collections for building the Sammy Ofer Wing (for information visit <http://www.nmm.ac.uk/about/sammy-ofer-wing>). It will reopen in late spring/early summer 2009, and the reopening date will be publicised as soon as known. The Caird Library will be open by appointment Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, and the first Saturday of every month. Information on how to make an appointment and how to order items in advance will be published soon. Please consult the Library's website for the latest information <http://www.nmm.ac.uk/library>. General enquiries will continue to be handled by the E-Library, Monday to Friday, 13.30-15.30, telephone +44 (0)20 8312 6516. Although staff cannot undertake extensive research, we will endeavour to advise about the archive and library collections during this period. Please contact library@nmm.ac.uk or manuscripts@nmm.ac.uk. We will provide a copying service (photocopying or digital scans) for master's certificates and crew lists only during this period, as most of the collections will be in transit and not accessible for copying until after the move.

National Digital Archive of Datasets

Online access to data and documents in the National Digital Archive of Datasets is now available

For those of you who are new to NDAD, you may be interested to know that many of our datasets (created by central government) are statistical and contain large amounts of facts and figures gathered from across the UK.

Following the recent information review, NDAD is pleased to announce that full access to open datasets has been restored. NDAD datasets can now be viewed, queried and downloaded directly online. As before, downloads up to 10MB are free of charge.

By interrogating NDAD's datasets online, it is possible to

not only analyse and research environmental data, but also information gathered from a wide variety of departments and subjects (from Ancient Woodlands to Accidents in the home, Bats to Beer, and Crime to Coastal Defences).

NDAD provides an important service to researchers across many fields and disciplines, and has for a long time been unique in the UK in offering this online querying facility for archived datasets, as well as catalogues and related documents, seamlessly integrated with the datasets to provide a fully digitised service. To view the datasets, use the Browse NDAD button: <http://www.ndad.nationalarchives.gov.uk/> on the homepage.

Heritage Lottery Fund : Free Workshop

On 17th March 2009 there will be a free work-shop at the Institute of Historical Research that will address planning projects that will meet the HLF's criteria for funding.

Members of HLF's team will be on hand to discuss your projects, either those in hand or being thought about. But you do not need to have a project in hand, you may just be interested to know

what is involved, and in getting funding. Book at place at <http://www.nca.org.uk/lottery> (look under 'Training Events: Current') or contact louise@nca.org.uk.

AfL Seminar on the Heritage Lottery Fund

Stuart Macleod, development manager of the HLF London Region, and Louise Ray of the Archive Lottery Advisory Service, gave a talk to AfL on 4th December.

Stuart gave us the news that the money available had been falling since 2005, and in 2010 would be at 60% of its 2005 level. Bidding is competitive, but the lower limit for small projects has been reduced from £5000 to £3000, and they are hoping to fund more smaller projects. Following a reorganisation it is hoped that initial responses to enquiries can be made more quickly. There is also a 'mentoring' service for those who are new to HLF processes

Louise spoke about the Archives Lottery Advisory Service, part of the National Council on Archives, and illustrated her talk with a number of case studies. The target audience need not be academics, and she showed us the web site for an exhibition at Whitechapel Art Gallery, which had been designed by young people to reflect both their interests, and the way they would design a web site. Others were the web site for Gloucester Rugby Football Club, and the 'Letter in the Attic' project from Brighton and Hove in conjunction with the East Sussex RO (www.letterintheattoc.org).

For more information visit <http://www.hlf.org.uk>.

AfL Visit : The Wallace collection. A House, A Collection, A Family.

Manchester House in Manchester Square is the home of the Wallace collection. An AfL visit to the collection last year introduced us to the history and holdings of the collection.

The house was built between 1776 and 1788 by the 4th Duke of Manchester, according to the web site because there was good duck shooting nearby. Roque's map of London from the 1730's shows the area to the west of today's Marylebone Lane as open fields, but by the time of Horwood's map in 1790, Manchester Square is on the map, and completely surrounded by houses. In the period 1791-5 the house acted as the Spanish Embassy, but in 1797 the lease was acquired by Francis Seymour, the 2nd Marquis of Hertford. In the period 1836-51 the building was leased out as a French embassy by the 3rd Marquis. In the period 1851-71 the house was left empty, and used as an art storage space.

The 4th Marquis of Hertford married (eventually) a member of the Castelnau family from France. He had a son by her before they married, who, being illegitimate, could not succeed to the title. He was (Sir) Richard Wallace, who, if he did not get the title, did inherit the family's fortunes. The house was renamed Hertford House. Sir Richard died in 1877, his widow only survived him by 10 years, dying in 1897. She bequeathed their collection to the state, but with the condition that it be retained as a single collection, neither added to nor dispersed (in fact the collection in the house has been extended, by a technicality).

The collection is strong in French art, but not exclusively French. There are several published volumes cataloguing aspects of the collection, but it is not yet fully catalogued: that is a project in hand.

At the time of the AfL visit, we went away laughing having viewed the special exhibition of the drawings of Osbert Lancaster, including both his well-known cartoons, but also drawings such as magazine covers, showing the more serious side of his art. (Sorry: this exhibition will have closed by the time this newsletter is published.)

Visit <http://www.wallacecollection.org> for information.



British Film Institute Archive

The Independent newspaper reported a collection of 1950's and 60's television programmes which have been found in the archives of the BFI. Many were not recorded at the time by the programme makers, and survive in tapes made by private collectors. The latter can be a paranoid bunch, says the BFI's Dick Fiddy, they sometimes need "handling with kid gloves". Fiddy is as anxious to reassure them. "At one time, people were reluctant to come forward because they thought they'd be prosecuted, for whatever reason. But the BBC and ITV over the past 15 or 20 years have been much more enlightened about that – they are just anxious to get the stuff back."

The family of the late Alistair Sim also approached the BFI, with a 15-minute gem dating back to 1952 in which Sim, sitting increasingly uncomfortably in a wing-backed leather armchair, delivers a monologue to camera about the difficul-

ties of delivering a monologue to camera. Unlike the rather cheesy Monkhouse sitcom, this is genuinely funny stuff, decades before Alan Bennett's TV monologues or Ronnie Corbett asked us whether we were sitting comfortably. And it wittily goes to the heart of the relationship between TV performer and the viewers "staring at me like a multitude of expectant ghosts".

An archivist discovered a pile of "admags" – a part of television history thought to have become extinct. "Advertising magazines, or 'admags', were outlawed in the early Sixties," explained Fiddy. "They were a 15-minute semi-soap opera in which stars – Katie Boyle was omnipresent – soft-sell goods. They were believed to be rather too insidious. They were well done and popular and very few existed until recently."

More details on *The Independent's* web site.

Exhibition: Between the Covers: Women's Magazines and their Readers

This is the subject of the current exhibition at the Women's Library in London Metropolitan University (open until 1 April 2009, entrance free).

Want to understand the history of women's magazine? Looking for a one-stop introduction to the must-have features on top of every reader's wish list? Then let this bright new exhibition show you everything you need to know about women's magazine and their changing roles in readers' lives.

Between the Covers charts the evolution of women's magazines from the 17th century to the present day, showcasing some of the most influential and innovative titles

and telling the stories behind their success.

Sections devoted to love and relationships, fashion and beauty, house and home, and the wider world, reveal how magazines have responded to women's changing aspirations, addressing their new concerns and social roles.

You can also view a specially commissioned film capturing the voices and opinions of contemporary magazine readers in East London, as well as listening to the gossip behind the scenes from those who worked on the magazines.

As an unreformed MCP, the newsletter editor was very taken with the cover illustrations on the exhibition website.



Parliamentary Archives: Annual Review 2007-2008 (The Stationery Office, 2008).

Much of what Simon Fowler wrote in his article on the 2006/7 report (see AfL newsletter issue 8) remains true, with on-line access to records continuing to expand. This report notes a new link through the National Register of Archives to Portcullis, (<http://www.portcullis.parliament.uk>) the gateway to the online archives index (portcullis does not contain images of documents). The 5 pages of the document listing accessions summarise the wealth of material that is available, albeit in paper form. Most of the items date from within the last 10 years, although there is an index to House of Commons divisions for the period 1836-52, and a bill on the excise on hops, that survived the 1834 fire, is noted!

The number of people using the Search Room shows a 10% increase (up to 1133) of whom nearly half were new, but the number of enquiries by letter, email etc. was down by 2%. Local history issues account for only 9% of enquiries: as Simon commented in last year's review, the parliamentary archives do not attract the same proportion of local and family historians that form the bulk of visitors to many other repositories and County Record Offices. However, it is good to read that at least one researcher was interested in 'deathwatch beetle infestation before 1939' and another in 'North Metropolitan Tramways'.

Two (more serious) items are dealt with at greater length: the 300th

anniversary of Act of Union with Scotland, and the abolition of the slave trade 100 years later, were both subjects of exhibitions.

As an addendum, (not mentioned in the report) the newsletter editor finds that both of these have online versions, and both were still accessible at the start of December 2008. That on the slave trade can be found at <http://slavetrade.parliament.uk/slavetrade/index.html>, and this is an extensive and informative set of web pages. The act of union can be found at <http://www.parliament.uk/actofunion/>. This has items on the history of the two kingdoms from to the time of Elizabeth 1st and her successor James 1st of England.

EVENT REPORTS

Serendipity in the Archives - beware of mothers-in-law

AfL's September seminar was entitled 'Serendipity in the Archives'. Jessica's summary of her talk follows below. We also asked members present to write down anything unexpected they had found, and the responses were:

— I was at the old PRO building in Chancery Lane, checking an old, incomplete card index for the family name for anything I might come across. I found details of someone's bankruptcy – down to what he owed the cook and the black colt he would have to sell. I never expected to find it!

— A Hermann Moll Atlas formerly the property of the War Office. It was in near perfect condition. [Editor's note, lest the name should be unknown to others: Herman Moll was a Dutch (or German) cartographer who lived 1654-1732.]

— In the days when we had to search microfilms for information, I spotted an entry in a census occupation column "Too idle for anything". The information was given by the woman's mother-in-law.

Order of the archive – the archivist, the user, and serendipity

Jessica Womack, who spoke at the event, gave us this summary of her talk.

There are various readings of the word "serendipity", but many appear to relate to luck. Serendipity has been cited as the effect by which one accidentally discovers something fortunate, especially while looking for something else entirely. It is the art of finding out the right information by chance, and has been related to a Sanskrit word meaning "greatly auspicious". I don't believe in luck, so it seemed essential for my exploration of serendipity in the archive, or perhaps serendipity and the archive, that I found a combination of the readings that would chime better with my preference of chance. When a useful discovery is made by chance, that could be called a fortuitous or lucky find in that it is good it has been uncovered.

Discovery, and luck or good fortune are elements I identify with from working in archives. Anyone who works with archives, as a researcher or as an archive professional, will have stories of the weird stuff they've found. A friend of mine was shocked to find a gun in a 20 year old accession!

While cataloguing at BT archives I came across something of a soap opera among the folders I was working on. I felt it had the whiff of a staff scandal, and like to refer to it as the Johnny Minter and Judy Cooper story. The file described how Judy, a trainee telephonist, was making long calls for free, to a number of boyfriends scattered across the country. I was

fascinated how they were under surveillance for what would appear to be a number of months. The pinnacle of which was when she and Johnny spent a night in an "official vehicle", where she boasted that she "could make a free phone call from any call box in the country!". So, while I wasn't actively looking for something, I didn't expect to find such an amusing little story.

Amusing stories aside, the aspect of serendipity in the archive that interests me the most is placement. The Johnny and Judy story was in amongst files on trunk lines and telephone circuits. This file, due to its provenance, the Registered Files – records on one subject that were gathered together from different departments and placed under one reference number – in effort to retain original order, will always be placed in amongst files that are of more specialist interest. This can apply to files that sit next each other, or even collections that rest at an institution. This file, a jewel that could so easily overlooked, made me think about how people search for records and what they may miss which could be fortuitous.

Having looked at serendipity and the archivist, I began to be interested in serendipity in the role of the user. How are digital advancements in searching methods affecting the potential for serendipitous finds of the user? Will the contextual information provided by the hierarchy the records sit in be lost?

When using free text searching, the hierarchy we place things in often becomes irrelevant. It is an indulgence of the archivist that does not necessarily

mean anything to the user.

Consequently, sequential reference numbers mean very little. It is possible the user is less likely to look at the files placed either side of the one thrown up by the search. Without the act of browsing a hierarchy, are we destroying the "luck" element of stumbling upon something that may be conceptually placed in a catalogue next to something unrelated? However, a free text search may show up a number of interesting catalogue entries related by subject, content, or keyword, with fortuitous results in terms of how they relate to each other. The cataloguer cannot possibly know and record all the connections between records and collections.

Is part of serendipity the not knowing what will be found? Will our Google fuelled "want it now" attitude do away with chance, lucky finds? As increasing amounts of catalogues go online, they will be bookmarked by individuals using tools such as de.li.cious or stumbledupon. Different people will tag with different words making various links, unofficial links. The combination of the change in the way people search, and increased user participation, means that often the words and the meaning of what a file contains, not the order it is placed in, will determine whether we find something a little bit juicy.

While researching the idea of serendipity, I also came across Barahmdipity - the suppression of serendipitous finds by individuals in a position of power - now that would be another exciting investigation...

London Journal: February 2009 issue

The London Journal is published three times yearly, in February, June and November. The next issue is a general issue covering the following topics:

- "East End Localism and Urban Decay: Shoreditch's Re-emerging Gay Scene" by Johan Andersson..
- "Houses for the Dead: the Provision of Mortuaries in London 1834 – 1889" by Pam Fisher.
- "Regulating London's bus services 1919-1924: a reappraisal" by Kevin Hey

- " Stepney and the Politics of High Rise Housing: Limehouse Fields to John Scurr House 1925-1937" by Simon Pepper.

To subscribe to the London Journal contact Maney Publishing on 0113 243 3800 or subscribe online at www.maney.co.uk.

Nicola Avery: Editor, London Journal

EVENT REPORTS**AFL CONFERENCE — SICK OF LONDON**

The AFL conference in October 2008 was entitled 'Sick of London'. Summaries of some of the papers presented there follow.

The "Petticoat Practitioners": Women dentists in 18th and 19th century London

Before the 18th century dentists did not exist as we know them today; however women were amongst those offering some form of dental care. Barber surgeons extracted teeth and there are several references to women being members of the Company of Barber-Surgeons (formed 1540). Women tooth-drawers also existed although Richard Whitlock (physician, clergyman and moral essayist) had a low opinion of them, calling them "quacking aphrodites" and "the petticoat practitioners" (1656). Fielding viewed them more favourably and in his *Journey to Portugal* (1754) mentions a woman tooth-drawer of Wapping as "a female of great eminence in the art".

The term dentist was used in 1728 by Pierre Fauchard in his book *Le Chirurgien Dentiste* (The Surgeon-Dentist). He took a much more scientific approach to dentition and dentistry expanded to include restorative techniques and treatment of gum disease. We start to find dentists, including female ones, in the press. Women dentists were either self taught or gained experience working with another dentist, perhaps a family member. Examples exist of husband and wife, brother and sister and father and daughter teams. In her study of provincial dentists from 1755 – 1855 Christine Hillam found that three-quarters of women dentists had a male member of the family also working as a dentist. In 1775 Hannah Crippen took over her deceased husband's business as "*Dentist and Phlebotomist*" in London whilst in 1824 Miss Patence continued

her father's practice, also in the capital.

Many women played on their gender, making it their USP (unique selling point) and advertising as "The Lady Dentist". One claimed that children's "tender mouths cannot be better treated than by gentle female hands". Services offered included cleaning and removing scurf, fur and tartar, filling hollow teeth, tightening loose ones and extracting teeth and stumps. Many of the services that women offered were advanced for their times such as check ups and straightening children's irregular teeth. Mrs Hunter, working in the last decade of 18th century at Great Titchfield Street, London had a dental health insurance scheme: four guineas per annum covered all visits and included tooth powder, tincture and brushes. She charged half price for children and publicised that she was prepared to look after the teeth of girls attending ladies colleges.

Standards must have varied but many dentists stayed in practice for a considerable length of time, which could not have been possible if they were totally incompetent. Mrs de St. Raymond's dental career spanned over 15 years. She described herself as a "*Dentist and Operator of the jaws and gums*". In early 1775 she was practising in York but later that year moved to Kings Square Court, Soho, London and then to Queen Street, Golden Square, London. Equally there must have been some charlatans. La Signora Foggioni, may well have been an opportunist. She first practised in Genoa, but moved to London in 1777, establishing herself in

New George Street, Blackfriars Bridge. Her cure for toothache was simply to touch it! The lack of professional training and qualifications meant that any man, or woman, could still set themselves up as a dentist, although many women were 'assistants'.

One woman who wasn't prepared to be an assistant was Lilian Murray (later Lindsay). She applied to the Metropolitan School of Dental Science/ National Dental Hospital but was refused admission because she was a woman. However she gained a place at Edinburgh Dental Hospital and School, after first completing a three year apprenticeship with a dentist. She graduated in 1895, becoming the first qualified woman dental licentiate in Britain.

Lilian had led the way but the floodgates didn't exactly open; it was not until September 1902 that the Metropolitan School of Dental Science stated that "Lady students are admitted" and in May 1906 the first two women to enter a full dental diploma course arrived. However the Royal College of Surgeons of England continued to bar women from sitting the LDS exam until 1908. Lily Fanny Pain became the first female licentiate in dental surgery from the RCS England in 1912. Since then the number of women dentists has increased and it is estimated that by 2020 over half of British dentists will be women. However they are still concentrated in certain areas notably public health and paediatric dentistry.

By Melanie Parker, Museum Education Officer, BDA Dental

Sick of London (continued)

The Scientific study of childcare at the London Foundling Hospital in the eighteenth century

This paper examined the London Foundling Hospital – an orphanage for abandoned babies founded in 1739 – as a distinctively metropolitan medical institution. It argued that the hospital had a scientific approach to child-rearing which was played out via investigations into mortality and feeding methods, extensive record-keeping, and trialling of different methods of care and treatment. The hospital and its doctors built on a foundation of medical investigation and optimism in the mid eighteenth century, but were able to make their own significant contribution to medical and scientific understandings of child health.

Their impact was particularly great in the fields of wet-nursing and smallpox prevention.

The hospital's system of wet-nursing relied on an extensive network of unpaid inspectors and a vast field of women who nursed and reared the young foundlings in their country homes. The hospital was committed to a policy of universal wet-nursing, and remained remarkably successful in finding sufficient numbers of women even when admissions were on a very large scale. Although mortality among the children remained high, the hospital was able to track its charges via its very complete record-keeping system, and give them the best chance of survival according to their own observations and contemporary medical opinion. The hospital's policy on smallpox prevention via inoculation was also in the vanguard of scientific practice at a time when the practice was still viewed with considerable suspicion in the population at large. It is likely that the success rate at the institution did much to popularise the practice more widely among private families and parishes. Indeed, the impact of the hospital's medical and child-rearing practices was considerable, not least because one of its most active governors, Jonas Hanway, adopted its methods for wet-nursing in his legislation for the care of London's poor children. The London Foundling Hospital, with its distinctively London-based support network and vast rural network of nurses and inspectors thus both reflected and reinforced the eighteenth-century commitment to inquiry and progress in science and medicine. Like other European foundling hospitals of the era, it represented the motif of humanitarianism, utilitarianism and medical optimism of the Enlightenment Age.

By Alysa Levene, Oxford Brookes University

Parliamentary Hospitals in London the Civil Wars and Interregnum

The presentation explored the provision of Parliamentary military hospitals, the nursing care and the welfare support provided for sick and wounded soldiers and the dependants of those killed during the English Civil Wars and the battles of the Commonwealth and Interregnum, from 1642 to 1660. Despite the popularity of the subject period amongst historians, the fate of soldiers and their families who suffered as a result of sickness or injury has hitherto been sorely neglected.

The basis for this presentation centred upon surviving contemporary documentation and literature discovered in the State Papers (Domestic) held in The National Archives and a variety of other sources. In contrast to the basic, reactive care provided by the Royalists, it can be demonstrated that Parliament was strongly motivated to develop an adequately funded, efficient support system for those injured or bereaved in its service. Nurses, their assistants and administrators joined the highly skilled and respected physicians, surgeons and apothecaries to staff various military hospitals of which the two main

ones, the Savoy and Ely House, functioned at the forefront of contemporary medical teaching. A third army hospital also functioned in Parsons Green for eighteen months during 1645 and 1646.

Sadly, towards the end of the Commonwealth, increasing financial difficulties led to a policy of discharging in-patients to 'care in the community' and a reduction of pension payments until, finally, the fall of the Protectorate saw a total collapse of the system. Within a year of the Restoration the military hospitals were closed and pensioners had suffered a return to the minimal provisions of Elizabethan poor-law legislation. Using material extracted from a wide cross-section of documentation, including diet provision, laundry lists and hospital accounts, a study of contemporary treatments and nursing personalities was followed by a perspective of the daily life of an in-patient in these hospitals.

By Dr Eric Gruber von Arni, PhD RGN, FRHistS

Medical Officers of Health Reports

The Medical Officer of Health was a figure of cardinal importance in the management of disease and public health in England and Wales in the years between 1855 and 1974. They worked within the local government administration, and in London were the employees first, of the civil vestries, and from 1900 of the new borough authorities. Their reports provide us with an unrivalled record of health and health administration in the city over a period of 120 years. While the historical 'gaze' is, admittedly, generally from the medical and preventive perspective, these reports do on occasion, as in the example of the resisting smallpox victim in Camberwell, provide us with glimpses of the patients' perspective, as well

as with a more general understanding of social and health conditions and how they changed in a critical period of health history. This was the 120 years in which England, and London with the rest of the country, made the transition from a high-mortality regime to a low one, and from a society dominated by the fear of infectious disease to one concerned with chronic, degenerative and social diseases. The Medical Officer of Health reports allow us to explore these issues both for the city as a whole and for its individual constituent local authorities.

By Anne Hardy, Wellcome Trust Centre for the History of Medicine at UCL.

Sick of London (continued)

Children First and Always: Victorian and Edwardian In-Patients at Great Ormond Street Hospital

The Victorian and Edwardian admission registers for the Great Ormond Street Hospital (GOSH) contain a wealth of information and are an invaluable source for medical and social historians, but accessing them and analysing their content is cumbersome and time-consuming. A recent project undertaken by Kingston University in conjunction with the hospital's archive has changed this.

Over the last five years the University's Centre for Local History Studies has run a project to capture these admissions registers in a searchable database. The project also included registers from Cromwell House, the hospital's convalescent home, and the case notes of Dr Charles West, the hospital's founder. Funding came from



the Library Co-operation and Partnership programme, the Wellcome Trust, the Nuffield Foundation, and the Friends of the Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital.

This summary focuses on the story of Willie Catlin (pictured) which was generated using his admission records to the hospital and family information gleaned from the census returns.

Willie was first admitted on 11 February 1870, when he was seven years old and he spent the next four years shuffling between the main hospital and a splendid variety of convalescent homes. He suffered from *Morbus Coxae*, a Latin term meaning, literally, disease of bones, but in all probability Willie had a tubercular infection, like so many of the children admitted to the hospital.

Willie came from a very poor family. In 1861, his family lived in Queenhithe, an area dominated by the Docks and riddled with alleys and wharves. Ten years later, the family had moved just over half a mile away, to no. 17 Old Bailey, a tenement building housing eleven families, totalling at least 43 individuals. In this overcrowded environment, it is not surprising that Willie contracted a tubercular disease. His first stay at GOSH lasted five months, at the end of which he was discharged somewhat improved and sent to Cromwell House, to recover his strength before being pitched back into the alleys and courts of the City.

But after nine months at Highgate, rather than return home, Willie was sent to the Sea Bathing Institute at Margate, soon to return to GOSH, where after another nine months, he was packed off

again, this time to 'summer' in Brighton. We do not know how long he stayed at Brighton or whether he was able to return home, but by July 1873 he was back at Great Ormond Street, still suffering from a bone disease. Further stays at a convalescent home at Kenley in Surrey and another stint at GOSH with purpura, a condition associated with tubercular disease, accounted for another year of the boy's life.

His final appearance at GOSH was in July 1874 when he came in for examination prior to going to yet another seaside home at Rhyl. On his final discharge from GOSH, Willie's condition was described (probably very optimistically) as cured.

But Willie did not survive to adulthood. He died in December 1878 age 15, in Brighton. He had spent the best part of four years of his short life doing the rounds of hospital and convalescent homes, but despite all this his picture does not reflect a miserable and defeated little boy, instead Willie smiles bravely out from under his huge heap of blankets.

Willie's story demonstrates the power of the database that has been created. Without it his many admissions to GOSH and Cromwell House could not have been easily linked together, nor his family be traced in the census. The *Small and Special* database enables the stories of these hidden children of Victorian England to be revealed.

By: Juliet Warren and Dr Sue Hawkins, Centre for Local History Studies, Kingston University

Unlocking Audio 2: 16 & 17 March 2009, The British Library Conference Centre, London

Connecting with Listeners is an international conference marking the end of the second phase of the British Library's Archival Sound Recordings project, funded by the Joint Information Systems Committee (JISC).

The conference will focus on how audio resources need to be prepared for access in ways that researchers expect to discover, browse, audition and analyse them on-line.

Reviewing existing and emerging practices and technologies, the conference will be of interest to:

- * content owners
- * service providers
- * user groups
- * resource managers

- * system integrators
- * designers and implementers of data mining, search and analysis tools.

The programme will include a social dinner and behind-the-scenes tours of the audio facilities of the British Library Conservation Centre. Space will be available for displaying posters and small exhibits.

A detailed programme, call for papers and registration information will be available at <http://www.bl.uk/unlockingaudio>.

For more information about Archival Sound Recordings: <http://sounds.bl.uk> "Unlocking Audio 2", The British Library, 96 Euston Road, London NW1 2DB. Email: sound-archive@bl.uk

NOTICES: Lectures, Exhibitions, Conferences, Closures

Dr Williams's Library & Congregational Library closure

The two libraries will be closed to the public for three months from June 2009 for essential building work, which involves constructing a new strong room, a wheelchair accessible entrance and a new lift. When the libraries

reopen there is likely to be a restricted service. Not all the collections will be available until the end of the construction work, which will take nine months in total to complete.

Further announcements will be made as more details become available, including the actual dates of closure and the nature of the restricted service after the libraries re-open.

Labour History Archive and Study Centre closure

To allow staff to prepare for and undertake the move to the new People's History Museum, the Labour History Archive and Study Centre in Manchester will temporarily close to researchers at Easter 2009. The last day of opening will be Thursday 9 April 2009. The service will re-open towards the end of 2009 at the new museum in Left Bank, Bridge Street, Manchester M3 3ER. During the closure period, our microfilm collection will be made available at the Working Class Movement Library at 51 The Crescent, Salford M5 4WX.

JOHN GAY - ENGLAND OBSERVED; Kenwood House 29 January – 29 March 2009

Kenwood House is hosting a centenary exhibition Of the work of John Gay.

An exhibition of photographs by the outstanding and prolific freelance photographer John Gay, is now at Kenwood House in Hampstead until 29 March 2009.

Between 1936 and 1996 John Gay took pictures of England's people, buildings, animals and landscapes and to mark the centenary of his birth, this exhibition

will feature images from English Heritage's extensive collection of his work. It will also tell the story of this fascinating man, born Hans Göhler in Karlsruhe, Germany in 1909. A Highgate resident until his death in 1999, he had known the area since his arrival in England in 1935.

He proposed to his wife at Kenwood, was a keen supporter of Highgate Cemetery and a founder member of the High-

gate Society. Best known for his architectural photographs and celebrity portraits, he was also able to capture, on film, moments in the lives of ordinary people.

The exhibition, which will be open daily from 11.30am – 4pm, is being organised by the National Monuments Record, the public archive of English Heritage and custodian of the John Gay Collection. Admission is free.

Sir John Soane's Museum and Library: exhibition

Sir John Soane's Museum in Lincoln's Inn Fields will be hosting an exhibition of drawing by the topographical artist George Scharf. "From Regency Street to the Modern Metropolis" to open on 20 March.

The museum also houses is also a research library. The web page, at <http://www.soane.org/library.html>, holds an on-going catalogue of the Soane library.

Lectures at the Garden Museum, Lambeth Palace Road on Mondays at 7:00pm

9 February 2009: Urban Parks: Towards a Viable Future
Hazel Conway, who has studied and written about public parks for many years, will consider the issues raised by the conservation of parks in towns and cities.

9 March: Bushy Park and its Deer
Historically Bushy Park has been laid out and planted with a view to encouraging wildlife, particularly deer. Today's speaker, Dr Prince, has undertaken research into English parks and published a number of studies on the subject.

6 April: Mile End Park – 20th-Century Plan / 21st-Century Vision

Mile End Park, laid out from 1995, is celebrated for its pioneering design and management. Its origins lie in the County of London Plan of 1943, which envisaged a linear park along the Regent's Canal linking existing open spaces. Mike Rowan, the Park's Director, will talk about its past evolution, present management and future development.

Visit <http://www.londongardenstrust.org/> for more information about the trust and its lectures.

Calling all Hobbits! Maps and Society Lectures

As you will recall, hobbits loved maps!

The Warburg Institute has a series of lectures in the history of cartography, admission free, open to all. The lectures are at 5pm at the Institute in Woburn Square, and meetings for 2009 include:

- 26 Feb: Robert Dudley's *Arcano del Mare* (1646-8).
- 12 Mar: The Trudaine Road Maps: French Enlightenment Cartography.
- 26 Mar: Medieval maps of Jerusalem: deconstructing a stemma.

- 23 April: 16th century books of islands, and the Venetian Maritime Empire.
- 14 May: 'The greatest map ever published.' Hispanic America from 1922-45.

Enquiries to Dr Delano Smith, on 020 8346 5112, at the Institute.



AfL seminars

The following seminars are planned for 2009: The regular date is the first Thursday of the month, at LMA starting at 6pm.

- 5 February The National Archives - developing the research agenda for users and professionals by Caroline Williams of the National Archives
- 5 March The Story of London Project by Mark Prescott of the London Development Agency
- 2 April Visitations in London by Peter O'Donahue from the College of Arms
- 7 May The Kubrick Archives by Richard Daniels, University of the Arts, London

AfL visits

The following visits are planned by our AfL visits coordinator for the rest of 2009. Members will receive a booking form notification nearer the time confirming date, time and arrangements, but if any of the following look interesting make a note in your diary:

20th February Clothworkers Company Archives

- 18th March TUC
- 15th April Barnados Girls Village Barkingside
- 20th May Fullers
- September Queen Mary Archive
- 19th October Royal Academy of Arts
- 19th November Inner Temple Archives
- December Rambert Dance Company

NOTICES (continued)

Conference: Local History in Britain after Hoskins

This is the title of a conference running at the University of Leicester from 9 to 12 July 2009, with numerous talks running in parallel, and an excursion. AfL board member Ruth Paley is to deliver a paper entitled the "The King's Bench in the 18th century". Details from Christopher Dyer (cd50@le.ac.uk) or at www.le.ac.uk/elh

The British Association for Local History will be holding its Local History Day at Friend's Meeting House in Euston Road on 6 June 2009. The keynote speech by Nigel Goose will be on English Almshouses.

Archives Awareness Campaign

Archives Awareness Campaign was originally designed to address the issues of under representation of UK archives, especially in comparison with the museum, gallery and library sectors. The campaign began with 'Archive Awareness Month' in September 2003 and since then has taken place over a longer period in the autumn. Visit www.archiveawareness.com for more details.

- o There are over 2000 archives in the UK
- o Local archives in England and Wales had around 907,000 reader visits in total and 11.7m websites visits (2006 - 07).

- o According to the MLA report Taking Part (http://www.mla.gov.uk/resources/assets/T/Taking_Part_11721.pdf), 6% of the population have visited an archive in a given year (2005/6, the most recent report). 13% have accessed an archive online or in person.
- o Use of archive has doubled in the last 10 years
- o Archives have received over £150m in Heritage Lottery Fund Grants since 1994
- o There are about 69,500 cubic metres of archival holdings (not including record management holdings) in local authority archives in England and Wales (CIPFA stats 2006 - 07).

The editor welcomes contributions to the Newsletter and letters for publication. Please send your contribution to: Peter Jackson, Archives for London, c/o London Metropolitan Archives, 40 Northampton Road, London EC1R 0HB. Or preferably by email to: newsletter@archivesforlondon.org

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