ABH Newsletter

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Winter 2011 Issue

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Welcome to the Winter 2011 issue of the Association of Business Historians Newsletter, written and collated by Stephanie Decker of Aston University and Niall MacKenzie of the University of Wales. This issue contains articles by Niall as well as contributions by Bernardo Batiz-Lazo (Bangor University), Linda Musacchio (Gothenburg and Queen Mary University) Peter Scott (Henley Business School), Kevin Tennent (Open University), and Laura Ugolini (Wolverhampton) in addition to the synopses of the work of the Coleman Prize finalists for 2011.

The two main features are a piece on business history and blogging by Niall discussing some of the merits and drawbacks of social media and electronic publishing in respect of business history, raising the question of whether or not we should be using new media and electronic outlets more in the discipline. Bernardo then introduces the ABH Archives Wiki – an online discussion forum where business historians and researchers can discuss

Should we be using social media and digital platforms more as business historians?

Contents & Contributors

different archival hold-ings. These features shed light on the potential of expanding both the scope and reach of the discipline of business history through new social media as well as facilitating increased discussion through online forums. The internet offers a great deal of potential for increased collaboration as well as facilitating greater aware-ness of what business history can offer. It is hoped that the features generate some interest and perhaps discussion amongst the community, ideally on the ABH Archives Wiki forum…

http://abharchives.proboards.com/index.cgi

Features

New Technologies and Business History by Niall G MacKenzie

Blogging has become a favoured past-time of many academics, not least because it offers, with the requisite tagline that the opinions contained within do not represent the authors' respective acad-emic employer, a platform for expression of opinion, thoughts and insights into their professional fields of interest as well as more general items including news, policy and other (often less) esoteric matters. In the past self-publishing may have been viewed with a degree of suspicion, but the advent and exponential growth in usage of the internet and the multitude varieties of free electronic publishing has resulted in a veritable explosion of academic blogging. Whilst there is the danger that blogs can become (or are) merely a soapbox for their authors' opinions, there are a number of blogs which transcend this and offer an important new outlet for the publication of contributions to their discipline. It is to a sele-ction of these blogs that this article turns its attention to.

In a recent working paper published by the Centre for Economic Policy Research (CEPR), two World Bank economists David J McKenzie and Berk Ozler sought to understand the impact of the growth of economics blogs available online using a variety of experimental and non-experimental techniques.[1] The principal conclusions of this analysis was that these types of blogs provide increased exposure for economics papers and can often change perceptions of the discipline, as well as boosting the profile of the blogger and their affiliated institution amongst their peers. With this in mind, we decided to highlight the growing number of business history blogs with a short piece looking at blogs written by business historians, what they contain and who writes them. This analysis is not meant to be comprehensive, but rather to illustrate ways in which business history and new technologies can, and perhaps even should, interact in order to further the aims of the discipline and increase awareness of the value that business history can offer.

[1] http://www.cepr.org/pubs/new-dps/dplist.asp?dpno=8558.asp

The Business History Blog:
http://kdtennent.blogspot.com

Written by Dr Kevin D Tennent, lecturer in Strategy at the Open University (although soon to move to the University of York) and recently appointed as Book Reviews editor of *Business History* journal, The Business History Blog does what it says on the tin. Since its inception in September 2009, The Business History Blog has covered myriad topics, from football clubs to the music industry to railways, reflecting the personal and professional interests of Dr Tennent. Written in an accessible and friendly manner, the Business History Blog offers a number of interesting short takes of business history as well as longer explorations, often addressing contemporary issues from a historical perspective. One example of this is Dr Tennent's take on EMI and its takeover by Citigroup earlier this year, reflecting his own academic interest in the music industry in the UK as a result of his work with Terry Gourvish and Richard Coopey on the ESRC funded project 'Enterprise and Creativity: the British Popular Music Industry, 1950-75'. Another post covered the idea of what an introductory course on Business History's reading list could look like – "Business History 101". In it are the expected texts – Coase's *The Nature of the Firm*, Chandler's *Strategy and Structure*, *Visible Hand* and *Scale and Scope* alongside newer additions to the field including Jones and Zeitlin's *Oxford Handbook of Business History* and Lamoreuax et al's *Beyond Whig History* published in *Enterprise and Society,* providing an interesting introduction to a Business History module for undergraduates.

Dr Tennent's blog covers a range of current topics and shows the business history context in which they occur. In this sense his blog makes a valuable contribution to the discipline in connecting the historical processes and events to the current state of play for many of these companies and the wider relevance of the discipline. He has indicated that he would welcome other contributors to the blog and can be contacted at k.d.tennent@gmail.com

Business History Matters:
http://www.businesshistorymatters.com/

The Business History Matters blog is the official blog of the History Factory, a private firm founded in 1979 specializing in heritage management who work with a number of different companies, organizations and institutions. Dating to early 2009, the Business History Matters blog is largely American in its focus looking at American businesses, politics and economic matters and is explicit in its intention of demonstrating the commercial value of business history to companies and organisations. One of its main contributors is the CEO of the History Factors Bruce Weindruch who has written on business history matters for *Forbes, Businessweek, The Harvard Business Review, The Washington Post and The Financial Times* bringing the discipline to the attention of a wider audience.

The blog is written engagingly, with a liberal sprinkling of relevant quotes and links to other sources and, like *The Business History Blog,* derives much of its content's focus from current news events. A recent entry detailed Google's purchase of Motorola Mobility and its significant patent inventory, relating the nature and tone of the differing public soundings by technology companies (including Apple and Google) surrounding the purchase to the stockpiling of weapons during the Cold War arms race with companies purchasing ever more patent stocks in order to protect their positions in the market-place. The entry then takes the opportunity to provide a brief overview of patenting in the US, pointing out that it is enshrined in the US Constitution and dates much further back globally. It gives the example of Edison's Film Trust's ate-mpts at monopolizing the early film industry in the US with his patents on motion picture camera, projectors and 14 other pieces of necessary equipment. Edison's patents acted as blocks on the industry and resulted in a series of clashes between a number of renegade Jewish filmmakers who, in defi-ance of Edison's intention of creating only Christian entertainment, sought to make their own films in New York. The lesson here of course is that although in patenting in specific areas of expertise and tech-nology companies are able to better protect their position, there will always be competitors seeking to develop or use the technology in order to further their own aims. In this sense, business history has plenty to offer anyone looking to understand why patents are important and what purpose they serve (both positive and negative), just as the Business History Matters blog seeks to make clear.

NEP-His Blog:

http://nephist.wordpress.com/

Run by business history stalwart, Professor Bernardo Bátiz-Lazo of Bangor University, the NEP-His Blog disseminates working papers in the fields of Business, Economic and Financial History. Relatively new (it only started in 2010), the blog is intended to 'explore the feasibility of scientific discussion on an Economic blog' and produces a new working paper each week for discussion. The blog is less informal than the other two discussed in that it presents working papers which have been submitted by scholars in the field and selected by Professor Bátiz-Lazo for discussion. NEP-His is a hybrid blog/discussion forum which welcomes comments from both contributors and readers alike.

Recent papers include the early expansion of McDonald's into the UK, budget cuts in Europe during the twentieth century, mobile banking and perhaps most surprisingly, the link between penis length and economic development. The last paper, whilst not quite business history, is at least illustrative of the benefits that online publishing and novel but challenging papers and ideas can provide in terms of increasing awareness of historical analysis. Both the *Huffington Post* and the *Freakonomics* websites picked up the paper, opening up its contents to a far wider audience than would otherwise have been possible. Whilst NEP-His didn't facilitate this *per se*, it posted the paper partly with the intention of showing how impact of papers is both measured and obtained. Although the paper itself is considered by many to be fundamentally flawed (including Professor Batiz-Lazo), its success in gaining significant attention means it has had arguably a greater impact than it would perhaps have had had it not been given the exposure it has through the web.

The material in NEP-His straddles a number of different historical fields and provides plenty of considered analysis of a variety of topics. Whilst it is not presented in as digestible a format as the other two blogs, being as it were based on papers intended for publication, NEP-His occupies an important place in the blogosphere in offering up a selection of strong historical analyses which sit within inter-related fields from a wide range of contributors from all over the globe. NEP-His shows the potential of an online presence discussing the discipline of business history and the possibilities it has for reaching a wider audience.

The ABH Archives Wiki has a thread on business history blogs with a number of other blogs mentioned in it. If you are registered with the ABH Archives Wiki you can access the thread here:

http://abharchives.proboards.com/index.cgi?board=interneteresourceslinks&action=display&thread=12

Dr Niall G MacKenzie is the Head of the Institute for Innovation Studies at the University of Wales. His principal research interests include business history and regional economic development, economic and industrial policy and innovation. He is currently managing a research grant from the National Endowment for Science Technology and the Arts (NESTA) looking at economic development in weaker regions with a particular focus on Wales. He can be contacted at: n.mackenzie@wales.ac.uk

ABH Archives Wiki by Bernardo Bátiz-Lazo

Using on-line technologies to strengthen our community.

Locating, exploring, analysing and interweaving surviving business records are all essential to the craft of business and management historians. In exploring these collections we all come across interesting bits of information whose detail is beyond the archive's public catalogue. For example, a lunch break discussion with a friendly archivist or other searcher can reveal information that is otherwise not explicitly available elsewhere. Through the "Archives Wiki" initiative, the ABH aims to collect and share this interesting but otherwise largely tacit knowledge amongst the wider business and management history community and encourage participation in its expansion and dissemination through an online presence.

Possibilities for the creation of an on-line forum (hence the "wiki" label) where collaboration between and amongst archivist and the main users of business archives could actively take place was first brought to the attention of the ABH membership at the York conference (July 2010). Originally the idea was to create pages on different topics just as Wikipedia and other on-line community projects generate entries. As design progressed, it was decided for hosting by a free platform, which was officially launched at the following ABH annual general meeting (Reading, July 2011). The wiki can be accessed here: http://abharchives.proboards.com/index.cgi

The forum is currently subdivided into three broad categories: industry, location/geography and Internet resources. Users can subscribe as participants, use their Facebook/Twitter names or enter as guests. This part of the wiki will build up in the same fashion as any other self-help forum. In other words, it can be led by queries on where to find particular information. This will help younger researcher as much as experienced researchers as the latter might find relevant information stored in an unsuspected place.

The forum is also open to free narrative. Posting where participants can describe contents of a particular archive they have visited recently is encouraged, as are any suggestions of where to look or who to talk to for those posing questions concerning their research. Indeed early collaboration has emphasised this mode and more is expected. The simple function of the forum is to encourage 'open innovation' – the passing of information and knowledge between those involved in the discipline in order to better facilitate the exchange of archival locations and holdings amongst the business and management history community.

The forum has now been followed up by a Facebook group page http://www.facebook.com/pages/Wiki-Forum-Association-of-Business-Historians and aims to have a more dynamic, open discussion as well as alerting members to forum updates on the page.

Finally, a third (and yet to be developed) space will convert conversations and free narrative from the forum into blog entries. This will give a more organised and long-term home to contributions, making it easier for researcher to access the information.

At present, the wiki is still in its experimental stage. The forum and Facebook group are in need of the active collaboration of ABH members. They will only be successful with the support of the broader community and as such your registration and contrib.-utions are encouraged. There is an opportunity for a number of gains to be made from this approach including the encoura-gement of new scholars, increased co-operation amongst established scho-lars and the opening up of archival information for the community more generally.

Professor Bernardo Bátiz-Lazo is Professor of Business History and Bank Management at Bangor University, Wales. He is a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society and sits on the Editorial Boards of a number of journals concerning business history.

Coleman Prize Finalists

Winner: Xavier Duran

Thesis title: Was the first transcontinental railroad expected to be profitable? Evidence from entrepreneur's declared expectations, an empirical entry decision model, and ex-post information.

The construction of the first transcontinental railroad is a key event in the westward expansion of the rail network and the US economy. The railroad was built between 1863 and 1869 with large federal government subsidies. The standard view is that the railroad was not expected to be profitable (built ahead of demand) but turned out to be profitable (built after demand).

The thesis develops a novel approach to evaluate whether the first transcontinental railroad was expected to be profitable. The approach emphasizes on using information generated during the ex-ante period and comparing it to ex-post information. The ex-ante information comes from two different sources. First, reports written by entrepreneurs (and over-looked by previous literature) are used to identify entrepreneurs' declared expectations. Second, since such expectations could be different from entrep-reneurs' true beliefs, an empirical entry decision model is used to evaluate the plausibility of declared expectations – simulated expectations. Archival work allows identifying the method 1850s railroad entrepreneurs' used to evaluate investment opportunities and formul-ating the structure of the entry model. The parameters of the model are derived using information publicly avail-able before const-ruction of the railroad started. The ex-post information was revealed by the operation of the railroad, once built. The three sets of information (entrepreneur's declared expectations, simulated expectations, and observed perform-ance) are compared to identify unforeseen events that may have affected profitability.

The evidence indicates i) entrepreneurs declared to expect the railroad to be profitable in the 1850s, ii) the empirical entry decision model suggest entrep-reneurs' were right to expect the railroad to be profitable and iii) ex-post information indicates the entrepreneurs' anticipated roughly correctly construct-ion costs and the main sources of earnings for the railroad. In short, the railroad was expected to be profitable, and thus it was both ex-ante and ex-post built after demand. Subsidies may have still helped to promote construction during the Civil War.

The novel approach also contributes to business history empirical methods: it is a general method to test the validity of subjective data typically found during archival work.

Xavier Duran is currently Assistant Professor of Business History at the School of Management at Universidad de los Andes in Colombia and a visiting lecturer at Northwestern University, Illinois.

Neveen Abdelrehim

Thesis title: Oil Nationalisation and Managerial Disclosure: The Case of Anglo- Iranian Oil Company, 1933-1951

The principal aim of this research is to contribute towards the understanding of the Anglo-Iranian Oil Company (AIOC, now British Petroleum) practices in Iran and thereby providing a clear picture of how nationalisation evolved on 1st May 1951 and how it was perceived by the stock market. Nationalisation brought into sharp focus issues affecting key AIOC stakeholder groups, including Iranian employees, Iranian government and UK investors which became the subject of claim and counter-claim from the AIOC board and Iranian nationalist opinion. As a consequence of these disputed claims, a propaganda battle became a crucial ingredient of the crisis, not least because a key objective of the AIOC management was to maintain investor confidence in the face of a major threat to its asset base but also reflecting the AIOC's ability to defend itself from the claims made by the Iranian government about unfairness in the sharing of proceeds, and discrimination against Iranians. In fact, this was crucial in absolving the company from any blame for the international crisis.

As a result, in considering the above effects, by using AIOC as a case study, contrasts are drawn between the AIOC's management's public view of the crisis and the actual events as documented in the literature, official papers, and financial records. It is worth noting that evidence has been used selectively, with the consequence that certain key documents have been neglected. Thus, by drawing on evidence from these major neglected documents, this research will examine the extent to which the company exploited and manifested Iranian rights and the degree in which imperialism has been applied to the Iranian society.

It has shown through an investigation of political and diplomatic private correspondence that although the company was ready to make concessions on non-controversial aspects of Iranianisation, it was determined not to compromise on demands that threatened the control of the incumbent British management. By making concessions on certain aspects of Iranianisation such as housing the company could nonetheless use such initiatives to create the impression of progress in negotiations and create confidence amongst investors. Even in public documents however, traditional colonial attitudes were still revealed, in spite of the company's attempts to show that it was responding positively through the medium of the Chairman's statement. Meanwhile, although the company met with certain requirements of Iranianisation, for example housing and health care, such developments were subject to control through spatial zoning and reinforcement of hierarchy. The company accordingly maintained and developed a readily available workforce with skills commensurate with specialized activities but which would not give the Iranians the capacity to run the industry independently of the British management. Segregation by skill grade fueled nationalist demands for control of the industry whilst reducing the Iranian capacity to manage the assets post-nationalisation.

The study shows that CSR can be used productively to enhance negotiating and bargaining positions whilst promoting social control and norms of behavior, whilst its scope needs to be carefully defined and limited to prevent a more general loss of control. If this is the policy of the AIOC in the events leading up to nationalisation in May 1951, it was one that was insufficient to prevent the crisis that followed and the loss of the large majority of the firm's overseas assets. Even so, it contributed to a strong position in the confrontation with the Musaddiq government that followed. The Iranians lacked the capacity to manage the industry and the embargo was made all the more effective as a result. Of course many other factors were important in sparking the crisis and influenced its resolution. On the basis of the evidence presented in this research, AIOC's CSR policy appeared to weaken Musaddiq's position, although the actual strength of the negotiating positions is a matter for further research.

Neveen Abdelrehim is currently Lecturer in Accounting and Finance at the York Management School, University of York, UK.

Manuel Llorca

Thesis title: British textile exports to the Southern Cone during the first half of the nineteenth century: growth, structure and the marketing chain.

The historiography of economic relationships between Britain and the Southern Cone during the first half of the nineteenth century largely ignores trade. Yet, neither British direct, nor portfolio, investment was important during this period, when the main gains arose from trade, and directly associated invisible earnings: credits, shipping freights and insurance. Between 1815 and 1859, the value of visible trade and associated invisible earnings is likely to have been around £100m. In contrast, Britain's portfolio investment was trifling. During this period the economic relationship between Latin America and the outside world was largely a commercial one.

Yet, British exports have long been taken for granted to the extent that before this thesis there were no specific considerations of textile exports to Latin America. This is the most surprising given that between 1815 and 1859, textiles comprised over 80 per cent of British exports to the Southern Cone. During the first half of the nineteenth century Europe had the lion's share of world trade. In this period, textiles were the principal product of trade, and Britain was the foremost producer and exporter. Neither before nor since has one type of manufactured goods constituted trade in the way in which textiles dominated world trade at that time.

To fill this important gap in the literature, the thesis considers in detail the process by which textiles were transferred from British manufacturers to local wholesalers. The various relationships between manufacturers, merchants, ship-brokers, underwriters and mercantile houses are assessed and analysed. New light is thrown on the relative roles of the consignment system and own account operations, advances against consignments, marine insurances, return remittances, comm.-issions and fees, shipping strategies, packing, and on the use and management of samples and pattern books.

Along with a lack of awareness of how British textiles were exported, little was known about the actual growth of Britain's exports to this region. Several generations of historians have sought to characterize the nature of the new trade relations between Latin America and Britain after independence by making sweeping generalizations on the basis of thin evidence. The picture painted by the historio-graphy, which lacked robust data, was that early exports glutted the markets and the Southern Cone had little to offer in exchange. Further, it has also been put forward that high internal transport costs made this former backwater of the Spanish Empire nothing but a marginal market. This view considers the Southern Cone solely 'responsible' for the supposedly low volume of British exports. Post-1860s developments – railways and European migration on a sizeable scale – are regarded as being responsible for the growth of exports.

This simplistic yet well-rooted approach is challenged in the thesis. If we make a comparison to British exports to the world, there was nothing exceptionally 'bad' in the rate at which Latin America and the Southern Cone took British manufactures for the period between the 1810s and the late 1830s. For the Southern Cone in particular, this is extended up to the 1870s. Measured by value, the annual average exports of the 1840s were over three times higher than in the 1810s. No saturated market behaves in this way. Indeed, rather than stagnation, there was continuous growth in British exports to the Southern Cone. When measured by volume, textiles exported by Britain to the Southern Cone expanded continuously throughout the 1820s, 1830s and 1840s and at very high rates, in particular, if per capita consumption is considered. In per capita terms, during the 1840s, the River Plate and Chile took seven times more yards of cottons and linens than in the late 1810s and nearly four times more wool manufactures.

Finally, if British exports grew continuously from the 1810s, then, so did return remittances and/or multilateral trades. Buenos Aires exported to Britain more silver and for a longer period than many scholars have believed up to the late 1970s. Similarly, it was remarked that Argentine exports of hides to Britain were of material importance from the 1810s. I have also reassessed and quantified the importance of Chilean exports of bullion and specie, as well the substantial relevance of multilateral trades involving British exports of textiles to the Southern Cone and Southern Cone exports of raw materials elsewhere to pay for them. In particular, the importance of Chilean copper exports to Asia and the USA, as well as River Plate hides and jerked beef exports to the USA, the Caribbean and continental Europe, was highlighted.

An explanation of the Southern Cone's increasing absorption of British manufactures from the 1820s requires an examination of other local conditions as well as the changing situation in Britain, including substantial improvements in the British packing of textiles so as to protect against sea-water damages; dramatic falling costs of production in Britain's textile industries and therefore in export prices: falling ocean freight rates between Liverpool and the Southern Cone; improvements in shipping and cartography; falling marine insurances for textile cargoes; introduction of free trade in Britain – lowering import duties on Southern Cone produce; dramatic improvements in communications between Britain and South America; falling import duties in the Southern Cone (for textiles); better port facilities in southern South America; the struggles of local craft industries, in particular from Araucania, Córdoba and southern Chile; and the establishment of a more stable political system in the Southern Cone.

Manuel Llorca-Jaña is currently a visiting lecturer in world economic history at the Universitat Pompeu Fabra. Cambridge University Press is publishing his PhD thesis early in 2012.

Reports

New Tony Slaven Doctoral Workshop in Business History

Following discussion at our 2011 AGM meeting, it was decided that ABH would inaugurate a one-day doctoral training workshop immediately preceding the 2012 ABH Annual Conference at Aston Business School. We very much hope that this will become an annual event and will provide an opportunity for doctoral students to discuss their research with other research students in business history-related disciplines in an informal environment. It is hoped that this will also encourage more doctoral students with thesis topics relevant to business history to attend the ABH conference and to become members of ABH.

The workshop is open to all students undertaking research degrees in business history-related topics and it is hoped that both students in their initial year of registration and those at more advanced stages of their thesis research will find it of benefit. In addition to providing new researchers with an opportunity to discuss their work with other research students in the same discipline, the workshop will also include a session related to careers. Business history doctoral work is spread over a large number of departments and institutions and by bringing students from throughout the UK together for an annual workshop, we hope to strengthen links between students working on business history-related topics.

For the purposes of the workshop `business history' is interpreted broadly, and it is intended that students in areas such as financial history, agricultural history, not for profit organisations, government-industry relations, government policy towards trade and industry, and labour history will find it of interest. Students undertaking topics with a significant business-history related element but in disciplines other than economic and business history are also welcome to apply.

A limited number of Tony Slaven scholarships are available, to meet the travel, accommodation, and registration costs of attending the ABH conference and the doctoral workshop. These will be awarded competitively prior to the workshop. Students interested in attending the workshop and those wishing to apply for the Tony Slaven scholarship for both the workshop and the ABH conference should send an abstract (maximum length of 2 A4 sides of single-spaced typed text), describing their current research topic to: Prof. Peter Scott, Henley Business School at the University of Reading, Whiteknights, Reading, RG6 6UD. For further information, please contact Peter Scott at the above address, or via e-mail (p.m.scott@reading.ac.uk).

Peter Scott, Henley Business School

Reviving BAM'S Management and Business History Track at Aston 2011

One of the biggest challenges that emerging scholars in the field of business history face is that there are presently few teaching opportunities in our discipline. Many of us then have to cross the boundaries into the business school environment, and hope that we will be allowed to move our research portfolio with us. I undertook this switch from LSE's Business History Unit to the Strategy and Marketing Centre of the Open University Business School in April 2010. I now had a new challenge - to market my research agenda, which has relevance to both strategic management and to marketing, in ways that made sense to my colleagues. With the generous support of our Head of Centre, Geoff Mallory, I tentatively made my way to the 2010 British Academy of Management (BAM) Conference, held at Sheffield University. Sitting in at a variety of sessions across the conference and mixing with academics from a variety of backgrounds, I found there was real interest in the longitudinal nature of my work.

For those not familiar with BAM, the conference positions itself as the UK's premium management studies conference. It operates on a much bigger scale than any conference in the business history field; for instance, there were 693 delegates at Aston, and 105 participants in the Doctoral Symposium. The conference fee also much higher, being almost £500, but I believe this premium to be worth paying to have the opportunity to showcase material to a wider audience, as well as gaining broader networking opportunities. The conference is split into tracks, effectively sub-conferences held in a specific sub-discipline throughout the conference, usually using the same room for convenience. There are as many as 26 tracks covering subjects such as entrepreneurship, human resource management, marketing and retail, organizational studies, research methodology and strategic management, to name only a few. Attending BAM allows historians to attend the sessions of any track that they wish, and perhaps add their unique perspective to the discussion, and indeed the participants of other tracks are also able to come and add their perspective to the history track.

The other big difference between BAM and the business history conferences is that it includes a peer review process for papers that are submitted. Full papers are in the 5,000-7,000 word area, meaning that BAM is more of a showcase for almost finished material rather than a forum to discuss present work in progress. Work in progress papers can be submitted as 'developmental papers' and are discussed in more informal group sessions, and there are also 90 minute 'workshop' sessions which allow for more audience participation than in traditional sessions. When paper submissions opened in January 2011, John Wilson, the incumbent track chair, and I decided to issue a call for papers via the ABH mailing list. We also approached a few participants more directly. When submissions closed in the spring we had eight full papers, three developmental papers and two workshops proposed. This was more than we might have imagined, and allowed us the opportunity to ask for a day and a half's worth of conference time; not a bad spread for a two day conference.

Our first session, on Wednesday 14th September was a workshop session on international retail history, organised by Professor Andrew Godley from Henley Business School at Reading. Nicholas Alexander of Lancaster University Management School made an enjoyable contribution contrasting 19th century trading company and 'free-standing' retailers, to the multinational retailers of the post 1970 period. This session was very well attended by a variety of scholars and got the track off to a flying start. I organised our second workshop – it focused on the potential use of archives by management scholars, and we held it jointly with the Research Methodology track. My motivation for organising this was to provide some outreach into a new area for the Business Archives Council. Dr Terry Gourvish in his guise as Chairman of the Business Archives Council, and Alex Ritchie of The National Archives kindly participated as guests, while Roy Edwards chaired. We had an interesting discussion around the use of archives, particularly with regard to the issues of context and the use of visual images and it would have been interesting to pursue these questions further. We intend to run a workshop based on this experience next year, perhaps focusing more on history itself as methodology.

On Thursday 15th we ran our paper sessions, which included a variety of subjects, although there is only space here to mention a couple of them. Nelarine Cornelius from Bradford University Management School presented a fascinating paper drawing on the historical angle of a larger human resource management study into elitism in Pakistan. Human resource history is rare, and Nelarine's work represented the kind of cross discipline fertilization that can be very exciting. In a similar vein Aston University Management School's Stephanie Decker provided some crossover towards organizational studies with an outstanding paper re-assessing the sources used in her Coleman Prize winning thesis in the light of the Gollant and Sillince (2007) work which proposed new narrative and storytelling approaches.

BAM also provide us with the opportunity to award a best paper in track prize. We awarded this to Charles Harvey, Mairi MacLean and John Sillince's paper 'Living up to the Past? Sensemaking and Ideology in Organizational Transition', although sadly none of the authors were available to present it. Nonetheless, the papers that did appear, together with the workshop sessions, contributed to a healthy meeting of minds and a forging of many new networking opportunities for all involved. I'd also like to thank again everyone that contributed to the track, as well as the organisers of the conference for their co-operation.

Having co-chaired the revived track with a little trepidation, I was extremely pleased at the positive outcomes all round, and feedback from the sessions has been very positive.

BAM offers us an excellent opportunity to market our work more widely; with more of us working around this field it is almost certainly one we should take. BAM 2012 will be held at Cardiff University, on 11-13th September and I would like to encourage all members of the ABH to consider taking the opportunity to showcase their work in the track. Please look out for a call for papers early in 2012; I look forward to receiving your proposal.

Kevin Tennent, The Open University

CHORD conference 'Food and Beverages: Retailing, Distribution and Consumption in Historical Perspective'

The 2011 annual Centre for the History of Retailing and Distribution (CHORD) conference took place at the University of Wolverhapton's Telford campus on 7 and 8 September, attended by approximately 50 delegates and speakers. The theme of this year's conference was the retailing, distribution and consumption of food and beverages, with papers on this topic ranging widely both in chronological and geographical terms. The conference was supported by a grant from the Economic History Society.

The conference was organised in concurrently running sessions, each exploring a particular theme relating to the overall conference topic. Thus, the first morning was opened by a session on 'The provision of food in Early Modern England', convened by Nancy Cox (University of Wolverhampton, UK) and Jon Stobart (University of Northampton, UK) and a session on 'Distribution Networks'. In the former session, papers explored the allocation of food to the poor in the early modern period (Nancy Cox, University of Wolverhampton, UK), the role of novelty and luxury in the consumption of groceries in eighteenth-century England (Jon Stobart, University of Northampton, UK) and the relationship between village shop and country house in the early nineteenth century (Lucy A. Bailey, University of Northampton, UK). In the latter session, the distribution of food in Ancient Rome (Claire Holleran, University of Liverpool, UK) was set against the business practices associated with capital intensive brewing in the Dutch Golden Age (Richard Yntema, Otterbein University, USA).

After lunch, a session on 'Drinking dens? New perspectives on clubs and public houses c. 1600-2000', one of the two convened by the Warwick Drinking Studies Network, UK, explored the place 17th and 18th century alehouses in the lives of the English poor (David Hitchcock, University of Warwick, UK), considered the role of public houses as 'socio-cultural assets' in the long 18th century (Beat Kümin, University of Warwick, UK) and reassessed 19th and early 20th century working men's clubs' struggle for respectability (Ruth Cherrington, independent scholar). Running in parallel was a session on 'Introducing novelty and innovation'. Here papers explored the introduction of hops and the foundation of industrial brewing in London between 1200-1700 (Kristen D. Burton, University of Texas at Arlington, USA), the relationship between the cocoa trade and changes in taste in early 19th century Brazil and England (Rosângela Ferreira Leite, Universidade Federal de São Paulo, Brazil), and the historical nature of 'novelty' in the launch of new food products (Phil Lyon, Umeå University, Sweden, and David Kinney, Plymouth College of Art, UK).

The day was then concluded with a single session, bringing together papers that explored the nature of 'Trade Cultures' in a rich variety of contexts. Chris Heal (University of Bristol, UK) shed new light on the role of drink in the workshop culture of felt hatters, while Montserrat M. Miller's (Marshall University, USA) paper explored the relationship between selling food and personal honour among female market vendors in 20th century Barcelona, while Wendy Williams (National College of Art and Design, Dublin, Ireland) considered the themes of adventure, exoticism, celebrity and modernity in biscuit packaging between 1850 and 1939.

A reception, which was funded by the University of Wolverhampton's Centre for Historical Research, and a convivial dinner rounded off a stimulating and thought-provoking day.

The second day of the conference opened with some re-organisation of sessions, due to two speakers not being able to attend. Thus the first session of the day had as its unifying feature only the fact that the papers were delivered by scholars from the University of Exeter: Paul Cleave (University of Exeter, UK) spoke of the development of a 'cafe society' in 20th century Devon, shedding new light on the practices associated with eating out on holiday, while Adrian R. Bailey (University of Exeter, UK) made use of the Cadbury archive to explore the changing relationship of food manufacturers and supermarket retailers in the new regulatory context of 1960s Britain.

After coffee, the second session organised by the Warwick Drinking Studies Network explored the 'Gendering the retail and consumption of alcohol in comparative perspective'. Jasmine Kilburn-Toppin (Victoria and Albert Museum/Royal College of Art, UK) assessed the spatial and material contexts of guild feasts in early modern London, Mark Hailwood (University of Exeter, UK) offered a reassessment of men's consumption of alcohol in the early modern English alehouse, while Deborah Toner (Institute for the Study of the Americas, University of London, UK) placed under new scrutiny the notion of 'machismo' in explaining the gender dynamics of alcohol consumption in 19th century Mexico. Concurrently, a session of 'Food tech-nologies' provided a revisionist economic an-alysis of beer brewing and consumption in Southern

Germany (Matthias Blum and Justus Wesseler, both Technical University Munich Germany), explored the importance of hygiene in Marks and Spencer's supply, distribution and retailing of food (Josie Freear, University of Leeds, UK) and assessed the challenges involved in the introduction of deep frozen food in Sweden between 1945 and 1970 (Fredrik Sandgren, Uppsala University, Sweden).

After lunch, the conference concluded with sessions exploring 'Consumption' and 'Foreign Cuisine'. In the former, Alessia Meneghin (St Andrews University, UK) explored the food purchasing practices of a Florentine civic employee in the Quattro-cento, while Carolina Román Ramos (Universidad de la República, Uruguay) used a historical comp-arative approach to assess the determinants of patterns of consumption during the first half of the 20th century, and Ros Watkiss (University of Wolverhampton, UK) returned to the local by shedding new light on grocery shopping in the post-war Black Country. In the parallel session on 'Foreign cuisine', Sabina Bellofatto (University of Zurich, Switzerland) exp-lored the often ambivalent attitudes towards Italian cuisine in post-war Switzerland, while Jonathan Morris (University of Hertfordshire, UK) shed new light on the changing practices and underst-andings associated with drinking Italian coffee, and Eva Maria von Wyl (University of Zurich, Switzerland) turned the attention to the spread of American eating habits in postwar Switzerland.

Overall, the conference provided scholars from a range of international institutions. including new scholars and postgraduate students, with an opportunity to explore and debate issues relating to the retailing, distribution and consumption of food and drink in a rigorous yet constructive way, bringing together researchers working in a range of disciplines, opening the way for further collaborations and publications: all of which have been central CHORD aims since its establishment in 1998.

Laura Ugolini, CHORD**,**
University of Wolverhampton

Workshop on Qualitative Historical Methods in Management and Organization Studies

The Centre for Management and Organization History (CMOH) at Queen Mary University of London, hosted a workshop on Qualitative Historical Methods in Management and Organization Studies 8-9 September. The workshop, organized by Giuliano Maielli, Sean McCartney, Anna Linda Musacchio Adorisio and Michael Rowlinson, aimed at gathering scholars who share methodological concerns over historical research practices in the management and organizational realm and was attended by 24 scholars coming from a variety of business and management schools in the UK, Denmark, Sweden, Italy and the Netherlands. Historical methods are receiving more attention in fields such as Organization Studies, something that the creation of a new standing group in Organizational History at EGOS (European Group on Organization Studies), the leading conference in the field, shows.

The workshop consisted of five consecutive sessions all centred on the common topic of qualitative research methods in management and organizational history. Participants discussed the common issues faced by organizational and management scholars when engaging in historical research and the need to articulate historical methodologies for management and organization studies given the variety of approaches and epistemological standpoints present in the discipline.

The first day began with a welcome and introduction to the Centre of Management and Organization History by Sean McCartney and Michael Rowlinson (Queen Mary University of London). Emma Bell (University of Exeter) opened the session by organizational scholars with an interest in historical methods. As the co-author of one of the major research methods handbooks, she provided an important insight into how qualitative social scientists view methodology and epistemology. This was followed by Bill Cooke's (University of Lancaster) reflection on historical research in management studies. In the afternoon, business historians such as Andrew Popp (University of Liverpool), Stephanie Decker (Aston University), Charles Harvey and Mairi Mclean (Newcastle University and University of Exeter) discussed their work in business and management studies.

The full variety of historical approaches to organization and management studies dominated the remainder of the workshop with examples of methods and techniques emerging in the presentations given by Alan McKinlay (University of St. Andrews), Simon Down (Newcastle University) and Charles Booth (University of the West of England). The various ways to employ narrative and story analysis was demonstrated by Per Hansen (Copenhagen Business School) Anna Linda Musacchio Adorisio (University of Gothenburg, Sweden and Queen Mary University of London) and Martyna Sliwa (Newcastle University) while Giuliano Maielli (Queen Mary University of London) showed the possible connection between longitudinal and process-focused research with history.

In the final sessions, Sjoerd Keulen and Roland Kroeze (University of Amsterdam, the Netherlands), Luca Zan (University of Bologna, Italy), and John Hassard (Queen Mary University of London and University of Manchester, UK) again returned to methodological and epistemological considerations of history in organization and management studies. Michael Rowlinson compared the difference in research design and methodology between management scholars engaging in historical work, and historians publishing in business journals. The final session was devoted to further discussions amongst participants, where the focus was to critically explore the alternative paths for the articulation of methodologies for historical research in the area of management and organization studies.

The discussion during the final session highlighted the reflections and questions that dominated the two-day workshop. What is the status quo of qualitative research methodologies for historical research in the management and organizational realm? Which epistemological issues are raised by the historical turn in the management and organizational realm? What specific methodologies do historians use and are there different techniques employed in practice? Is there scope for clearly defined and identifiable analytical tools for scholars engaging in historical research in the management and organizational field? The intense discussion was possible thanks to the participation of all the delegates in the consecutive sessions and the subsequent convivial gatherings. Delegates included both speakers and convenors among which Sadhvi Dar (Queen Mary University of London) Alistair Mutch (Notthingam Trent University) and PhD students of Queen Mary University Marrisa Joseph, Ramin Nassehi and Katrina Barker.

As a result of this highly successful workshop, the journal *Management and Organizational History* is planning a special issue on the topic, and is inviting papers from both scholars who presented during the workshop and anyone interested in joining in the discussion. Please look out for a forthcoming call for papers.

Anna Linda Musacchio Adorisio, University of Gothenburg, Sweden & Queen Mary University of London

Clements Center-DeGolyer Library Research Travel Grants

The DeGolyer Library at the Clements Center for Southwestern Studies, Southern Methodist University, Dallas, Texas, holds an impressive range of business records, including the records of Texas Instruments, the retailer J.C. Penney, and extensive records on US railroad development and management, locomotive building, and the oil industry, among others (see http://www.lib.utexas.edu/taro/browse/browse_smu1.html for a guide to the collections).

The Clements Center-DeGolyer Library Research Travel Grants are $700 per week grants that can be awarded for periods of one to four weeks to help to defray costs of travel, lodging, and research materials. The Clements Center-DeGolyer Library Research Travel Grants are ongoing and have a "rolling deadline" in that people can apply for them throughout the year.

I visited the DeGolyer Library this summer to work on the J.C. Penney archives and found that the grant was sufficient to cover most of my non-flight expenses. I also found the archive a great place to work, with some very interesting collections. There is a hotel within a short walk from campus – which is useful given the high summer temperatures in Dallas.

For further information on the DeGolyer Library and the travel grant, see: http://smu.edu/cul/degolyer/about.htm.

Peter Scott, Henley Business School

Information and News

The Business Archives Council Bursary for Business History Research

As a result of the generosity of Sir Peter Thompson, the former Chairman of the National Freight Corporation, and the Wellcome Foundation, the BAC has instituted a trust fund, the income from which is used to offer annually a bursary to help an individual to further his/her research into business history through the study of specific business archives. In 2012 the value of the award will be up to £1000.

Eligibility**:** Applicants must be engaged in business history research using British-based business archives, normally at least of postgraduate level, with a view to publication of an article or book. Professional scholars and amateur researchers are equally welcome, but preference may be given to scholars at the beginning of their careers who are less able to call on other institutions for funding. Applicants studying for a research degree should identify a specific project based on identifiable archive resources, rather than merely seeking a grant-in-aid of their overall research programme.

Undergraduates, those researching commissioned histories and the members of the BAC's Executive Committee are *not* eligible. Family historians and those wishing to work on records or archives not generated by business organisations, even to contextualise business history research, will *not* be eligible.

It is expected that the successful applicant will submit an short article based on the research to the Council's journal, Business Archives. This will not preclude publishing elsewhere.

Applications: Candidates should indicate: the objectives of their research, which will need to be within the broad field of business history; the nature and location of the specific set of business records they wish to study; a detailed breakdown of costs; the proposed methods of dissemination of the results of their work.

All applications should be received by 30th April at the following address:

Business Archives Council

c/o Karen Sampson

Lloyds TSB Group Archives

5th floor, Princess House,

1 Suffolk Lane,

London EC4R 0AX

There is no application form. Candidates should include a brief curriculum vitae as well as the information indicated above. All applications must be typewritten or word-processed and should not exceed five sides of A4.

Award: The decision of the BAC is final. The successful applicant will be informed in writing by the end of May 2012. The prize will be awarded at the Annual Meeting of the Association of Business Historians Conference, 6-7 July 2012, Aston University.

2012-13 Lemelson Center Fellowships, Travel to Collections Awards

The Lemelson Center Fellowship Program and Travel to Collections Award Program support projects that present creative approaches to the study of invention and innovation in American society. These include, but are not limited to, historical research and documentation projects resulting in publications, exhibitions, educational initiatives, and multimedia products.

The programs provide access to the expertise of the Institution's research staff and the vast invention and technology collections of the National Museum of American History (NMAH). The NMAH Archives Center documents both individuals and firms across a range of time periods and subject areas including railroads, musical instruments, television, radio, plastics, and sports equipment. Representative collections include the Western Union Telegraph Company Records, ca. 1840-1994; the Earl S. Tupper Papers, documenting Tupper, and his invention, Tupperware; and the Howard Head Papers, documenting the inventor of Head-brand fiberglass skis and Prince tennis rackets.

The Lemelson Center invites applications covering a broad spectrum of research topics that resonate with its mission to foster a greater understanding of invention and innovation, broadly defined. However, the Center especially encourages project proposals that will illuminate the role of women inventors; inventors with disabilities; inventors from diverse backgrounds; or any inventions and technologies associated with groups that are traditionally under-represented in the historical record. Pertinent NMAH collections include the papers of Victor L. Ochoa, a Mexican-American aeronautical inventor; the papers of Dr. Patricia Bath, an African-American inventor of a patented cataracts treatment; and the HIV/AIDS and LGBT Reference Collections, which document innovative public health programs and associated technologies. For a comprehensive list of Archives Center collections, see http://americanhistory.si.edu/archives/d-10.htm.

The Lemelson Center Fellowship Program annually awards 2 to 3 fellowships to pre-doctoral graduate students, post-doctoral scholars, and other professionals who have completed advanced training. Fellows are expected to reside in the Washington, D.C. area, to participate in the Center's activities, and to make a presentation of their work to colleagues at the museum. Fellowship tenure is based upon the applicants' stated needs (and available funding) up to a maximum of ten weeks. Stipends for 2012-2013 will be $575/week for pre-doctoral fellows and $870/week for post-doctoral and professional fellows. Applications are due 15 January 2012; notifications will be made by 15 April 2012. For application procedures and additional information, please see http://invention.smithsonian.org/resources/research_fellowships.aspx

Researchers should consult with the fellowship coordinator prior to submitting a proposal – please contact historian Eric S. Hintz, Ph.D. at +1 202-633-3734 or hintze@si.edu

The Lemelson Center Travel to Collections Award Program annually awards 4 to 5 short-term travel grants to encourage the use of its invention-related collections. Awards are $150 per day for a maximum of 10 business days and may be used to cover transportation, living, and reproduction expenses. Only applicants who reside or attend school beyond commuting distance of the National Museum of American History are eligible for this program. Applications are due 30 November 2011, with notifications by mid-December 2011.

For application procedures and additional information, see http://invention.smithsonian.org/resources/research_travel.aspx

Researchers should consult with the travel award coordinator prior to submitting a proposal – please contact archivist Alison Oswald at +1 202-633-3726 or oswalda@si.edu

Application Deadlines
Travel to Collections Awards: 30 November, 2011
Fellowships: 15 January, 2012

Calls for Papers

Association of Business Historians

Aston Business School
Birmingham

THE ASSOCIATION OF BUSINESS HISTORIANS
20TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2012

"DECISION-MAKING AND DECISION-MAKERS"

Friday 6th – Saturday 7th July 2012
Aston Business School

Business history has frequently focused on the role of strategy and decision-makers, and its long-term impact on the organisation and its wider environment, both nationally or internationally. Conversely, the potential to make decisions is often limited, and constrained by economic, political and social factors, while recent shocks to the economy have been seen as politicians and business leaders taking the wrong strategic decisions when trying to manage risks.

Themes for the conference may include, but are not limited to:

- Decision-makers in business, politics and regional economies
- Risk management and economic crises
- Strategic decisions such as outsourcing, offshoring and downsizing
- Market entry and product development decisions
- Entrepreneurs and entrepreneurial managers
- Leadership and the ethics of decision-making
- Regulation and compliance
- Trends, fashions and the passing of generations
- Intermediaries of decision-making: financial markets, management consultants, accountants, lawyers and other professions
- Business schools: education for judgement?
- Making decision in networks and clusters
- Strategy, structure and the decision-making functions
- Intercultural differences in decision-making

As is traditional, the organizer also welcomes papers on any topic related to business history, even where it does not focus on the conference theme, and on any time period or country.

Proposals are welcome for either individual papers or entire sessions (normally of one-and-a-half hours). Each paper proposal should include a short (one-page) abstract, a list of 3 to 5 keywords and a brief CV. Proposals for sessions should also include a cover letter containing a session title and a brief description of or rationale for the proposed sessions.

If you have any questions, please contact the local organiser Stephanie Decker at s.decker@aston.ac.uk.

Deadline for submission is 31 January 2012. Please send proposals electronically to abhconference@aston.ac.uk, or by mail to:

Dr Stephanie Decker
Aston Business School
Aston Triangle
Birmingham B4 7ET

Call for Coleman Prize 2012
Association of Business Historians

To be awarded at the ABH Annual Conference, 7 July, 2012

Aston Business School, Birmingham, UK

The Association of Business Historians invites submissions for consideration for the 2012 Coleman Prize. This prestigious prize is open to PhD dissertations in Business History either having a British subject or completed at a British University. All dissertations completed in the calendar years 2010 and 2011 are eligible (with the exception of previous submissions). The value of the prize is £200. Named in honour of the British Business Historian Donald Coleman, this prize is awarded annually by the Association of Business Historians to recognise excellence in new research in Britain. The Prize is sponsored by Adam Matthew Publications Limited, a scholarly publisher which makes available original manuscript collections, rare printed books and other primary source materials in microform and electronic format. It is a condition of eligibility for the Prize that short-listed finalists present their findings at the Association's annual conference, to be held at Aston Business School, Birmingham, UK. For more information see http://www.abh-net.org/.

Please send a pdf document including the title of your PhD dissertation and a brief 300-word abstract to Dr. Xavier Duran by 31 December 2011. A long-list of candidates will be requested to send hard copies of their thesis in March 2012, from which a shortlist of finalists will be chosen.

Dr. Xavier Duran

School of Management, Edificio Santo Domingo, Oficina 919

Calle 21 No. 1-20

Bogota, Colombia

Email: xda@adm.uniandes.edu.co

M6 Business History Workshop

Firms' Responses to Globalisation in Different Periods of History

The workshop will take place at Coventry University in JA101B in the Jaguar Building from 9am-5pm on 26 January 2012

The Port of Liverpool Building from the River Mersey. Image was taken sometime between 1907 and 1914. http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Port_of_Liverpool_Building.jpg

Copyright Status: Public Domain.

As scholars such as Geoffrey Jones, Jeffrey Williamson, and Kevin O'Rourke have shown, globalisation is not a new phenomenon. Indeed, the world economy has experienced successive waves of globalisation and deglobalisation. How companies responded to the challenges and opportunities created by these waves is a topic of interest to a growing number of business historians.

The title of the workshop indicates that we will focus on how firms have responded to globalisation. However, we will encourage the submission of papers that do not necessarily correspond with the theme. Presenters from all disciplines are encouraged to attend this workshop, as are those who work in archives, corporate or otherwise. Papers are welcome on any time period, area or context, both from established scholars, post-doctoral researchers, and graduate students. A small sum of money had been set aside to assist post-graduate students with travel costs. If you are interested in presenting, please submit a 200-word abstract to Andrew Smith at: ab0352@coventry.ac.uk before 1 December 2011.

The workshop is free to attend and open to all, but for catering and space reasons, please indicate if you are intending to participate by filling in the attached booking form and email it to Andrew Smith. If you are interested in attending without presenting, please email the attached form to Andrew Smith by 19 January 2012.

You can find this call online: http://andrewdsmith.wordpress.com/2011/10/17/m6-business-history-workshop-firms'-responses-to-globalisation-in-different-periods-of-history/

BOOKING FORM

I would like to attend the Business History Workshop at Coventry University.

Name

Organisation

Address

Telephone

Email

Special Requirements (Dietary or Mobility)

Are you planning to present at the conference? YES NO (delete as appropriate)

Title of Paper

Are you a postgraduate student who would like to be considered for travel funding? YES NO (delete as appropriate)

Meet the Archivists

The BAC's archive workshop for new researchers.

Fancy exploring treasure troves of untapped historical sources? Want to find out how you can use business archives in your undergraduate, master's or PhD research?

The **Business Archives Council** is holding a one-day workshop on **8th December 2011** where you can meet the archivists and find out how!

The workshop aims to explore ways in which new research students can identify and use business records in a surprising variety of different research fields. Participants will be able to explore the vast and varied materials available at many of the UKs major and minor business archives.

Now in its fourth year, this event will be hosted by The Rothschild Archive, New Court St Swithin's Lane, London. Following a successful formula from previous years, the day will commence with an archives skills workshop run by eminent academic historians, followed by a buffet lunch, where participants will be able to meet the archivists.

Confirmed attendees at the lunchtime archives fair include the archivists of The Baring Archive, HSBC, Sainsbury's, Lloyds Banking Group and Rothschild. Also represented will be the London Metropolitan Archives, Glamorgan Record Office and the British Postal Museum and Archive. Participants will have the opportunity to speak with these archivists, and others, to find out what types of primary materials are available for their research.

To sign up, or for any further information, please contact Michele Blagg at Michele.Blagg@kcl.ac.uk

http://www.businessarchivescouncil.org.uk

CALL FOR PAPERS

Knowledge in a Box: How Mundane Things Shape Knowledge Production

Organizing committee:

Susanne Bauer, Max Planck Institute for the History of Science, Berlin, Germany

Maria Rentetzi, National Technical University of Athens, Athens, Greece

Martina Schlünder, Justus-Liebig-University, Giessen, Germany

The topic:

We invite proposals from scholars in the history of science, technology, and medicine, science and technology studies, the humanities, visual and performing arts, museum and cultural studies and other related disciplines for a workshop on the uses and meanings of mundane things such as boxes, packages, bottles, and vials in shaping knowledge production. In keeping with the conference theme, we are asking contributors to include specific references to the ways in which boxes have played a role—commercial, epistemic or otherwise—in their own particular disciplinary frameworks.

Boxes have always supported the significance of the objects they contained, allowing specific activities to arise. In the hands of natural historians and collectors, boxes functioned as a means of organizing their knowledge throughout the eighteenth century. They formed the material bases of the cabinet or established collection and accompanied the collector from the initial gathering of natural specimens to their final display. As “knowledge chests” or “magazining tools” the history of box-like containers also go back to book printing and the typographical culture. The artists’ boxes of the early nineteenth century were used to store the paraphernalia of a new fashionable trend. In the late nineteenth century the box became the pharmacist’s laboratory and a device for standardizing and controlling dosage of oral remedies. In the twentieth century radiotherapy the box was elevated to a multifunctional tool working as a memory aid to forgetful patients or as “knowledge package” that predetermined dosages, included equipment, and ready-made radium applicators.

Focusing on medicine, boxes have played a crucial role since the eighteenth century when doctors ought to bring instruments to their patient’s house for surgical or obstetrical interventions.

In modern operating rooms boxes organize the workflow and build an essential part of the aseptical regime. Late twentieth century biomedical scientists store tissue samples in large-scale biobanks, where samples contained in straws are placed in vials, then the vials in boxes which in turn are stacked up in "elevators". This storage system facilitates retrieval with barcodes, indexing each individual sample so that additional variables can be retrieved from a database. Thus the container and its content are tied up in a close epistemic and material relationship.

As it is usually the case the box embodies the knowledge that goes into the chemical laboratory and its function; it classifies objects into collections of natural history; it meaningfully orders letters in a printer's composition or painting equipment for the artist' convenience; it standardizes pharmaceutical dosage forms and allows pharmacists to control the production and consumption of their remedies; in the commercial world it misleads or informs customers; it persuades consumers for the integrity of the product that they enclose; it hides the identity of the object(s) that contains, it shapes professional identities and is essential for mobilizing, transporting, accumulating and circulating materials and the knowledge they produce and embody. Furthermore, if we do understand matter and materiality not as given, solid, continuous, and stable but rather as something being done, performed, shaped and embedded in practices, then we should examine closer how bottles and boxes themselves materialize differently in a set of diverse practices. How do they change their ontologies by migrating from the kitchen to the laboratory, from the workshop to the operating room?

We welcome innovative understandings of the role that boxes and containers have played historically and continue to play in technology, medicine, and science. We see the workshop as contributing to an ongoing interest in science and technology studies on the importance of mundane things in scientific practice and technological innovations.

Dates:

July 26-29, 2012

Submission guidelines:

Deadline for proposals: January 15, 2012

Please submit a 300-words abstract along with your name, institutional affiliation, email and phone number as a word or pdf attachment to the organizers of the conference. Proposals will be reviewed and notification of the outcome will be made in February 15, 2012. We are pursuing publication outlets for selected papers from the workshop. Therefore we expect full papers from those that will participate by May 30, 2012. Details will be provided after notification.

Conference registration fee: 50 euros

Place:

The venue of the conference is a wonderful tobacco warehouse renovated to host the tobacco museum of the city of Kavala in northern Greece.

Contact info:

For further information please contact the organizers:

Susanne Bauer: sbauer@mpiwg-berlin.mpg.de

Maria Rentetzi: mrentetz@vt.edu

Martina Schlünder: m.schluender@gmx.de

37th Annual Economic and Business Historical Society Conference

Las Vegas, Nevada, USA

April 26-28, 2012

Proposals are now being accepted for the 37th annual conference of the Economic and Business Historical Society (EBHS), to be held at the Flamingo Hotel on the Strip in Las Vegas, Nevada. Proposals should include an abstract of no more than 500 words, a brief curriculum vita, postal and email addresses, and telephone and fax numbers. *Submissions are especially welcome from graduate students and non-academic affiliates.*

Conference room rates are $60 per night Wednesday through Thursday and $120 per night Friday through Sunday and must be booked through the Flamingo at www.flamingolasvegas.com or **888-902-9929**. Make sure you mention EBHS when reserving your room to receive the conference rate. ***Proposals for presentations on any aspect of economic or business history are welcome.***

The EBHS conference offers participants an opportunity for intellectual interchange within a collegial interdisciplinary group of scholars from around the world (a typical mix of participants includes around half from economics departments and half from history/economic history departments). **This year's keynote speaker will be Michael Hiltzik (Los Angeles Times), author of *Colossus: Hoover Dam and the Making of the American Century*.**

The Society prides itself on providing a collegial environment for academic exchange as well as being welcoming to new members. In addition, EBHS offers ***reduced conference fees for graduate students and early career researchers*** (four years or less since doctorate earned). Our regular registration fees are also relatively low compared to some conferences where fees are many hundreds of dollars.

Conference presenters may also submit their papers for consideration by the EBHS's peer-reviewed journal, *Essays in Economic and Business Histo*ry, edited by Janice Traflet (Bucknell University).

Proposals may be submitted through the EBHS website at www.ebhsoc.org, by e-mail to fred.gates@swosu.edu or by post to the program chair:

Dr. Frederick B. Gates

Department of Social Sciences

Southwestern Oklahoma State University

100 Campus Drive

Weatherford, OK 73096

The deadline for submission of proposals is January 15, 2012.

The Program Chair will send a formal letter of acceptance of abstracts on or before January25, 2012.

Earlier submissions should receive written confirmation within 2 months of submission.

Conference participants must reserve rooms before March 22, 2012 in order to receive the pre-arranged conference rates.

All conference participants must register before March 31, 2012. Failure to register will result in deletion of participation from the program and will disqualify submission to the conference journal. Online registration will be available at: www.ebhsoc.org. In addition, completed papers must be submitted to panel chair and other panel members no later than March 31, 2012.

In addition, this year's conference is being held in a much less formal setting. The members and Board of Trustees of EBHS encourage conference participants to dress business casual and encourage participants to bring their families and be prepared to enjoy all of the sights that Las Vegas has to offer, including a guided tour of Hoover Dam!

If you have further questions about the meeting or organization please contact:

Lynne P. Doti (Chapman University)

2011-2012 President, Economic and Business Historical Society

ldoti@chapman.edu

See you in Las Vegas!

The European Association for Banking and Financial History (EABH) e.V.

The EABH's annual conference

"Public Policies and the Direction of Financial Flows"

will take place from 7-9 June 2012 in Bucharest, kindly hosted by the *National Bank of Romania*.

NB: The deadline for this has now passed.

EABH Workshop for YOUNG SCHOLARS on "Public Policies and the Direction of Financial Flows"

For the 3rd time the EABH will host a workshop for young scholars in Spring 2012, kindly hosted by the *GREThA Research Centre, University of Bordeaux*.

Once again the EABH enables young scholars to not only present their research to leading experts within the workshop programme, but also offers them the chance to speak in front of an international audience, since all papers of sufficient quality and relevance to the key issues will be presented at the EABH conference in Bucharest in June 2012. Furthermore, those contributions will be published in an academic publication under the copyright of the EABH.

Comparative approaches to the subject matter are encouraged, also by means of co-authorship.

Deadline for papers: 30 January 2012

Please submit proposals to info@bankinghistory.de

Premiere for EABH's newest Publication "Corporate Governance in Financial Institutions—Historical Developments and Current Problems"

For the first time in EABH's history the proceeding papers were published simultaneously with the annual conference under the corresponding title, kindly hosted by *ING* from 20-21 May in Amsterdam.

With this advanced procedure the EABH not only enhanced discussions and scientific discourse at its conference, but along with this publication provided the most up-to-date research to its members, partners and readers.

Furthermore, research material and knowledge was not only provided by various European economists and historians like Catherine Schenk or Hubert Bonin, but also included contributions from Indian experts in monetary history; Abhik Ray and Ashok Kapoor. The EABH would like to thank the Academic Committee and *ING* for the kind and certainly successful cooperation.

THE ASSOCIATION OF BUSINESS HISTORIANS

Website: http://www.abh-net.org

Application for Membership

I wish to join/renew my membership of the Association of Business Historians:

Name (Dr/Prof/Mr/Ms/Mrs): ______________________________________

Organization: ______________________________________

Address: ______________________________________

____

Country:______________________ Email: ______________________

Tel: ______________________ Fax: ______________________

ABH Membership Rates/Payment Methods (Please tick appropriate boxes):

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Professor Teresa da Silva Lopes (c/o C Leslie)

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