

Bath Trades Council.

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Meeting held at Foresters' Hall on Friday, 1895. Members present:— Messrs. Thorpe (president) in the chair; Bolwell, Brown, Coles, Dinham, Dutton (secretary), Flower, King, Lott, Mayles, Morely, Miles, and P. Minutes read and passed.

The Secretary read a letter from Mr. G. T. Jones, secretary of the Amal. Engineers' Society, expressing the willingness of his society to receive a deputation from this Council at their meeting Oct. 28. (The deputation appointed at meeting, Messrs. Browning & Fricker, and

Archives & Research Collections

REVIEW OF THE YEAR 2023-2024

of the Fair Wages Resolution and bring it to the Bath Town Council. Under date he promised a definite answer in the course of a few days, but up to the date of the meeting his decision had not been received.

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The Library aims to build, maintain and make accessible unique and distinctive collections in support of institutional research and teaching activities, and to preserve a lasting historical record of the University.

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Supporting our community

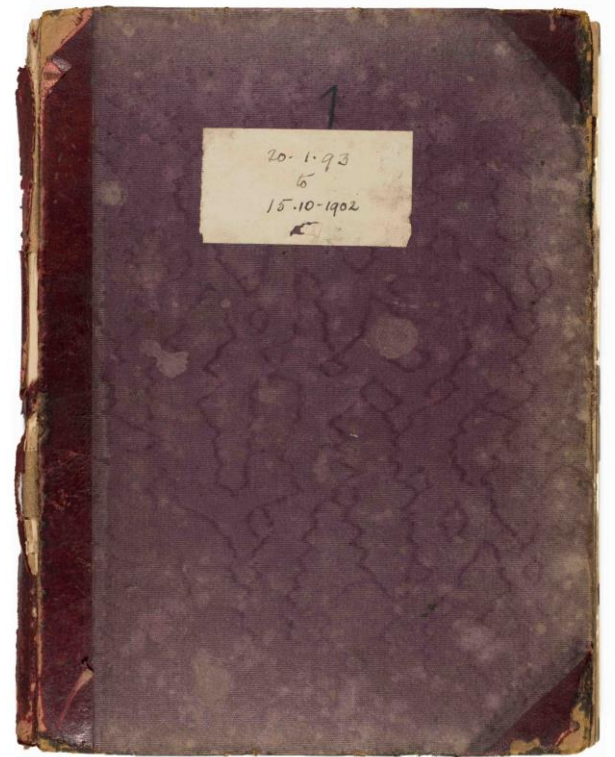
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Find out more at:

<https://www.bath.ac.uk/topics/library-archives-and-research-collections/>

Bath Trades Union Council Collection

Bath Trades Union Council (also known as Bath Trades Council) was founded on 2nd February 1891 to strengthen and support the cause of trade unionism in the city and district of Bath. Its aims included securing fair wages and working conditions for all, bringing about the amicable settlement of disputes between workers and their employers, advocating for beneficial legislation and educating the public on trade matters. Composed of delegates elected by local branches of trade organisations paying an annual subscription fee, by 1908 groups affiliated to Bath Trades Union Council included bookbinders, bricklayers, miners, engineers, railway workers, musicians and shop assistants.



The small collection covers the period from 1893 to 2012 but mainly comprises a set of hardback volumes containing handwritten minutes of Council meetings between 1893 and 1946. Meetings generally took place once or twice a month, though sometimes more frequently when required. The minutes provide a record of attendees and a brief summary of discussions and actions. They also give a more general overview of the Council's concerns, priorities and achievements through time. A broad range of subjects relating to the working life of the city of Bath as viewed by the Trades Union Council is documented from disputes with employers, housing, holiday allowances and the regulation of industry to poor relief, tram fares and women's suffrage. Giving a richly fascinating account of local politics, and social and economic conditions, the minute books are a hugely important source for the history of Bath and of labour organization and trade unionism in the UK.

The collection also includes photographs, memorabilia and an accounts ledger evidencing more recent Bath Trades Union Council activities.

Big thanks to Dr Michael Carley and to Bath Trades Union Council for their assistance in making this material available.

RULES OF THE BATH TRADES COUNCIL.

NAME AND OBJECTS.

1—This Council shall be called "The Bath Trades Council." Its object shall be to strengthen and support the cause of Trade Unionism in the City and District; to secure, when practical, a fair rate of wages and working hours to workpeople generally; to bring about an amicable settlement of disputes between employers and workmen; to support legislation for the benefit of workmen, or oppose that which in their opinion would be detrimental to their interests; to consider any local question affecting the well-being of the working classes in the city and district; and, by educating the public on trade matters or disputes, to remove much of the prejudice now existing towards trade organisations.

CONSTITUTION.

2—This Council shall be composed of delegates chosen by the branches of Trade Societies or other Trade Organisations, who shall be elected annually; retiring members to be eligible for re-election. Each society numbering 50 members (or under) elect two delegates; 50 to 100 three, and one for every 50 above that number. Seven delegates shall form a quorum. The Council shall be called at each meeting of the Council. Any delegate absenting himself three times in succession the Secretary shall inform his Society of such absence. The ordinary meetings of the Council shall be held monthly.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS, &c.

3—The Council shall elect the following officers annually in January:—President, Vice-President, Treasurer, 2 Auditors, and Secretary.

DUTIES OF PRESIDENT.

4—The President shall preside at all meetings and see that business be conducted with order and despatch. Should he be absent his office shall be filled by the Vice-President, or

election from the members present. He shall sign all minutes after they are passed, and accounts before payment by the Treasurer.

DUTIES OF SECRETARY.

5—The Secretary shall conduct all correspondence, take the minutes of meetings, and keep a correct account of all income and expenditure of the Council. His books shall be open for inspection by the Members at all reasonable times. He shall prepare a balance sheet annually, which shall be audited and laid before the Members at their meeting in January, with a report of the Council's proceedings during the year.

DUTIES OF TREASURER.

6—The Treasurer shall hold all monies of the Council and account for the same when requested so to do. He shall not make any payment from the funds without the signature of the President, and shall produce his account, with receipts for payments, at the audit.

DUTIES OF AUDITORS.

7—The Auditors shall audit the accounts prior to the annual meeting, and report on the same to the Council.



View contents of the Bath Trades Union Council Collection at:
<https://www.bath.ac.uk/corporate-information/bath-trades-union-council-collection/>

Find out more about Bath Trades Union Council at:
<https://www.bathtuc.org/>

Administrative Services of the European Union Collection

Prompted by a visit to the 48th Annual Conference of UACES hosted by the University of Bath, Professor Anne Stevens and Dr Handley Stevens donated their research papers to the Library in 2019.

Professor Anne Stevens was employed as a senior civil servant in the UK and in the British High Commission in Malaysia where she also undertook university teaching. She subsequently worked at the University of Sussex and the University of Kent. She became Professor of European Studies at Aston University in 1998. She has been a visiting professor at the University of Paris I, the University of Paris II and the Political Studies Institute, Lille, France.

During his career as a civil servant Dr Handley Stevens gained extensive experience of international work, served as a Departmental Director of Finance and was Under Secretary for International Aviation at the Department of Transport. He was a visiting Research Associate at the European Institute of the London School of Economics. Together Professor Stevens and Dr Stevens are the authors of several books on topics relating to various aspects of the operation, management and administration of the European Commission.

The Administrative Services of the EU Collection, now catalogued and available for consultation, comprises documentary evidence and source materials - reports, briefing papers, press cuttings and notes - in English, French and German covering the period from 1958 to 2012, but focussing mainly on the 1990s and early 2000s. It relates primarily to research conducted in preparation for *Brussels Bureaucrats?: The Administration of the European Union* jointly authored by Professor and Dr Stevens and published in 2000. The Collection provides a detailed representative 'snapshot' of the internal workings of the European Union alongside useful insight into the approach and methods of academics engaged in European Studies.

View contents of the Administrative Services of the EU Collection at:
<https://www.bath.ac.uk/corporate-information/administrative-services-of-the-eu-collection/>

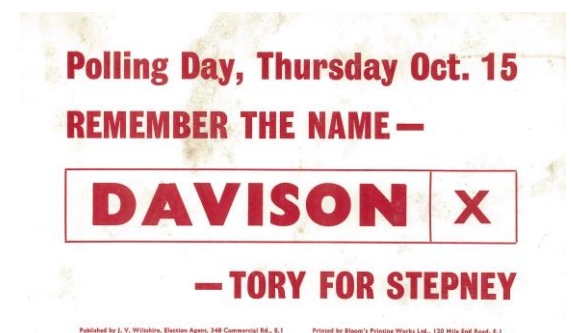
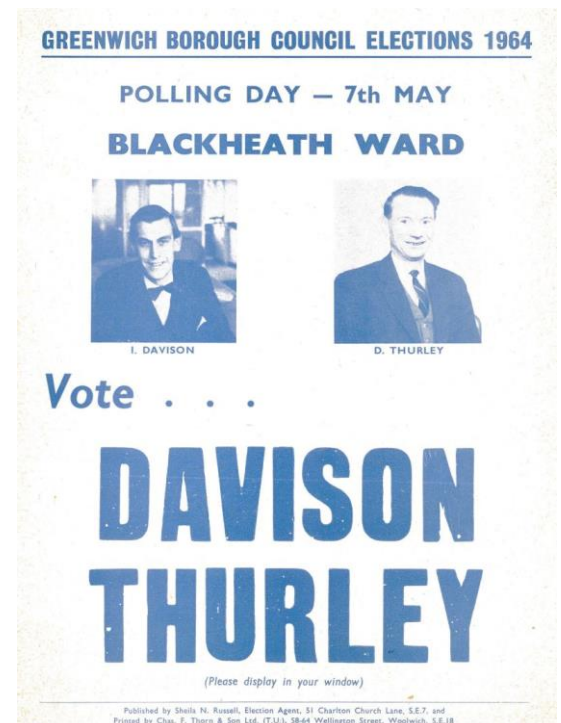
Ian Hay Davison Collection

(addition)

A further donation of material has been added to the Ian Hay Davison Collection. Relating mainly to Ian Hay Davison (IHD)'s involvement in politics between 1950, when he began his undergraduate studies, and the early-1970s, when he reached positions of senior managerial responsibility at Arthur Andersen, the new accession adds an extra dimension to the collection as a whole.

IHD joined the Conservative Society at the London School of Economics where he participated in lively political discussions at weekly meetings of the Students' Union. He edited *Tory Focus*, the journal of the London University Conservative Association and acted as its chairman for a period from 1953. He was an active member of the Federation of University Conservative and Unionist Associations and was included in Conservative delegations to the European Assembly of Political Youth. He contributed to the research and printed outputs of the Bow Group. After his graduation IHD served as a Conservative Councillor for the London Borough of Blackheath and then for Greenwich. He was adopted as the Conservative parliamentary candidate for Stepney in 1964.

Including letters, reports, political pamphlets, press cuttings, photographs, publications and other associated papers assembled by IHD, the material covers issues of housing, rents and local government, but also reflects IHD's broader interest in the development of Conservative political thinking.

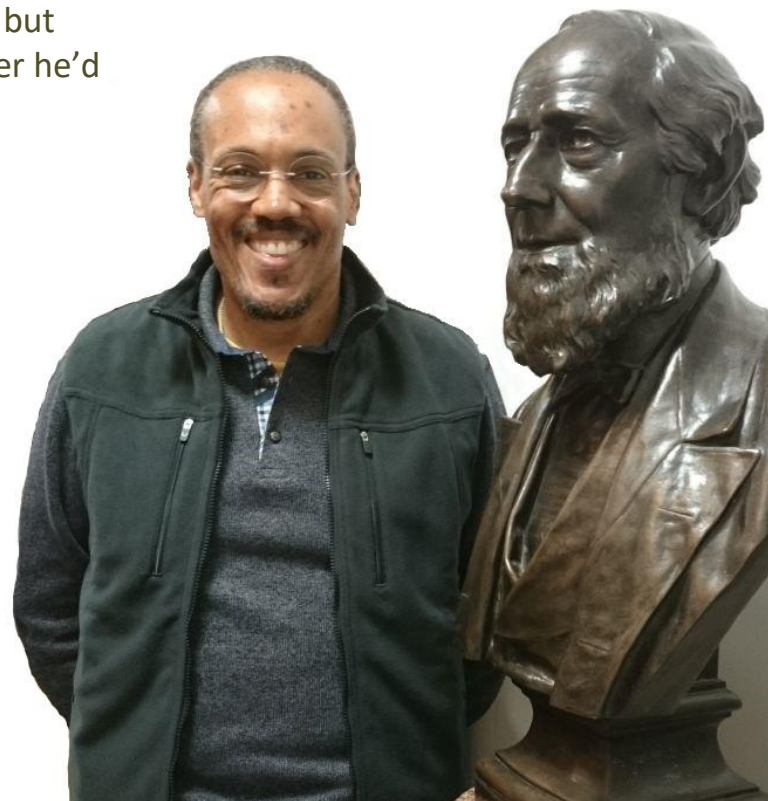


Interspeller

We're always excited to meet visitors and learn about how our collections support their research, but one of this year's visitors really blew our minds. When Alvin Drew from Annapolis, USA, made an appointment to come and consult material in the Pitman Collection we thought perhaps he was looking into his family history or pursuing a personal interest in shorthand. We were wrong.

Colonel Alvin Drew is a United States Air Force officer and former astronaut. He flew on two Space Shuttle missions to the International Space Station and in 2011 he became the 200th person to walk in space. He is currently the lead for space sustainability at NASA headquarters and serves as acting director of Space Operations Mission Directorate's Cross-Directorate Technical Integration Office. Colonel Drew came to Bath to examine records relating to historical designs for a new English alphabet. He knows from experience the vital importance of quick, easy and effective communication in extremely dangerous situations. He also knows that the future of human space exploration will have to be collaborative. Finding ways to communicate across language barriers and reduce the risk of error and misunderstanding is something that occupied Sir Isaac Pitman (1813-1897), a keen advocate of spelling reform, too. He might've been surprised to learn that his ideas had helped inform NASA's strategic plans for interplanetary travel.

Meeting heroic types can be a bit of a letdown but Colonel Drew turned out to be the coolest. After he'd finished his research he stayed to answer some of our geeky space questions! Later he sent a lovely message: 'I can't thank you enough for the help you provided me last week. I was able to locate all the documents I was in search of and discover a few more unexpected gems. As wonderful as that was, it was not the best part of the visit. Meeting and chatting with you two with your wonderful hospitality and infectious enthusiasm was alone worth the journey.'



Happy 50th birthday AIA

In September we created a small display about the beginnings of industrial archaeology in the UK to coincide with the Association for Industrial Archaeology 50th Anniversary Conference and Seminar held at the University of Bath.

Industrial archaeology is a field of study that focuses on material evidence associated with the industrial past. It covers a wide range of topics, from mineral extraction and transportation to manufacturing and public utilities, and is underpinned by an interest in valuing, learning from and preserving our industrial heritage.

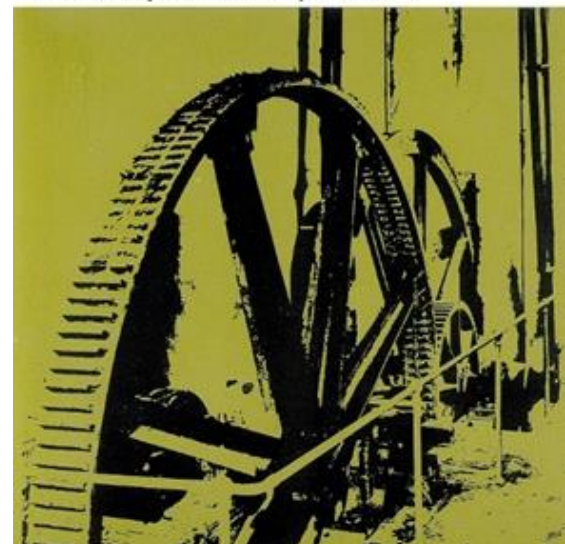
As a concept industrial archaeology began to emerge in the years immediately after the Second World War. It gained momentum in 1962 when Euston Arch was demolished as part of the renewal of Euston Station and destruction of the iconic railway building brought losses of irreplaceable physical culture happening throughout the UK to the attention of the general public.

Professor Angus Buchanan (1930-2020) was appointed as an assistant lecturer at Bristol College of Science and Technology (which later became the University of Bath) in 1960. With the support of the College, he set up the Centre for the Study of the History of Technology in 1964 and encouraged by steadily increasing local interest began delivering courses of extramural classes in industrial archaeology. The popularity of the classes led to the establishment of the Bristol Industrial Archaeological Society (BIAS) in 1967.



The Theory and Practice of Industrial Archaeology

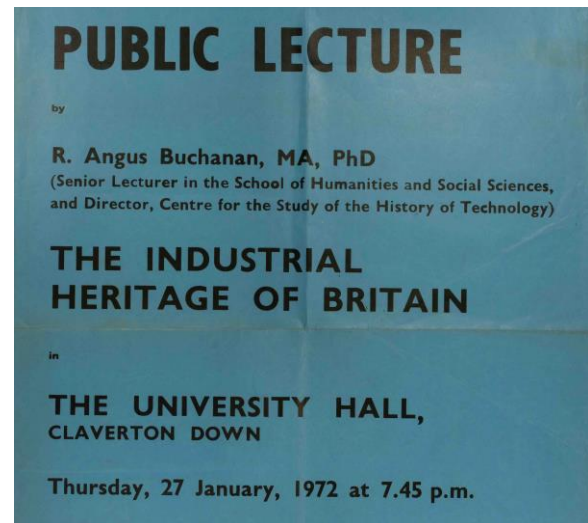
edited by R.A.Buchanan
published by Bath University Press 1968



During the late 1960s and early 1970s members of BIAS worked to rescue, record, preserve, interpret and expand industrial archaeology in the South West region at a time when concerns about the country's disappearing industrial heritage were becoming more widespread. Through locally-based preservation projects and annual gatherings of pioneering industrial archaeologists from across the UK, the movement finally crystallised into a more formal national organisation with the foundation of the Association for Industrial Archaeology in 1973.

Featuring a selection of items from the Angus & Brenda Buchanan Collection, the Watkins Collection and the LTC Rolt Collection the display highlighted the important role played by Bristol and Bath in the emergence and development of industrial archaeology as a fully-fledged academic discipline and as a practical framework for the rescue and restoration of sites, buildings and artefacts associated with the industrial past of crucial significance to the UK's cultural identity.

To extend the lifespan and reach of the display we have produced a digital version which is now available to view online. Thanks to colleagues Laurence Lockton and Alex Ball for lending us their technical expertise.



Take a look at the online display at:

<https://archives.bath.ac.uk/exhibits/show/professor-angus-buchanan-and-t/introduction>

Squadron Leader makes flying visit

In August while the University was hosting the World Modern Pentathlon Championships, an Olympic qualifying event, we were visited by Squadron Leader Jim Cunningham MBE. An accomplished athlete he was delighted to find his results from a 1971 RAF tetrathlon competition preserved in our Modern Pentathlon Collection. We enjoyed hearing about his colourful sporting adventures and being reminded that the papers, correspondence and photographs in our archives capture the lived experiences of real-life people.



Keeping it in the family

Our little team expanded in February when we welcomed volunteer Sarah Pearson. Luckily for us she brought her father's archive with her. Ronald Pearson (1925-2016) was a lecturer in the School of Engineering from 1967 until 1985. Originally from Liverpool he spent the first part of his working life in industry before joining the newly founded University. Specialising in thermodynamics his research interests included gas wave turbines, green energy and, after his retirement, cosmology.





Tiny treasure

Postgraduate student Kelly McCay travelled all the way from Harvard University to look at one of the smallest items in our collections. She is compiling a comprehensive bibliography of 16th and 17th century shorthand books for her PhD thesis and came to consult volumes in the large library assembled by Sir Isaac Pitman (1813-1897), inventor of stenographic shorthand. She had to resort to a magnifying glass to inspect a tiny leather-bound New Testament published by pioneering stenographer Jeremiah Rich in 1659. Used primarily as a portable way of practising shorthand reading it powerfully demonstrates the economy of space afforded by abbreviated writing systems.

Students' Union medal of office

Archivists are always banging on about how archives aren't just about the (distant) past; they make a valuable - though sometimes overlooked - contribution to the present and future. Here's a neat example. Many years ago the Students' Union medal of office fell into disuse and was transferred to the University Archives for safekeeping. After a chance conversation the medal is now back in regular use and was proudly worn by Students' Union President Jiji Alamo at the winter degree ceremonies in January.



Champion reunion

In March we helped to celebrate one of the University's finest sporting moments when members of the 1973/1974 football team returned to campus. Winners of the national Universities Athletic Union championship fifty years ago they fought off tough competition, formed lasting friendships and put the University of Bath proudly on the sporting map.



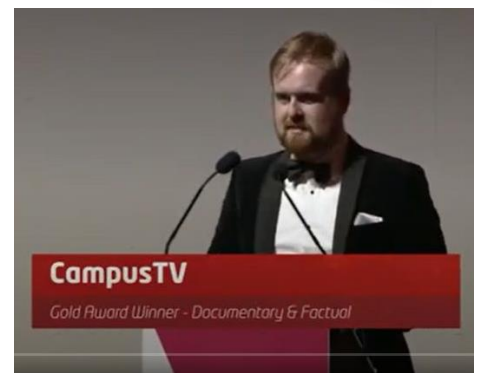
Making a good impression

A gas pressure powered press used to imprint the University's seal onto degree certificates during the 1970s, 1980s and 1990s has been moved to its new home in the University Archives. Decommissioned in 2012, when it was replaced by an electronic embossing machine, the press has played its part in the successful completion of thousands of University of Bath programmes of study. Thanks to James Olver and his colleagues in Academic Registry for making this happen.



TV winners

One of the key ingredients of a healthy and happy community is connection. Archives are excellent connectors. Head of Student Media Peter Irvine used archives to connect present day CampusTV with its past and a lively network of former broadcasters, presenters, technicians and film makers. In November using material from the University Archives and with support from an expanding community of CampusTV alumni, Peter made a short film about the history of the TV channel to commemorate World Television Day. At the 51st National Student Television Association Annual Awards hosted jointly by the University of Manchester and the University of Salford in April, the film won a gold award in the documentary and factual category. Congratulations to Peter and to all at CampusTV!



Facts and figures

We hosted 59 visits by individuals and groups to the Archives & Research Collections reading room.

New accessions: Bath Trades Union Council Collection
Ronald Pearson Collection

Substantial additional material was also added to the Hollingworth Collection and the Hylton Collection.

Total holdings: 1.7km (excluding map chests).

Archives & Research Collections also appearing in...

- MSc student assignment on Pulteney Bridge
 - *A History of Ship Launches and their Ceremonies*, George Hodgkinson, 2023
 - University of Bath Xiaohongshu account
 - Free Trowbridge heritage trail Wiltshire County Council app
 - Enquiry concerning the ownership of the Chaplaincy building
 - 'Academic Dress of the University of Bath', Edward Ripley, *Transactions of the Burgon Society* **22**, pp125-144, 2022 (published October 2023)
 - Research into the history of Rachmaninov's concert piano
 - Infected Blood Inquiry final report
 - PhD on the relationship between liturgy and ecotheology
 - Blues Awards 50th Anniversary booklet
 - 'An examination of the role and legacy of the first USFHA-funded British women's field hockey coaches to travel to America in 1922', Jo Halpin, *Sport in History* 44(2), pp199-214, July 2024
 - BA2 Issue 31
 - 'Alumni Memories: Sports clubs through the years', *On Parade* feature
 - 'Bath Ball', School of Management alumni event
 - MSc student assignment on fire places and cooking ranges
 - Research into the history of judo at Oxford University
 - Mural celebrating 50 years of the Department of Chemical Engineering
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For more take a look inside our digital Cabinet of Curiosities:
<http://www.bath.ac.uk/library/cabinet-of-curiosities/>

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