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THE STRANGEFRUITS

Archives & Research Collections

REVIEW OF THE YEAR 2021-2022

AVON CITIES JAZZ BAND

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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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Find out more at:

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

Alliance of Religions and Conservation (ARC) Collection

After studying theology, Martin Palmer worked as an advisor on religious education in schools. By the early 1980s he was acting as a consultant on religion and the environment to HRH The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, International President of the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF). He subsequently set up the International Consultancy on Religion, Education and Culture (ICOREC) to co-ordinate this work at a time when the WWF was seeking to expand its activities.

At the organisation's 25th anniversary celebrations held in Assisi in 1986 the WWF Conservation and Religion Network was established. Co-ordinated by ICOREC, the Network aimed to strengthen links between religious and conservation groups, develop field projects, improve education and awareness, and foster collaborative engagement.

Initially ICOREC and the WWF Conservation and Religion Network partnered with five world faiths - Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam, and Judaism. More faiths joined as work progressed.

As the scope of its activities expanded, the volume of Network business grew and, in response, the foundation of the Alliance of Religions and Conservation (ARC) was announced during the WWF Summit on Religions and Conservation at Windsor Castle in 1995.



Funding for ARC came from the WWF, the Pilkington Foundation, and the Mokito Okada Association (MOA) Foundation of Japan with important support from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the World Bank. Martin Palmer was appointed Secretary General and ARC took over the work of the WWF Conservation and Religion Network with the objective of promoting, for the public

benefit, the protection of the natural environment in accordance with the teachings and beliefs of the world's religions.

Originally based in Manchester, ARC relocated to Bath in 2006. Its work with faith organisations and communities around the world involved planning, developing, and delivering a broad range of environmental initiatives, projects, and events, some relatively small scale and local, others more ambitious across countries and continents. From Mongolia and Syria to India and Kenya, from the protection of sacred sites and the restoration of centres of pilgrimage to agroforestry, wastewater treatment and wildlife habitats, ARC facilitated and supported innovative programmes of education and ground-breaking collaborative action for more than two decades.



ARC ceased operations in 2019 at which time the organisation's archive was donated by Martin Palmer to the University of Bath. The Collection comprises correspondence, trustees' minutes, press cuttings, administrative papers, reports and publications documenting the management, operation, activities and output of ARC from its inception. It represents a valuable resource for all those interested in global conservation strategy, environmental policy formulation, inter-faith collaboration and many other related topics.

View contents of the ARC Collection at:

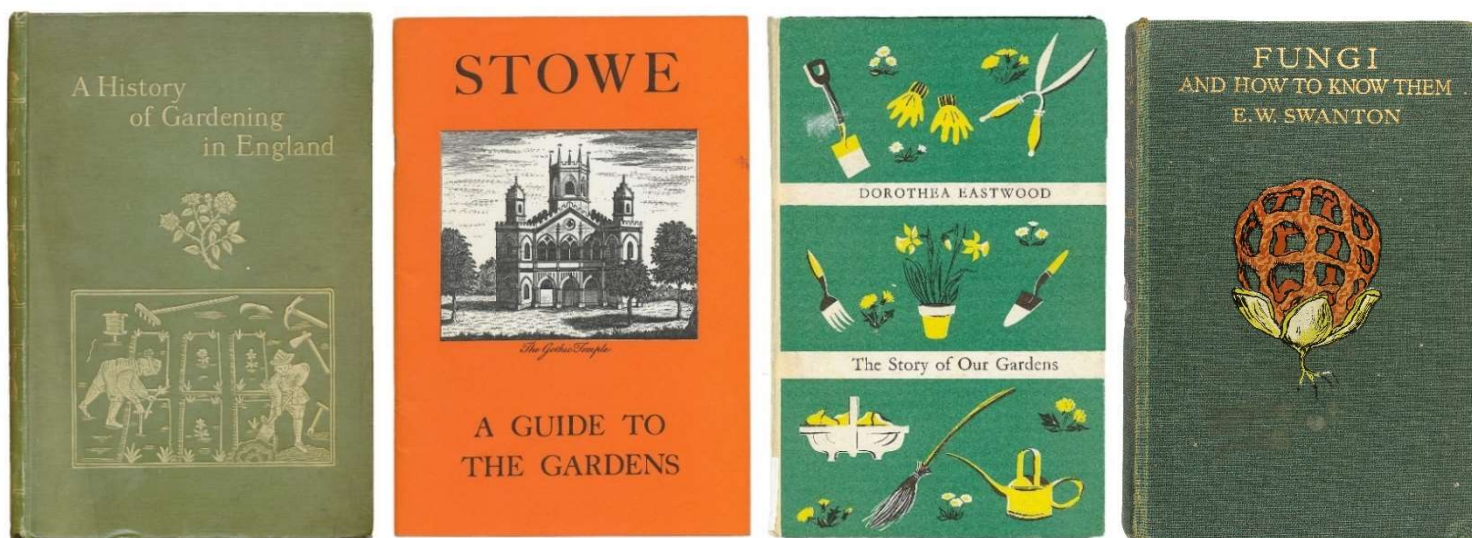
<https://www.bath.ac.uk/corporate-information/alliance-of-religions-and-conservation-collection/>

Gardens Trust Collection

The Gardens Trust Collection contains material assembled by the Trust (formerly the Garden History Society) to support research and inform conservation. Comprising books, journals and guides, the collection's main focus is on UK garden history - mediaeval to modern. Topics covered include the care and propagation of plants, horticultural planning and management, buildings as part of a designed landscape and their impact on outside spaces, herbs and other species with medicinal properties, public and private parks, gardens in art and literature, and the political and sociological influence of gardens through time. The lives and legacies of eminent practitioners, from Capability Brown to Beth Chatto, are also represented.

As a whole the collection documents the development of evolving approaches to garden and landscape design. It reflects changes in our relationship with the outdoors and with the natural environment we inhabit, recording the ways in which gardeners, architects, horticulturalists and designers choose to express this in the gardens and landscapes they create.

Thanks to colleagues in the Library cataloguing team for their help moving the collection to its new home in Archives & Research Collections.



View contents of the Gardens Trust Collection at:
<https://www.bath.ac.uk/corporate-information/gardens-trust-collection/>

Walda and the alphabets

One of the best things about being an archivist is getting to meet the people who use archives. Learning about our collections from those who make use of them is fascinating, expands our knowledge and adds value to the material in our care.

In June we hosted a visit by Walda Verbaenen, a PhD student from Hasselt University in Belgium. Walda's research focuses on written word, phonology and typography. She is interested in all sorts of writing systems but particularly in how the sounds we use to communicate language are captured, described and reproduced.

The starting point for her work at Bath was Sir Isaac Pitman (1813-1897) and his passion for spelling reform, but she was also drawn into the archives of the New British Alphabet Competition. As a result of his interest in phonetics, Sir James Pitman (1901-1985), Sir Isaac's grandson, was invited to become a trustee under the terms of the will of George Bernard Shaw (1856-1950). His duties included involvement in the administration and judging of a competition, devised by Shaw, to design an improved, more economical alphabet. Walda studied some of the 400 entries submitted in 1958 from around the world, ranging from professionally published texts to single sides of writing paper.

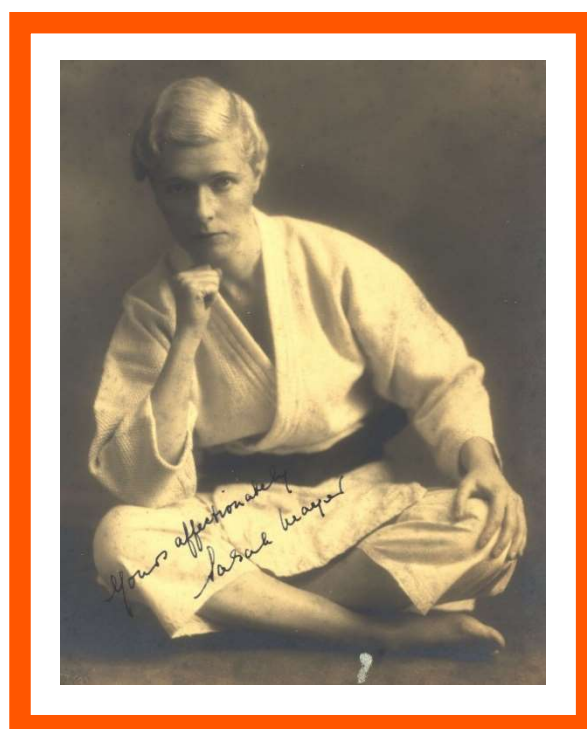
As well as being great company, Walda showed us how the search for a universal script connects an eccentric Victorian inventor to a global IT corporation. She taught us about the complex relationship between spoken and written language and has left us with a better appreciation of the Pitman Collection and its ongoing relevance in the 21st century.



Judo exhibition goes online

'Judo: A Cultural History of Martial Art', hosted by the Museum of East Asian Art in Bath city centre, continued until the end of May. The exhibition opened up the University's Richard Bowen (Judo) Collection to a wider audience, highlighting judo's place in Japanese and UK culture, and raising awareness of how it has played a part in influencing our ideas about Japan as well as stimulating interest in sports heritage generally.

The exhibition was accompanied by three talks delivered online via Zoom. Dr Mike Callan (17th August 2021), President of the International Judo Researchers Association, gave an overview and introduction to judo history, Dr Amanda Callan-Spenn (29th September 2021), recently awarded her PhD by the University of Wolverhampton, explored the lives of pioneering women judoka, and Commonwealth gold medallist and Olympian Megan Fletcher (3rd November 2021) shared tales of adventure in contemporary competitive judo.



Despite difficult and challenging circumstances resulting from COVID-19 restrictions, the exhibition was enjoyed by nearly 2,500 people including adults, children, local residents, and tourists from both the UK and overseas.

***Wonderful exhibition!
Really interesting and
very well presented.
Thank you!***

***Lovely exhibition. I
particularly loved the letter
from Sarah Meyer to her
judo teacher - hilarious!***

In October the exhibition was visited by Natasha Raskin Sharp and a BBC *Antiques Road Trip* film crew. The exhibition subsequently featured in an episode of the show broadcast on 5th January 2022.

To extend the accessibility and lifespan of the exhibition an online version has been developed using Omeka. It includes digital copies of all the items displayed in the physical exhibition as well as the exhibition 'catalogue' and additional material contributed by speakers, experts, and enthusiasts. It will continue to be available now that the exhibition at the Museum has ended.

We are very grateful to the Great Britain Sasakawa Foundation, the Budokwai and the British Society of Sports History whose support helped to make the exhibition possible, and to Systems Librarian Laurence Lockton for working Omeka magic.



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Palasport Primo Carnera
sabato 15 e domenica 16 marzo '80
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Campionato Europeo femminile Judo

Organizzazione: Judo Club Udine Judokai Tenri Codroipo

Patrocinato da: Comune di Udine
Regione Friuli - Venezia Giulia
Provincia di Udine C.C.I.A.A. Udine
Cassa di Risparmio Udine e Pordenone

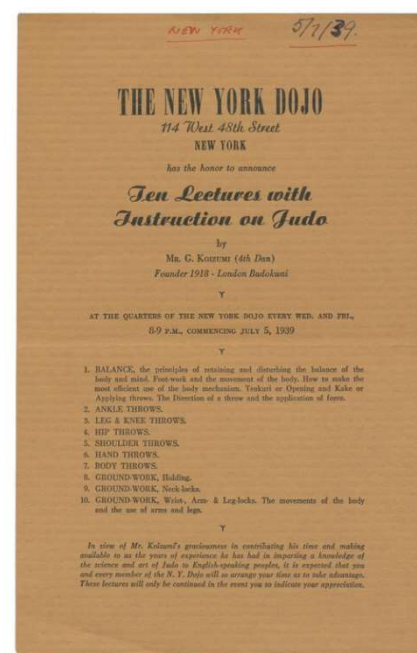
FODOLAR VIAGGI s.r.l.
Informazioni - vendita biglietti
Udine - Viale Ungheria, 5 - Tel. 204098

Prevedite autorizzate

Prezzo dei biglietti

Ingresso unico un giorno	L. 3.000
(Ragazzi fino 14 anni e militari)	L. 2.000
Ingresso unico due giorni	L. 5.000
Ridotto (ragazzi fino 14 anni e militari)	L. 3.000

battilana
l'amico gioielliere
Udine - Via Rialto, 6 - Telefono 295650



Visit the online exhibition at:
<https://archives.bath.ac.uk/exhibits/show/judo-a-cultural-history/introduction>

#ExploreYourArchiveWeek 2022

We took over [@BathUniLibrary](#) to make our #ExploreYourArchiveWeek debut in November.

As part of the Archives & Records Association national social media campaign our themed tweets included note taking in one of the first Chemistry lectures on campus, crates of freshly arrived archival accessions waiting to be processed in our secure storage area and digitized hockey scrapbooks.



Erasmus+ 2



In March, after submitting a successful Erasmus+ staff mobility grant application, Archives Assistant Adrian Nardone returned to the Historical Archives of the European Union (HAEU) based at the European University Institute (EUI) in Florence, Italy.

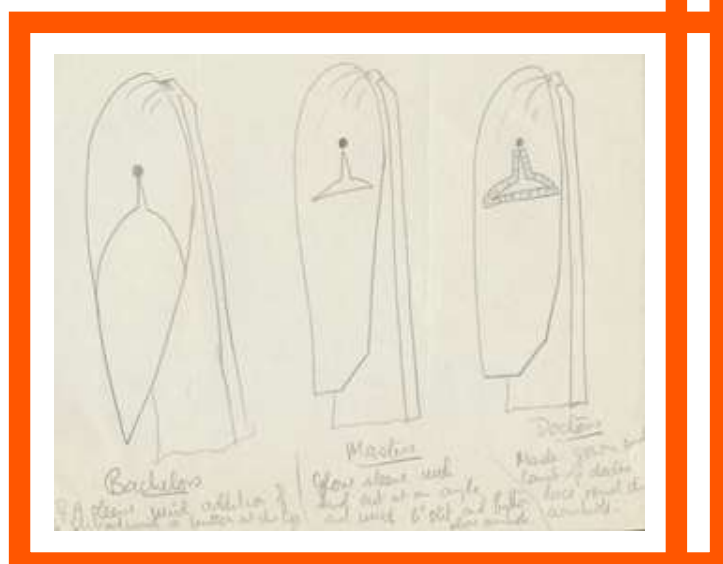
He spent a happy five-day visit learning about the activities of EUI Research Data Services and the role and responsibilities of the new Document Management Officer. He also ate lots of gelato.

Keeping up with academic fashion

It's not often that an expert in the field offers to do your work for you. That's what happened when we were contacted by Edward Ripley, an alumnus with an in-depth understanding of all matters relating to academic dress. He was researching the design and evolution of University of Bath academic gowns over the organisation's 55-year history and very generously shared his findings with us.

Academic gowns are closely associated with award ceremonies and are one of the things that University of Bath graduates across all programmes and disciplines have in common, but the origins and history of the various styles on display are not often considered.

Between 1966 and 1997 the University used bachelors and masters gowns specially designed by the academic dress scholar Dr George Shaw who corresponded with Dr A. M. Hardie, Vice Principal of Bristol College of Science and Technology, the University's forerunner, during 1965. The letters and outline design sketches for the first gowns survive in the University Archives and gave Edward some clues as to the ideas and thinking behind the institution's earliest academic fashion choices.



Find out more at:

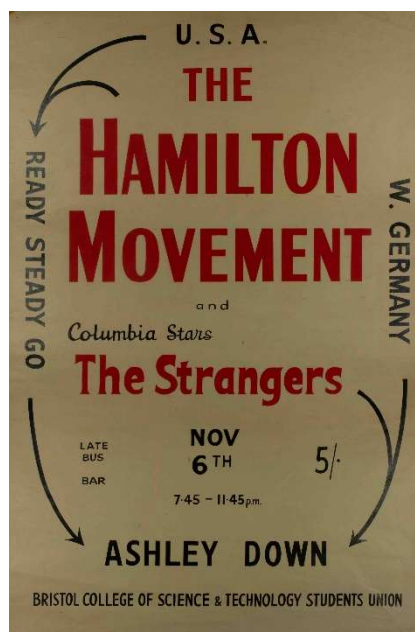
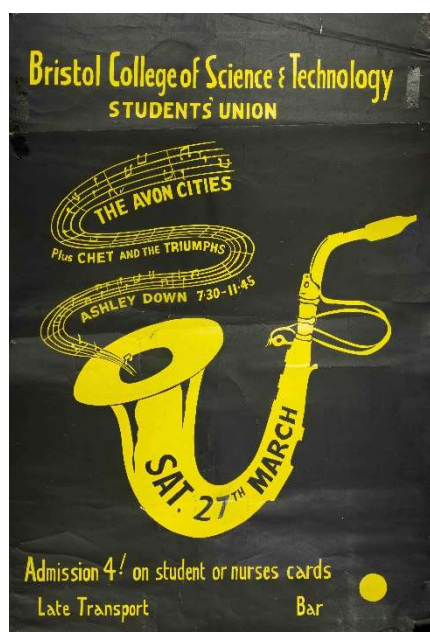
<http://www.bath.ac.uk/library/cabinet-of-curiosities/story/59>

Buy Edward's book at:

https://www.amazon.co.uk/Guide-Academic-Robes-University-Bath/dp/B09QFFP725/ref=cm_cr_ar_p_d_product_top?ie=UTF8

BCST music scene

In December we were excited to be put in touch with an alumnus who graduated in 1966. We were even more excited when he very kindly gifted a splendid set of posters advertising Bristol College of Science and Technology student music events to the University Archives. They offer a colourful, rare and precious glimpse of student life in the earliest days of the University and we are very lucky to have them.



Campus landmarks: I

Though it may have changed over the last couple of years, in most cases, our relationship with the campus is a common element in our University of Bath experience. It's the place where we work, study, teach and learn. For some it's also a sporting and social venue. For others it's home. Campus means different things to different people, and everyone has their own view of our shared space, but if you keep your eyes peeled, our physical environment has lots to tell us about the University's character, history and heritage.

Take Wessex House Level 1 (underdeck) for example. Perhaps not the most impressive campus location but this is where you'll find a 19th-century beam engine. On permanent loan to the University since 1977, it was specially built by Stothert & Pitt Ltd for the Paris International Exhibition in 1867. The Bath-based heavy engineering company founded in 1855 was perhaps best known for its dock cranes which were shipped all over the world. At one time Stothert & Pitt Ltd was Bath's biggest employer.

Prior to installation the engine was fully restored in the workshops of the University's School of Engineering. Its transfer to the campus was marked by a formal presentation attended by W. H. Darlington, Managing Director of Stothert & Pitt Ltd, Vice-Chancellor Paul Matthews, Professors Joseph Black and Frank Wallace of the School of Engineering, and Professor Angus Buchanan, Director of the Centre for the Study of the History of Technology. A press release at the time recorded that the loan was an appropriate way of symbolizing the strong ties between the University and local industry.



Campus landmarks: II



At the other end of the Central Parade, close to the Arrivals Square, you may discover another unlikely looking campus feature. The hay rake, manufactured around 1915 by W. N. Nicholson and Sons of Newark-on-Trent, belonged to Norwood(s) Farm which once stood on the site now occupied by The Edge. It was used by dairy farmer Mr Frederick Candy (and later his son) who leased the farm from Bath City Corporation until the early 1960s.

After years of fundraising and Students' Union campaigning, work to convert the derelict Norwood Farm barn into an arts space for students and staff was finally completed in 1975. The Arts Barn, including 'The Cowsheds', was home to University of Bath visual and performing arts until the opening of The Edge in 2015.

Along with the name of Norwood House, the hay rake is a connection to the time before Claverton Down was a campus. It's a healthy reminder that the land the University occupies has had many other tenants, visitors and purposes over the centuries and, as we move further into digital spaces, it's emblematic of the University's roots in a physical place.

Thanks to Dave Matthews, General Maintenance Manager, and his colleagues in the Department of Estates for their help.

Explore more campus at:

<https://www.bath.ac.uk/publications/campus-walking-tour/>

Blues database



Work is finally complete on a database containing details of University of Bath sporting honours, trophies and prizes. This has involved compiling information from a number of sources going back to the early 1970s when blues were first awarded.

We've found over 6000 records relating to the sporting achievements of individuals, teams and clubs. From rugby, athletics and netball to ballroom dancing, waterpolo and ultimate frisbee, they give insight into the rich tradition of recreational and competitive sport at the University.

Bath City Morris

In May members of Bath City Morris, formed at the University in the 1970s, came together from all over the UK for a reunion, to catch up with friends, to reminisce and, of course, to dance. There isn't room here to tell the story of the pioneering group and its adventures, but the influence it had on the lives of its members and on the development and growth of British morris dancing was powerful. We're grateful to have 'found' BCM and look forward to learning more ...



Facts and figures

Visits to the Archives & Research Collections reading room were restricted during parts of 2021/2022 owing to the Covid-19 pandemic.

New accessions: Lord Hylton (additional research papers)
Ian Hay Davison (additional research papers)
Martin C. Harris Collection (ice hockey)

Total holdings: 1.7km (excluding map chests).

Archives & Research Collections also appearing in...

- ‘Conservation of *The Hockey Jottings Scrapbook*’, Clare Prince, *The Quarterly*, Journal of the British Association of Paper Historians, **122**, April 2022
 - Library Instagram @unibathlib
 - Research into the occurrence and distribution of a rare heather hybrid on The Lizard, Cornwall
 - *Women in Judo*, ed M. Callan, 2021
 - Family history relating to a famous hockey-playing school teacher
 - MSc student assignment on the renovation of Green Park Station
 - Research relating to the location of a small boulder which may be a key to the interpretation of the bluestones of Stonehenge
 - *Agent Twister: The True Story Behind the Scandal that Grippped the Nation*, Philip Augar and Keely Winstone, 2022
 - BA2 Issue 30
 - Project involving more than 50 European universities and research centres on European Election campaigning material between 1979-2019: <https://www.electionsmonitoringcenter.eu/>
 - University Twitter @UniofBath
 - Natural Sciences undergraduate teaching session in an area of ancient woodland on campus
 - ‘An Age of Chivalry - Japanese Ladies in Foggy London Town’, Paul Budden, *Fine Ladies Kendo Worldwide*, **3**, pp29-40, Spring 2022
 - Research into connections between phonetic shorthand and Chinese logographic script
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