

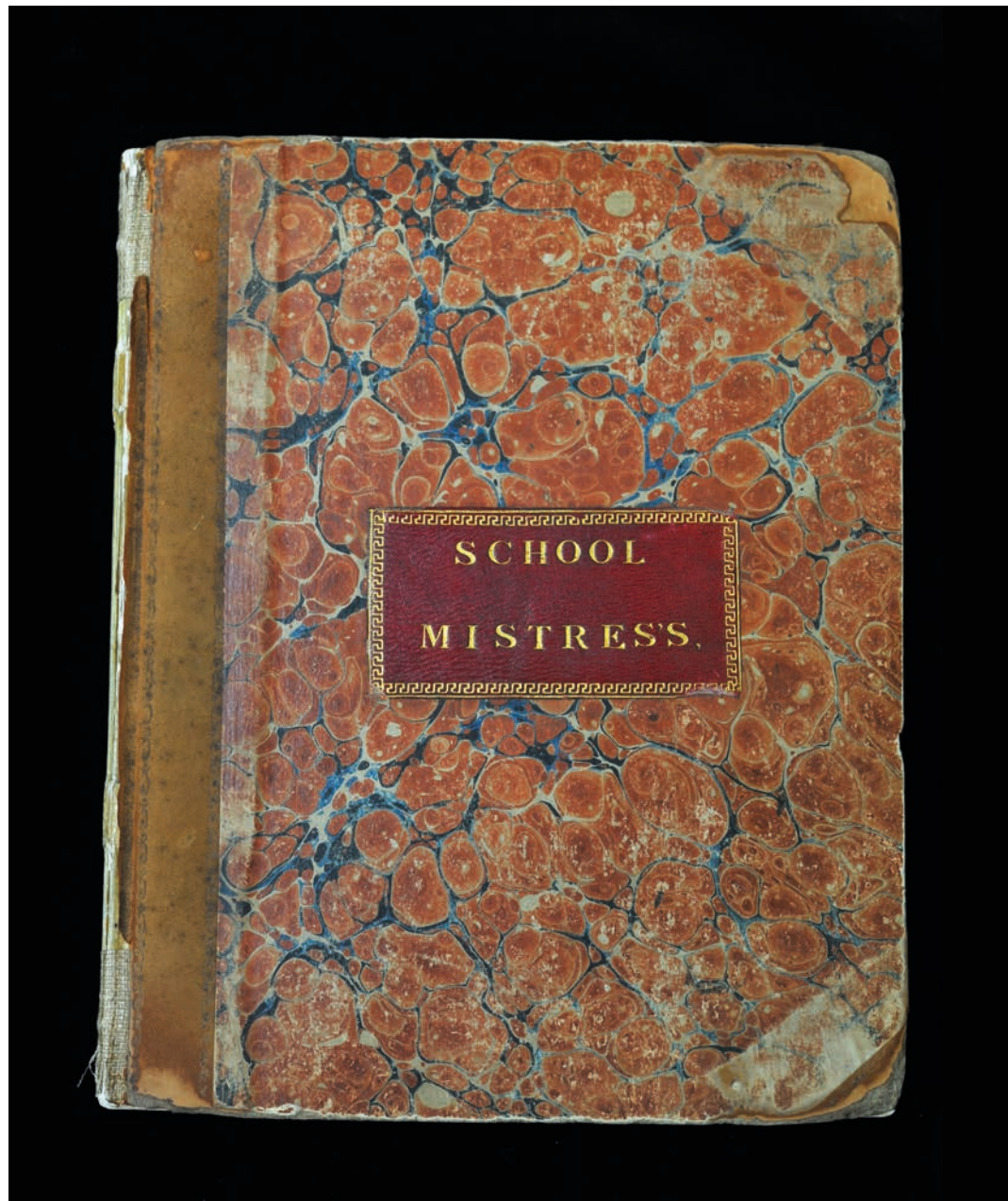
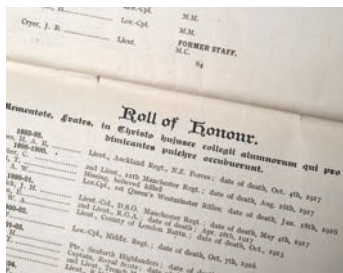
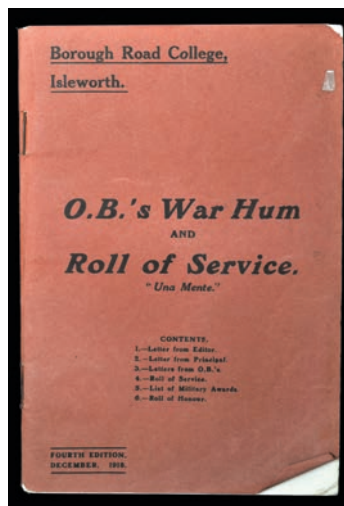


Archives
& Records
Management
at Brunel

BFSS Archives
ANNUAL REPORT 2015



Brunel
University
London



Overview of the year

We are pleased to present the second British and Foreign School Society (BFSS) Archives Annual Report 2015.

Among the many highlights to tell you about, we are delighted to introduce Ruth Armstrong (soon to be Mrs Ruth Maguire), who joined the University last April as Archive Assistant, and Joshua Insley, a 2nd year History student, who joined us as a volunteer in November. Both of whom are working alongside the Archivist on the BFSS archives.

Over the past year, we have continued to discover, open up and celebrate the BFSS archives with –

- 407 scanned photographs attached to their catalogue entry
- more detailed cataloguing of material down to item or file level
- more detailed catalogue entries on CALM increasing search capabilities
- more comprehensive information available from our web pages such as the British Schools list and the first Register of female students

We would also like to update you on two of the projects we told you about in last year's report –

- 1st World War project – we launched the profiles online in November 2014
- BFSS Foreign Correspondence – 1,241 individual entries on CALM covering 89 countries
- CALM – we have installed two new servers for CALM and CALM View. CALM View has been installed and we are currently working on a rollout plan to deliver the CALM Catalogue online (in an incremental approach rather than a big bang)

This year the number of enquiries has reached 66.

We have also hosted ten researchers over 42 days, in our Reading Room, and provided another 'introduction to archives' session for 2nd year History students.

Archives

The British and Foreign School Society Archive contains records of its early formation, committee minutes and papers, financial documents, establishment and progress of the British Schools, 19th century schools (both domestic and overseas) correspondence, BFSS charities and funds, annual reports, student application forms and references, registers, magazines, staff, student and building photographs, monitorial medals, a large selection of educational books and sewing samples. In all there are 178 linear metres (or 15 cubic metres) of archive material.

Following the Heritage Builds Bridges project, the archives are catalogued to professional standards at a high-level (down to file or box level). We are now focussed on cataloguing the archives down to item level as much as possible, for example, individual entries for letters and photographs. This is very time consuming. Over the past year, the majority of our cataloguing work has been concentrated on the foreign correspondence letters. The letters illustrate in great detail the work of the BFSS across the world in the 19th century and have attracted a lot of attention both internally and externally.

Although the bulk of our work remains paper-based such as sorting, repackaging and cataloguing, we are still continuing to investigate the best way forward to address digitisation. To-date, we have 407 digitised photographs attached to our catalogue, and have scanned a further 600 BFSS items.

CALM Catalogue:

We have added 650 new catalogue descriptions and modified 1,465 entries. To-date, there are now **2,991** BFSS entries on CALM, out of a total of 5,478 CALM entries across all Brunel University London Archives.

Opening up the archives:

- **'News from the Archives'** – provides an insight to the wonderful archives we look after and the work involved in managing them. We announce new discoveries, donations and work achieved
<http://www.brunel.ac.uk/services/archives-management/news>
- **British School List** – a fully searchable transcript of the 1897 list of British schools was launched on our web pages in January 2015. In the 19th Century thousands of British schools were established throughout the country, hundreds in London alone. In many places the newly established British school was the first school the community had ever had. Locations for British Schools ranged from Cornwall to Scotland, from inner-city slum areas to the Woburn Estate of the Duke of Bedford, from rural villages to the mines of South Wales and factories of Manchester
<http://www.brunel.ac.uk/services/archives-management/university-collections/british-and-foreign-school-society-collection>

Many thanks again, it's great to know there is a repository for this information.

ENQUIRER 18/11/2014

- **First Register of Female Student** – a fully searchable transcript of the first Register of Female Students at Borough Road College, 1806-1827. The Register provides a wide range of information on the students; from their name and hometown, to their appointments after attending the College and the School Mistress' own comments about them. The Register details the variety of places that students both came from and went to after the College. Women attended Borough Road from across the United Kingdom, but also further afield, such as New York, Toulouse and Sierra Leone. Furthermore, after finishing their studies, women were appointed in locations as far flung and diverse as Antigua, Haiti, The Cape of Good Hope in South Africa and New South Wales, the first colony to be established in Australia

<http://www.brunel.ac.uk/services/archives-management/university-collections/british-and-foreign-school-society-collection>

- **Student applications** – we are continuing with the student applications project – letters are unfolded and basic preservation carried out, filed under each student with individual names logged onto CALM. To-date, we have completed 1817-1845 and 1852-54 (men) and 1817-1824 (women). We are currently working on men's applications for 1846.
- **Year Groups and Sporting Teams** – there are 407 photos scanned and attached to their catalogue entries, which means the photo can be viewed via the catalogue, rather than the original being fetched out of the strong room.

The photographs include:

- Borough Road College student year groups
 - Club officers
 - Prefects
 - Triarians (students who stayed on for a third year)
 - 'Poets' (one of the idiosyncratic names of the dormitories)
 - 'Old boys' (alumni)
 - Athletics teams
 - Inter-college Sports teams (a fiercely contested annual event between various London colleges, including St Mark's and St John's and St Mary's. NB Brunel still competes in its equivalent today, and is always delighted to beat "Simmaries")
 - Fives teams (a game with similarities to squash, but using gloved hands rather than racquets)
 - Tennis teams
 - Football teams
 - Rugby teams
 - Hockey teams
 - Rowing teams
 - Swimming teams
- **Information sheets** – on the BFSS – an introduction to the BFSS and Joseph Lancaster, Borough Road College and Stockwell College are now available online from our webpages
<http://www.brunel.ac.uk/services/archives-management/university-collections/british-and-foreign-school-society-collection>

BFSS Foreign Correspondence project

Over the past year, the Archivist has continued to catalogue the Foreign Correspondence.

There are now 1,241 individual foreign correspondence entries on CALM covering 89 different countries. Of these, 12 remain to be finished. [Canada, Denmark, Germany, Gibraltar, Greenland, Italy, Malacca, Malaya (following original order, these have been kept separate), Malta, Portugal, Spain and Sweden.]

The most recent countries to be completed are: Angola, Islands of the South Pacific, Lesotho, Mauritius, Nigeria, India, Sri Lanka, South Africa, and Vietnam.

BFSS Foreign Correspondence cataloguing, by geographical location and individual country, to-date:

SUB-SERIES (GEOGRAPHICAL AREA)	FILE = COUNTRY	STATUS	NO OF ITEMS
EUROPE	Bosnia	Completed	1
	Belgium	Completed	5
	Denmark		
	France	Completed	100
	Germany		
	Gibraltar		
	Greece	Completed	22
	Greenland		
	Hungary	Completed	1
	Ireland	Completed	3
	Italy		
	Madeira	Completed	1
	Malta		
	Netherlands	Completed	1
	Portugal	Completed	6
	Russia	Completed	6
	Spain		
	Sweden		
	Switzerland	Completed	1
EUROPE TOTAL			147
NORTH AMERICA	Canada		13
	USA	Completed	13
N. AMERICA TOTAL			26
CENTRAL AND SOUTH AMERICA	Argentina	Completed	8
	Belize	Completed	1
	Brazil	Completed	3
	Chile	Completed	11
	Columbia	Completed	1
	Falkland Islands	Completed	1
	Guatemala	Completed	1
	Mexico	Completed	1
	Nicaragua	Completed	1
	Peru	Completed	6
	Uruguay	Completed	1
	Venezuela	Completed	3
	Guyana		78
CENTRAL AND S. AMERICA TOTAL			116
MIDDLE EAST	Azerbaijan	Completed	1
	Syria [Lebanon]	Completed	6
	Turkey	Completed	35
	Persia	Completed	1
MIDDLE EAST TOTAL			43

SUB-SERIES (GEOGRAPHICAL AREA)	FILE = COUNTRY	STATUS	NO OF ITEMS
THE FAR EAST	China	Completed	23
	Japan	Completed	2
	Malacca		
	Malaya		
	Vietnam	Completed	1
THE FAR EAST TOTAL			26
AFRICA	Angola	Completed	3
	Cameroon	Completed	5
	Egypt	Completed	7
	Ghana	Completed	3
	Lesotho	Completed	1
	Madagascar	Completed	32
	Morocco	Completed	3
	Nigeria	Completed	1
	Sierra Leone	Completed	5
	South Africa	Completed	45
	Africa – general	Completed	5
AFRICA TOTAL			110
INDIA AND SRI LANKA	India	Completed	110
	Sri Lanka	Completed	6
INDIA AND SRI LANKA TOTAL			116
WEST INDIES	Anguilla	Completed	1
	Dominican Republic	Completed	6
	Grenada	Completed	1
	Haiti	Completed	19
	Jamaica	Completed	239
	Montserrat	Completed	1
	St Eustatius	Completed	2
	St Kitts	Completed	8
	St Thomas	Completed	1
	St Vincent	Completed	5
	Tobago	Completed	5
	Trinidad	Completed	13
	Dominica	Completed	10
	Barbados	Completed	18
	Bermuda	Completed	2
	Antigua	Completed	15
	Turks and Caicos Islands	Completed	17
	Bahamas	Completed	141
	John Mc Swiney	Completed	24
	Edwin Wallbridge	Completed	10
	Printed materials	Completed	3
WEST INDIES TOTAL			541
SOUTH PACIFIC	Australia	Completed	42
	New Zealand	Completed	21
	Islands of the South Pacific	Completed	32
SOUTH PACIFIC TOTAL			95
FC TOTAL ITEMS			1,220
PLUS ADMIN HISTORIES ETC. TOTAL			1,241

LC a Savage
 to Zululand
 c/o The Right Rev Lord Bishop for Zululand
 Isandhlwana
 Rorke's Drift
 Jan 21st
 Dear Sir
 You will be surprised
 to hear that I am in Zululand
 You will perhaps remember that
 I was obliged to leave England for
 my health. I am thankful to say
 I am much better & thought I
 had better let you know that I
 have been working for sometime
 past as Schoolmistress in St
 Vincent's Mission School Isandhlwana
 & like it very much I reside
 with the Bishop & Mrs McKenzie
 & am very happy & comfortable
 They have no family.

BFSS/FC/S.Africa/32

An interesting find was a letter (BFSS/FC/S.Africa/32) from Elizabeth Savage, a former Stockwell student, who wrote to Alfred Bourne, Secretary of the BFSS, in 1886 announcing that he "would be surprised to hear that I am in Zululand". Elizabeth had taken a post as schoolmistress in St Vincent's Mission School in Isandhlwana, Zululand and was residing with the Bishop for Zululand [Douglas McKenzie] and his wife. The lay reader's wife was also a Stockwell alumna. Elizabeth wrote "The Mission is carried on in memory of those brave soldiers who fell in the dreadful war and massacre seven years ago. The Battle Field is just in front of where the Bishop's House now stands, and the graves a little distance further on".

This was the Battle of Rorke's Drift, a battle in the Anglo-Zulu War, the deliberate British suppression of the Zulus in order to facilitate the unification of the region under British rule, immortalised in the 1964 film *Zulu* starring Michael Caine. The defence of the mission station of Rorke's Drift immediately followed the British Army's defeat at the Battle of Isandhlwana on 22 January 1879, and continued into the following day. Just over 150 British and colonial troops successfully defended the garrison against an assault by 3,000 Zulu warriors. The attacks came very close to defeating the tiny garrison but were ultimately repelled.

Other letters in the same file also talk of the wars, such as BFSS/FC/S.Africa/22, a Letter from Miss E. Farnsworth, Potchefstroom, Transvaal, S. Africa, to [Miss?] Davison, 13 April 1881. She writes "I am alive and well in the midst of war, but perhaps letters would never get safely away in this disturbed land...". However, it's clearly business as usual as she goes on in the same letter to request a teacher for Potchefstroom.

P. Africa April 13th 1881
 My dear Miss Davison
 I think you will have
 heard from Mike Green that I am
 alive and well in the midst
 of war, but perhaps letters would
 never get safely away from this dis-
 turbed land & in that great want
 I only write to my sister & ones
 to Charlotte asking for the letters
 to be forwarded to you
 I have received no letters at this
 month until one from my sister
 since we had this name of peace
 more than that we cannot call
 it at present, except that bullets
 and Cannon balls no longer endanger
 our lives I thought all my letters
 might perhaps arrive as a great blessing

Academic research

Since last summer, Dr Inge Dornan (Lecturer, Department of Politics, History and Law) has been researching the foreign correspondence, particularly the BFSS's role and influence in the West Indies before and after emancipation, for an article 'For the Benefit of the Rising Generation: The Impact of The British and Foreign School Society in the Development of Elementary Education in the West Indies before and after Emancipation.'

The West Indies letters are by far the largest volume of foreign correspondence in the BFSS archive. Through correspondence, newspapers, the BFSS Annual Reports, and missionary reports contained within the archive, Dr Dornan has been able to piece together the scope and impact of the BFSS's activities in the West Indies in the nineteenth century.

Dr Dornan is also investigating the BFSS's global footprint. The aim of this study is to identify the extent to which the BFSS and the teaching of the British System helped British communities living abroad to retain a British identity and how it reinforced an ideology of British imperialism both within and outside of British controlled dominions in the nineteenth century. Comparing the activities of the BFSS in a range of countries and continents – USA, Latin America, Canada, Africa, India, China, the West Indies, the Middle East, Greece, France, among others – reveals the similarities and differences in experience of teachers operating the British System overseas as well as the obstacles they faced in realising their goals.



The BFSS performed a key role delivering aid and educational expertise to the Nonconformist missionaries, who along with their Anglican counterparts were charged with establishing a system of elementary education in the British West Indies following the Abolition Act (1833). The BFSS donated funds, books, teaching equipment and manuals on the British System and were also approached by the London Missionary Society to train men and women at Borough Road College to send to their Mission Schools in the West Indies – the archive confirms the role of the BFSS's Ladies Committee and Training Department in instructing single as well as married women to teach in the colonies. In their correspondence with the BFSS, missionaries and teachers highlighted the problems that plagued their efforts to implement the British System in their schools, and the various factors that prevented them from establishing an effective elementary system in the colonies. The BFSS archive adds to our understanding of the development of the elementary system in the West Indies by highlighting the aid that the Nonconformists missionaries received from Britain and pinpointing their goal to adopt progressive educational methods in the teaching of the emancipated masses. It also illustrates that the BFSS made a valuable contribution to the wider anti-slavery campaign in promoting the education of slaves and continued to support the education of the 'rising generation' in freedom.

DR INGE DORNAN, LECTURER

1st World War Profiles – live online

We announced the launch of the detailed biographies of staff and students from Borough Road College who died fighting in the First World War in November 2014. Seven hundred and fifty eight students (and former students) and twenty one members (and former members) of staff from Borough Road College went to war. One hundred and fifteen students (and former students) and five members (and former members) of staff perished.

Using archive material in the BFSS Archives such as the roll of honour, student application forms, student magazines, photographs and information held externally, for instance, on the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, we found a wealth of information about each individual, including tales of bravery and heroic action. In total, 47 individuals were awarded military honours including five Distinguished Service Order (DSO) medals, 18 Military Cross (MC) medals and 12 Military Medal (MM) medals. Other medals included a Meritorious Service Medal, mention in dispatches, mention in corps orders, two 1914 Star medal, a Croix de Guerre and a Chevalier de la Couronne.



ROW 1 A. J. Addis, William George Anderson, Ernest George Annelly, Joseph Armstrong, Harold Wilfred Asbrey, Thomas Philip Ashby, R N Avern, George E. Baines, George Arthur Baker, Reginald Bertram Baker, Cecil Adler Beverley, Thomas Blakesley Brewin, Harry Champness Britten, Albert John Brooks, George Percy Stephenson Brown, Louis Foster Brown, Norman William Brundritt, Harry Fisher Buckby, George Gordon Casey, James Henry Chadwick, Charles Church, Denis Frederick Church, Charles H Cleaver, Arthur William Cole

ROW 2 Albert Bruce Cosgrove, Sidney Cortern Cowherd, John Lovell Dashwood, William Davis, Charles Spencer Day, Charles Alfred Dearing, Leonard Frederick Dixon, Reginald William Dodderidge, Frederick William Drew, John H. Duke, William Dunn, J O Elliot, William John Fell, Raymond Fisher, Harry Norton Fox, Herbert Joseph James Fountain, Kingdon Tregost Frost, Sydney Goates, Thomas Goodier, Walter Wilfred Green, Harold Fifield Greenhalgh, Ernest Greenwood, Edward Harrison, Joseph Harrison

ROW 3 Ronald Harrison, Frank Bratton Heeps, Clifford Holroyd, William Ewart Hopkinson, Richard Kelly Hornabrook, Edgar Howarth, Sidney Oswald Jenkins, Robert Nelson Jones, Albert Ernest Keeling, Percy Ewart Kelly, William Kennedy, William Keys, James Knighton, John Thomas Langton, Norman Lazenby, W H Lippitt, Arthur Lewis Lloyd, W.V. Lloyd, Austin Theodore Long, Ronald Charles Lowe, Carl Lowther, Frank William Lupton, William Fraser Lydamore, Thomas M[a]cNaught

ROW 4 Sidney George Marston, Stanley Martindale, Sydney Herbert Albert Edwin Milnes, Robert Mitchley, John Moore, Walter Morris, Geoffrey Nutter, Joseph Frederick Ore, Charles Leonard Ovens, Geoffrey Raymond Palmer, Hebert John Palmer, Lancelot Palmer, Frederick Parker, H. Parson, Thomas Henry Parsons, Cyril John Perkins, Wilfred Ashton Piercy, Bernard Pitt, W H Price, Arthur Owen Rees, Stephen Lacy Reiss, A.C. Robinson, Eric Leslie Robinson, Adam Ross

ROW 5 Charles Edward Sadler, Reginald Thomas Salmon, James Thompson Scott, Reginald William Sephton, William Thomas Smart, William Parker Smethhurst, Harry Christopher Smith, Matthew Southern, Amos Wesley Stace, John Steel(e), William Head Stephens, John Connel Stevenson, Lewis James Stribling, Benjamin S B Thomas, Charles F. Tolliday, Thomas Shenton Kelway Tregunna, Sidney Charles Tremeer, A T Turner, Lionel Frank Vinicombe, Tom Ward, Albert Ernest Wheatcroft, Harry Alden Whitby, Joseph Wood

Bernard Pitt

DATE OF BIRTH

19 June 1882

COURSE

2 years at Borough Road College, 1901-1903

JOB(S)

Teacher at King's School, Kew

SERVICE NUMBER

Unknown

WW1 RANK

Second Lieutenant, Border Regiment, 10th Battalion

THEATRE OF WAR

Europe

DATE OF DEATH

30 April 1916

LOCATION OF DEATH

Arras, France

BURIED/MEMORIAL

Arras Memorial, France

(Grave/Memorial reference: Bay 6)



Biography

Second Lieutenant Bernard Pitt attended Borough Road College for two years. He graduated from Borough Road College in 1903 with a Class 1 Teachers Certificate. He went on to gain a BA Hons in Languages and an MA in Literature in 1911, both from the University of London. He started teaching as a master at the Kew Schools, later becoming a master at Sir. J. Williamson's Mathematical School in Rochester, before finally holding a post at Coopers' Company School, Bow. From 1912 he also conducted an English Literature class at the Working Men's College at St. Pancras, where there is a room named after him. He joined a volunteer corps before gaining commission into the Border Regiment in April 1915. In February 1916 he was given command of a battery. He was 34 when he was killed on 30th April 1916 by a mine whilst observing and correcting mortar fire at Arras, leaving behind his wife Florence and four children. In a letter to his wife about his death from his Brigadier-General he is described as being the "embodiment of dash and pluck" and that "whenever the Germans appeared to be getting particularly annoyed, the men would say "oh, it's that little trench mortar officer at them with his guns". The Brigadier-General goes on to say Pitt was about to be made his Staff Officer before his death. He is remembered for the prolific letter writer and poet he became during the war. His letters and poems were collated after the war, and whilst Pitt may not have the fame of other war poets his poetry, often reflecting on life back in London, offers another perspective of trench life.

*"When I shall fight and hurl myself at the foe
With a heart seething with anger, leaping with pride,
I will launch one well-aimed shot, I will drive one blow
For a dear little nook that I know of, down by Thames' side"*

BERNARD PITT

Enquiries

Since last year's report, we have received 66 enquiries. These equate to 30 Borough Road College, 20 British Schools, 10 BFSS general and 6 Stockwell College enquiries. This year's number of enquiries is slightly down on the previous year's total of 72 enquiries (Borough Road College = 11, British Schools = 25, BFSS = 20, Stockwell College = 15 and Saffron Walden = 1 enquiries). The number of British School enquiries has fallen perhaps as a result of the British Schools list being available online now. In comparison, there has been a dramatic increase in the number of Borough Road College enquiries – up nearly 300%, which gives some impetus to cataloguing the applications.

In November (not long after the World War I profiles were added to our website) we had an enquiry from a relative of one of the men who served, Wilfred Ashton Piercy. They were able to provide us with some more information and a photograph (albeit one taken from another source online) and in exchange we looked through our collections for information on him. He attended Borough Road College in 1899-1902 and we found his application and mention of him in the Annual Report and Educational Record.

We received another interesting enquiry in October from a family historian whose ancestor, William George Johnson, had attended Borough Road College 1891-1892 and then emigrated to Siam to work at the Ministry of Education. His relative wanted to try and understand his motive for going to Siam. We located

his application, his medical forms, plus a Year Group Photo (although we could not identify him for certain) and information in the Annual Reports and Educational Record on him receiving a scholarship due to his poor background. With regards to his decision to go to Siam, we were unable to find any definite information. We did discover however, that another student, by the name of Ernest Young, who graduated the year before William Johnson, also went to Siam in 1894. There is also mention in the 1892 Annual Report that a gentleman called Mr Algernon Brown, from the Siamese Legation, began to serve on the Borough Road College Committee in 1891-1892. Finally, there was a Siamese student named Sawm who came to Borough Road College the year after William Johnson. Perhaps as a result of meeting these individuals, William George Johnson had been inspired to go to Siam

In June 2014 and again in January 2015, we had a number of enquiries from a local history group researching their local British school in Charlbury, Oxfordshire. Their first enquiry was on the school itself, where we found details in a number of Annual Reports, plus correspondence with the central BFSS as well as their Newcastle Commission Return in 1859. The second enquiry was on 5 of the early teachers at the school, including one female teacher, E. Seagar. We found Borough Road College applications for most of the teachers but only found Miss Seagar in the female register.



Thank you so much for this. It is really helpful and does confirm what I thought, namely that Borough Road was training women teachers earlier. We are so grateful for your prompt reply.

ENQUIRER 5/1/2015

Webpages

Over the past year, we have made an enormous effort to put more information on our web pages. We have added:

- World War I profiles and Information Sheets to BFSS web pages – November 2014
- British Schools' page created and transcript and scanned image of British Schools List 1897 – January 2015
- Transcript and scanned image of Borough Road College First Female Register – March 2015

In our 'News Items' we have added:

- 'Introduction to the BFSS Archives and Archives Team' – July 2014
- Information on the World War I Project – September 2014
- 'Movember' article which used photos from BFSS collection – November 2014
- Launch of World War I Profiles – November 2014
- British Schools article – January 2015
- Spotlight of Hitchin British School Museum – February 2015
- Article on the Borough Road College First Female Register – March 2015

We are pleased to report the web statistics for this period are:

- All archive pages (total) = 6553 (there was a peak in November / December 2014 in line with the WWI profiles being put online)
- Archives Home page = 871
- World War I Profiles homepage = 774 (plus visits to different profiles, e.g. Thomas Philip Ashby has had 194 views)
- BFSS page = 315

Accessions

Over the past twelve months, we have received only 2 accessions for the BFSS Archive

ACC2014/18	the BFSS annual Report and Financial Statements for the Year ended 31/12/2013
ACC2015/2	Joseph Lancaster in Caracas, a two volume book (in Spanish) by Edgar Vaughan

Visitors to the Archives

Again this year, we have given presentations and tours of the archives to batches of 2nd year history students, many of whom had not visited an archive before. A total of 20 students attended over two sessions.

We have also received a high number of academic visitors to the archive, who examined a range of material.

RESEARCHER	SUBJECT	NO OF ITEMS VIEWED	NO OF DAYS
ACADEMIC (X2)	Foreign Correspondence – Greece	FC/Greece = 1 box Annual Reports	2 days
ACADEMIC	BFSS	Annual Reports	1 day
ACADEMIC	Foreign Correspondence – India	FC/India = 1 box	1 day
ACADEMIC	Foreign Correspondence – Jamaica, India, Middle East, USA, New Zealand, Australia, France, Greece, Russia	FC/Jamaica = 2 boxes FC/India = 1 box FC/Europe = 1 box USA = 1 box Middle East = 1 box New Zealand and Australia = 1 box	23 days
ACADEMIC	Foreign Correspondence – India	FC/India = 1 box	4 days
FAMILY HISTORIAN	BFSS British School	BFSS Schools correspondence 1830-1856 = 1 file	0.5 day
ACADEMIC	BFSS South America, vaccinations	BFSS Secondary Sources = 1 box FC/South America = 1 box Annual Reports BRC Applications = 1 box	8 days
ACADEMIC	BFSS South America	BFSS Secondary Sources Annual Reports	1 day
ACADEMIC	Education in Mauritius	The Educational Record, BFSS Secondary Sources FC/Mauritius = 1 box	0.5 day

Exhibitions

BFSS Foreign Involvement

At the BFSS AGM on 23rd May 2014, we presented a small exhibition on the 'foreign' aspect of the British and Foreign School Society. The BFSS's foreign involvement began as early as 1809. It was involved in teaching freed slaves in Jamaica following the Emancipation Act of 1833, with educational provision in France following the peace treaty of 1814 and the end of the Franco-Prussian war in 1870, in Greece following the Greek revolt of 1821, in newly emerging nations of Central and South America, North America, Canada, Australia and New Zealand.



Brunel University London 50th Anniversary

Next year, the University will celebrate the 50th Anniversary since receiving its original Charter in 1966. To mark the anniversary, the University is currently planning a range of key events.

We are working on ways in which the Archives can support and enhance the celebrations. We have a number of projects in the pipeline, in which we are hoping to exhibit material from the BFSS archives, which may not have been exhibited before, such as –

- First Register of Women students at BRC 1806
- Letter to Henry Dunn, Secretary of the BFSS from Walter Dendy in Jamaica 29 December 1837
- BRC Roll of Service 3rd Edition April 1917
- BRC OB's War Hum and Roll of Service – 4 December 1918
- Sporting Honours Boards – they show students' international sporting achievements from 1948 to present day



Brunel
University
London

Celebrating
50
years

Archive Volunteers

We would like to thank our volunteers for their help and dedication over the past twelve months. Without their passion and dedication, much of the fantastic work might not have been achieved. Their work continues to support our work to a very high standard.

We are delighted to report that three former volunteers, Ginny Dawe-Woodings, Sara Brimble and Melanie Smith, have all successfully moved on.

Ginny, a former Brunel History student who graduated last July with a 1st, and Melanie, who volunteered with us 2012/2013, are currently at UCL studying on the Archives and Records Management course. Sara, also a former Brunel History student who graduated last July with a 2:1, is currently working at the Bank of England (Graduate Trainee Archivist) and has been accepted onto the UCL Archives and Records Management course from September this year.

I've been volunteering at the archives since November [2014] and it has been fantastic and genuinely one of the highlights of my year.

For me the most interesting part of working here has been getting an insight into the lives of people from around 200 years ago, many of whom were my own age. I transcribed the first ever register of female students at Borough Road College, and it was fascinating to see not only where these women came from, but their destinations after training. For example in January 1818 a Mary Smith came from New York to Borough Road, before travelling to New South Wales in order to teach. New South Wales was the first colony to be founded in Australia, and had only been in existence since 1788. When there is so much debate over the writing out of women in history, it is great to find their lives being recorded, and to discover such cases of bravery. Another particularly interesting, and often quite amusing, section of the register is the column of comments from the school mistress about the students. These comments range from recording marriages, to notes that a student was 'incompetent' or 'Left with Little Attendance'. While only a small part of the text, these lines offer a reminder that the register is of real people, and records key moments in their lives.

The volunteering I've done has also been really helpful for my course. Learning how to read 19th Century handwriting has proved particularly useful.

2ND YEAR HISTORY STUDENT



Staff

Mandy Mordue Head of Archives and Records Management

Phaedra Casey Archivist

Ruth Armstrong Archive Assistant (April 2014 –)

Current Volunteer

Joshua Insley 2nd Year History Student 30 hours
(November 2014 –)

Looking forward 2015-2016

In the coming year, we hope to:

- Launch the Calm catalogue online – planned incremental approach
- Exhibit the BFSS Archives as part of the University's 50th Anniversary celebrations
- Further develop our web pages



Farewell to Brian York

Finally, we would like to wish Brian York a very happy retirement.

Brian York joined the BFSS as a member in 1974, when he was a lecturer in the History Department at Borough Road College. He joined the BFSS Archive Committee in the same year.

From the 1960s George Bartle, (Head of the History Department) had begun pulling together documents from all over Lancaster House at Borough Road College. Bundles of documents from tea chests in store rooms, foreign correspondence from unlocked wooden cupboards at the back of a lecture theatre, monitorial badges from a box in a corridor, student photos from corridor walls, and the B's Hum (the Borough Road College student magazine) from a variety of places. The BFSS Annual Reports were in the principal's office, inaccessible to researchers. The 19th Century BFSS Secretaries' Papers and early BFSS minute books,



long believed lost in the Blitz, were rediscovered at Borough Road College at this time, albeit somewhat charred and water damaged in part.

To the above was added, in the late 1970s, archives from Stockwell, Saffron Walden College and Darlington Colleges.

In 1976 a visiting researcher had this to say about the situation, "crates of documents, unsorted and insecure are still lying at Borough Road College, as useless in their present condition as they are tantalising".

At about this time Brian began to assist (a presumably very grateful!) George Bartle with pulling together and sorting the BFSS archives. The first dedicated archive room and office, the "BFSS Archive Centre", was officially opened in December 1980 in Lancaster House, and the archives were slowly transferred there, along with the very significant Salmon Collection. Many of its regular visitors were Brian York's (now West London Institute of Higher Education) students who were taking History of Education as a B Ed course. Some of the students' dissertations survive in the archives today, and can be a useful quick introduction to a particular research topic.

In 1990 George Bartle retired and Bryan Seagrove took over as archivist. Dr Gillian Collins continued as assistant archivist.

In August 1997 Brian took early retirement from his post, by now Senior Lecturer in the Faculty of Arts (History Department) of Brunel University College. Instead of resting on his laurels and watching more cricket, Brian took over as BFSS archivist from Bryan Seagrove. Brian was able to call upon the expertise and experience of Brian Seagrove and Gillian Collins as he settled into his new role. He was instrumental in bringing technology into the archives, making full use of the opportunities within an academic setting to have a website and email address. In fact the BFSS archives had an email address before the BFSS itself had one, with Brian urging the Society to set up an email address at one Archive Committee meeting, as he was having to print things off and put them in the post to HQ!

Work to organise the archives continued apace, along with all the enquiries, hosting researchers and exhibitions that archivists have to juggle. When the BFSS archive, along with all Brunel University's own archives, moved to the Runnymede campus in December 2005, Brian retired (again!). In 2006 Brian was appointed to the BFSS Council, and also stood as a member of the Executive Group of the Heritage Builds Bridges Project, which under the leadership of Mandy Mordue, Head of Archives and Records Management at Brunel University, was successful in gaining a large Heritage Lottery Fund grant towards cataloguing the archives.

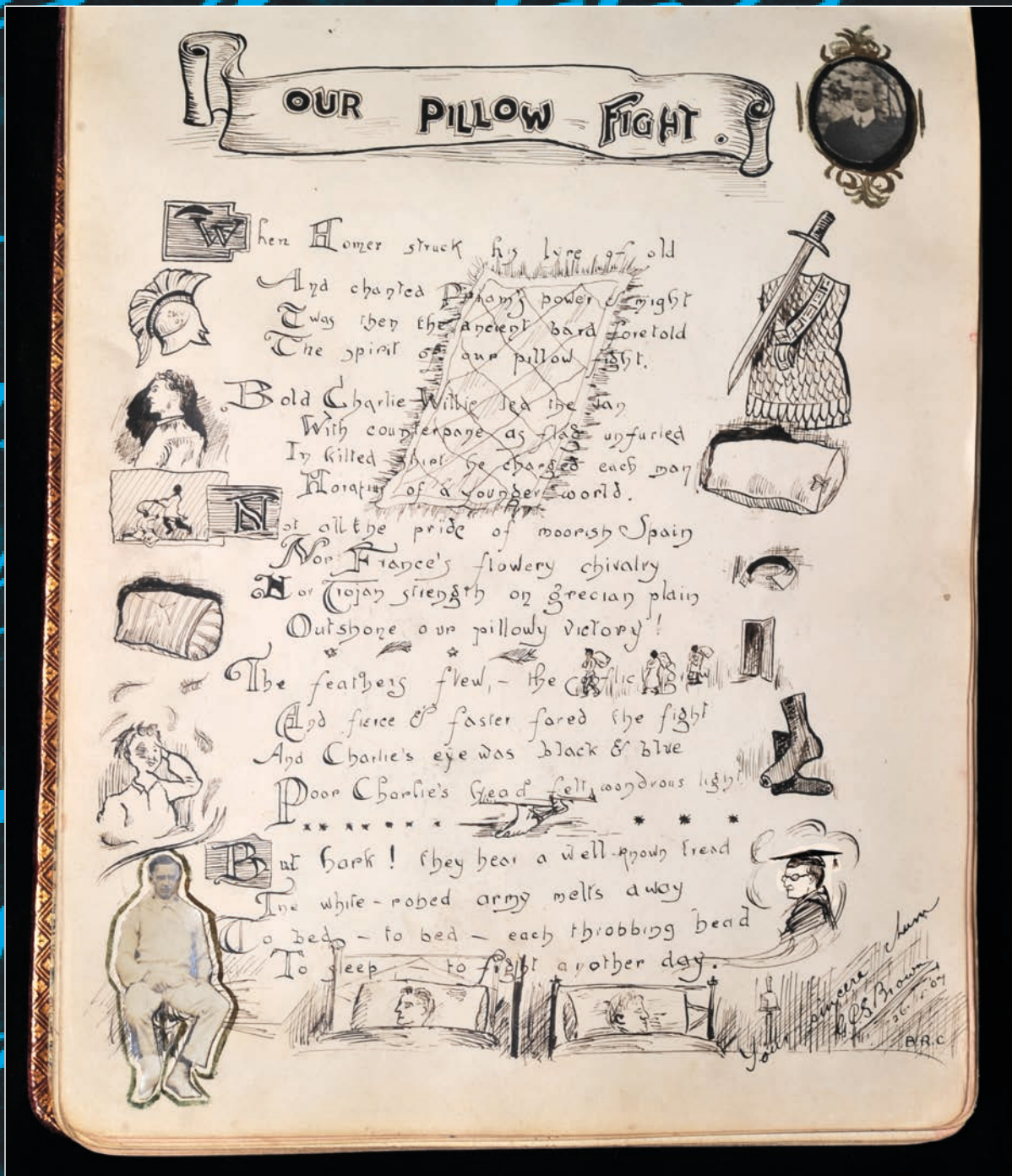
Brian remained Secretary of the BFSS Archive Committee until 2012, when he was one of the signatories at the transfer of the BFSS archives into the care of Brunel University London Archives.

In 2015 Brian will retire as member of the BFSS Council. Brunel University London Archives would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank Brian both for everything he did for the BFSS archives before they came into our care, and also for the patient and generous sharing of knowledge he has continued to provide since his retirement from the archives. For just as Brian was guided by his predecessors when he was the "new boy" in the archives, I have also been fortunate enough to know that should I exhaust all avenues of research, I can still email Brian and he will rack his brains for some nugget of long-remembered information that might help me. I enjoy sharing new discoveries and completed sections of cataloguing with Brian because I know he will be just as interested and pleased as I am.

Phaedra Casey, Archivist

The archives are an invaluable, if little known, resource amongst Brunel scholars. However, the archivists have made clear efforts to broadcast the significance and appeal of the archives to Brunel academics

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