



Brunel
University
London

BFSS ARCHIVES ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT 2022

BRUNEL UNIVERSITY LONDON
ARCHIVES AND SPECIAL COLLECTIONS



OVERVIEW OF THE YEAR

"LET US LIVE FOR OUR CHILDREN
(Froebel's Motto.)

KINDERGARTEN COLLEGE
STOCKWELL ROAD.

—

PUBLICATIONS
FOR THE USE OF KINDERGARTEN TEACHERS

BY
ELEONORE HEERWART.

—

TO BE HAD AT
THE DEPOSITORY,
KINDERGARTEN COLLEGE, 21, STOCKWELL ROAD.

**!! Thank you so much for
sending all of this through!
It all looks fascinating. !!**

BRUNEL ACADEMIC, MARCH 2022

We are pleased to present the ninth British and Foreign School Society (BFSS) Archives Annual Impact Report 2022.

For us, it has been another challenging year. Last year, we reported that the University had approached the landlord of the Old School House to negotiate a further 12 months on the lease as it had become clear that it would not be able to complete the move as planned. However, the negotiations broke down as new terms were presented that our legal team did not feel we could accept, and as a result, the landlord subsequently served a Section 25 notice on the University to end the tenancy. A detailed update on the move is provided later in the report.

On a brighter note, we have still managed to continue developing and making the archives more accessible. Among the many achievements to tell you about this year are -

- Teaching sessions with Brunel students
- Archives and Special Collections in 20 Objects Exhibition
- 6,000 + BFSS entries in the CALM Archive catalogue
- @BruUniArch_SC Twitter - re-named Twitter account to cover Archives and Special Collections - 611 Followers and 76 BFSS related tweets
- Scanning projects
- Brunel Community Award for the Archivist

Over the past year, we have received 54 enquiries relating to the BFSS archives on a range of subjects. And finally, we are pleased to announce, we re-opened the Reading Room to internal and external visitors on 23 November 2021.

Staff

MANDY MORDUE
Head of Records, Archives and Special Collections

PHAEDRA CASEY
Archivist

SARAH TRIM-WEST
Archive Assistant



“ What can I say? you have excelled beyond my wildest expectations, thank you so much for the information and the outstanding photos too. ”

RESEARCHER, JUNE 2021

“ Thank you so much – I’m delighted. Your support around the images made a huge difference at a very stressful time. ”

RESEARCHER, MARCH 2022

The British and Foreign School Society (BFSS) Archive is a unique collection which covers the period 1798 to 1976. It contains a wide range of materials in many formats, such as official papers, letters, publications, student registers, photographs, maps, plans, trophies, clothing and furniture. It is approximately 178 linear metres.

The records include Joseph Lancaster’s letters (1810-12), committee minutes and papers, financial records, handwritten student applications with supporting testimonials and correspondence, student registers, teaching practice reports, establishment and progress of the British Schools, 19th century schools’ (both UK and foreign) correspondence, Education Commissions returns from British schools, BFSS charities and funds, agents and inspector reports, annual reports, student magazines (such as the B’s Hum), photographs of staff, students and buildings, teaching manuals and lesson books, portraits of principals of the teacher training colleges, clothing such as blazers, ties and sporting honours caps, furniture and memorial plaques. It also contains particularly unique and irreplaceable items such as a copybook of examples of handwriting and needlework done by slave children from a British school in Jamaica, (presented to the BFSS in 1826), individual sewing samples, sketchbooks and other personal memoirs of former staff and students, and silver ‘monitorial’ medals.

These records contain a wealth of detailed information on the Society and its colleges, schools, staff and alumni, as well as the overall progress of education in Britain and overseas during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

There is also a large selection of educational books and pamphlets, many of them rare editions, dating from the 19th century, including works by Lancaster, Bell, Pestalozzi and Froebel – leading educationists of the time, and Victorian and Edwardian children’s

books. One collection of books was presented by David Salmon, biographer of Joseph Lancaster and former student and tutor of Borough Road College, and Principal of Swansea Teacher Training College.

Cataloguing

There are now over 6,000 BFSS catalogue entries in our online catalogue. In the last year, we have added a further 1,000 new catalogue entries despite the major upheaval of the move. In addition, 1,700 catalogue descriptions were improved – either with further information added or digitised copies added – e.g. adding names to the BRC year group photos.

There are now almost 1,000 digitised archives on our BFSS catalogue.

OPENING UP THE ARCHIVES

New accommodation in the heart of campus – at very short notice last year, we were told that we could no longer stay in the Old School House – our home for nine years. It was all very frantic to get everything ready and to move in a very tight time frame.

We were notified on 17 June that the negotiations had stalled and that we would need to vacate the building at the very latest by end of September. It was all hands to the pump. We appointed Bishop's Move to move, and then re-shelve the entire contents of the Old School House to the 3rd floor of the Library, Bannerman Centre. Bishop's worked from Monday 2nd August to 12th August packaging, and moving material into the Library – taking over a secure part of the 3rd floor while the shelving in the Old School House was dismantled and then re-assembled in the new strong room. Bishop's then returned w/c 6 September to unpack hundreds of roll cages and crates – in fact, there were no roll cages to be found anywhere outside of Brunel as we seemed to be using them all!

Although the move was very stressful at times and we will need to move again as part of the refurbishment of the Library so that the archive facilities meet recognised international standards, we are now in the heart of campus with staff and students – which has allowed us to increase our profile as well as the use of our outstanding archives to support teaching and learning and student experience. We are looking forward to increasing student access to the archives as part of their taught course whether undergraduate or postgraduate. Watch this space!



CALMView (our online catalogue) upgrade – went live on 25/11/2021. A lot of work went on behind the scenes to review/update information and select images etc, but now accessibility to our Archives is even better than it was!

The upgrade means searching is even easier, more images are available, the links from CALMView to our webpages is improved along with web accessibility for visually impaired users and it even pulls in our Twitter feed.

#RemembranceDay2021 – as you may know, we hold a number of memorials to those members of our predecessor colleges who lost their lives in service of their country. A few years ago, a decision was taken to site the memorials in the Wilfred Brown Building atrium on campus, where each year a service is held by the University Chaplain to mark Armistice Day.

Early last year, we decided to create an interpretation panel to sit alongside the memorials so staff and students understood the connection between the University and the memorials. We also included a memorial panel to Bernard Pitt, a student at Borough Road College from 1901-1903, who sadly died near Arras in France in 1916. His profile is included on our webpages.

In recognition of this work, Phaedra was awarded a Brunel Community Award.

Secondary sources scanning project – this year, we decided to carry on scanning secondary sources – there are now 119 digitised secondary sources including articles, particularly those written by previous BFSS archivist, George Bartle, short books, memorials (short book-like biographies/obituaries), and pamphlets which where possible are available via the catalogue in line with copyright legislation. The Bartle articles are a tremendous resource for historians of the BFSS. They can be seen by visiting our online catalogue www.archivesearch.brunel.ac.uk/calmview/default.aspx and simply searching for “Bartle”.

of } *British School Berwick-on-Tweed*
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 Com- } *Committee*
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 d *Wm Willis*
 Date *Aug 20*

Over the past year, we have also scanned the **Newcastle Commission Returns** and the **BFSS Annual Reports**. "The Newcastle Commission" was the Education Commission of 1858 - 61. Its terms of reference were: To enquire into the present state of popular education in England, and to consider and report what measures if any are required for the extension of sound and cheap elementary instruction to all classes of people. It was chaired by Sir Henry Pelham, Duke of Newcastle - hence "Newcastle Commission".

In 1858, the BFSS obtained detailed information from its schools to submit to the Newcastle Commission. The printed forms on which information was supplied, are arranged by county. The returns give the number of boys, girls and infants attending each school as well as the number of teachers, pupil-teachers and monitors, and provide brief information about the sources of financial support, e.g. voluntary donations, wealthy patrons. Unfortunately, nothing is recorded about the curriculum or names of pupils. The Archives do not have returns for every British school - some schools did not supply the information at the time and some forms have not survived.

They can be viewed by visiting our online catalogue www.archivesearch.brunel.ac.uk/calmview/default.aspx and searching for "Newcastle Commission".

The **BFSS Annual Reports** were catalogued onto CALM many years ago, but we decided to start to digitise them and make them available online through our catalogue. So far, we have digitised twenty-four BFSS Annual reports, dating from the 1820s to 1840s. We only scan them if we have spare copies, as scanning the archival set would cause damage to the volumes.

Alumni Virtual Reunion - we were invited by our Alumni department to give a short presentation at their Virtual Reunion in May last year. The Reunion was attended by several Borough Road College alumni, and the chat in the BRC break-out room was very interesting!

Virtual Book Launches - in thanks for research support, Phaedra was invited to two virtual book launches in March 2022 - the launch of Professor Jane Martin, University of Birmingham's new publication, *Gender and Education in England since 1770, A Social and Cultural History*, and that of the *Victoria County History for Oxfordshire*.

OPENING UP THE ARCHIVES

@BruUniArch_SC

We have continued with regular tweets, even though the Archives Twitter account started as a way of engaging with the public and showcasing our archives during Lockdown, as our tweets have been so well received.

Our account is now @BruUniArch_SC, as we decided to merge the Special Collections Twitter account with the Archive one at the end of last year – as we are now a joint service.

We now have **611** followers – gaining on average 22 new followers a month.

Over the past year, we have published 76 tweets using items from the BFSS Archives - BFSS tweets are tagged #BFSS, making them easy to find should you wish to take a look. We continued with our Virtual British Schools tour, adding another 16 tweets since we last reported. The year-long series finished on 6th December 2021 with Berwick upon Tweed British School. By an amazing coincidence, we tweeted about Alnwick British School on the anniversary of its founding as the Jubilee School on 25th October 1810, even though we didn't have that information in the archives!

We have joined various national Twitter campaigns, such as #Archives30, which takes place every April and enables archivists to showcase the sorts of items they hold. As well as other Twitter campaigns including: #OTD [On This Day], #EYA [Explore Your Archives], #throwbackThursday, #Internationalstudentsday, #Remembranceday2021, #BHM2021 [Black History Month], #WorldTeachersDay, #HBAH [History Begins at Home], #NationalSportingHeritageDay, #knowhername, #Olympics, #Wimbledon, #nationalnumeracyday.

Please do follow us, if you do not already.

Putting names to faces. On request, today I've added to the catalogue the names of the #BFSS Borough Road College student photo 1883. Back row, 3rd from left is J Attenborough, believed to be a relative of @attenboroughSir whose father Frederick was college principal 1925-1932



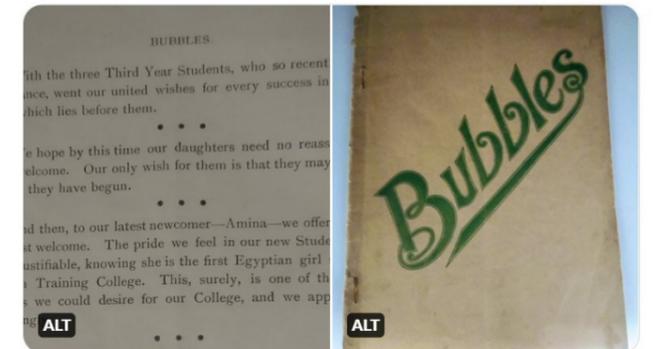
February's #ExploreYourArchive theme is #EYALetters. We have 1000s of letters here, including @BFSS 19th C Foreign Correspondence from 70+ different countries. This letter was sent to the @BFSS in London from Haiti in 1817. All available for research - get in touch!



#virtualBritishSchooltour2021 Checkpoint No. 18, and end of our journey. We have arrived at the #Berwick upon Tweed British School. This is its return for 1870. Boys' teacher was Henry Woodroffe Willits, who trained at Borough Road College. Girls' teacher Miss Johnson. #BFSS

SCHOOL RETURN.	
Name and Situation of School	British School Berwick upon Tweed
Is it Denominational, British, or Secular?	British
Whether under a Committee or a School Board?	Committee
Name of Teacher; and when and where trained	Henry Woodroffe Willits 1829-70 Borough Road
Number of Pupil Teachers; or other assistants	3
Name of Secretary or other correspondent	Dr. MacLagan Ravenshoe
Class of School (whether boys, girls, infants; mixed boys and girls, or mixed girls and infants)	Boys & Girls

Brunel University Archives & Special Coll... @BruUniArch... · Mar 24 ... #ThrowbackThursday The first Egyptian student to attend Stockwell College was Amina Hafiz El-Maghrabi, who started her 3 year teacher training course in Oct 1902. Her arrival was welcomed in the student magazine Bubbles. #Egypt #teacher @Bruneluni @EducationBrunel @brunelalummi



Brunel University Archives & Special Coll... @BruUniArch... · Mar 16 ... Good morning boys and girls. It's 11am on a Wednesday, so that means it's time for Arithmetic... #fromthearchives Stockwell College Practising School for Boys and Girls, 1890. #Mathematics #school @HistEdSocUK @Bruneluni @Brunel_Library @EducationBrunel

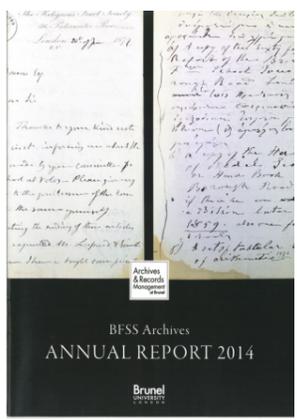
Second Division.					
Changes Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	
9 9.15 Grammar & dict.	Grammar school	Grammar school	Grammar school	Grammar school	Grammar school
9.15 to 9.45	Writing	Writing	Writing	Writing	Writing
9.45 to 10.15	Drawing	Reading	Reading	Reading	Reading
10.15 to 10.45	Drawing	Geography	English History	Special dict.	Grammar
10.45 to 11	Recitation	Recitation	Recitation	Recitation	Recitation
11 to 11.30	Arithmetic	Arithmetic	Arithmetic	Arithmetic	Arithmetic
11.30 to 12	Drawing	Arithmetic	Arithmetic	Arithmetic	Arithmetic
Afternoon.					
2 to 3	Swallow	Swallow	Swallow	Swallow	Swallow
3 to 3.10	Arithmetic	Arithmetic	Arithmetic	Arithmetic	Arithmetic
3.10 to 4	Arithmetic	Arithmetic	Arithmetic	Arithmetic	Arithmetic

ARCHIVES AND SPECIAL COLLECTIONS IN TWENTY OBJECTS EXHIBITION

To celebrate our fantastic archives and special collections, and in recognition of the 20 years since the University appointed its first qualified archivist, we decided to curate an exhibition of 20 objects.

We invited colleagues, users and/or supporters of our work over the last 20 years, to select their favourite object from one of the collections. Much to our relief, everyone we asked said yes and no-one did choose the same object!

Of the 20 objects, eight objects were chosen from the BFSS archives. The exhibition will be open in the Eastern Gateway Building from May onwards – but here is what is included from the BFSS Archives.

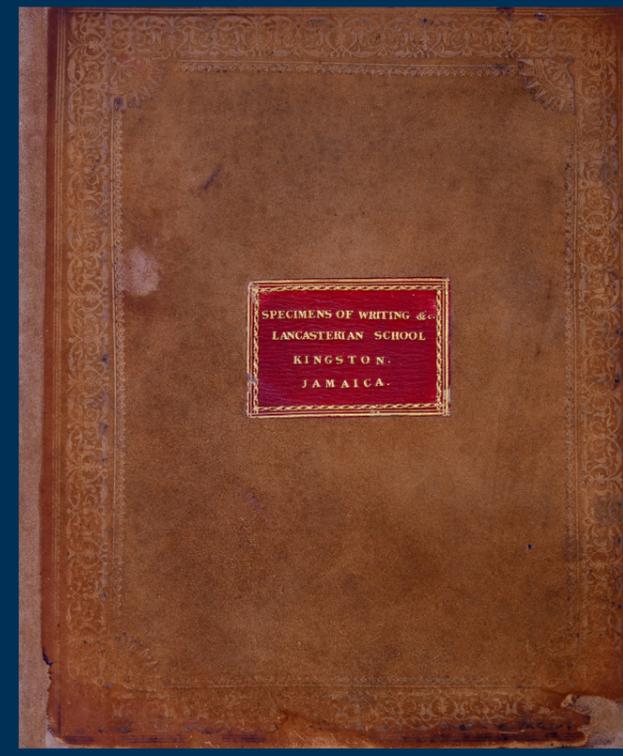


1st British and Foreign School Society (BFSS) Annual Report

This first Annual Report from the University to the BFSS marked a special day for me in my relationship with both the University and the BFSS - the signing of the Deed of Gift of the BFSS Archives to the University on 11th December 2013. This act not only safeguarded for the future the archives of a pioneering educational charity but also guaranteed that its joint relationship with Brunel through the Osterley Campus would be conserved and celebrated as part of Brunel's own

history. The pages of this first report, for example, record the signing of the Deed of Gift, show the reach of the BFSS across the world through its correspondence, mark the progress made in cataloguing BFSS documents, and detail the work of an archive volunteer to research the staff and students of Borough Road College who fought in the 1914-1918 World War. This and successive annual reports now form part of the Archives and demonstrate the University's commitment to the BFSS and its history. But why was this day so special to me? Joining Brunel's Education Department in 1995 I became involved in the oversight of the BFSS National RE Centre and the BFSS Archives that were based on the Osterley Campus in the original BFSS Borough Road College building that had been donated to the GLC before it became part of the West London Institute of Higher Education (WLIHE) and then Brunel when WLIHE became part of Brunel. I also became a member of the BFSS in 1997, worked with university colleagues and the BFSS to find a home for the BFSS Archives when the Osterley Campus was sold, and helped to draw up a 25 years' agreement between the University and BFSS that would see the BFSS Archives looked after by the University's archives team with some of the costs met by the BFSS. For me the decision by the BFSS Council to donate the Society's Archives to the University in 2013 and the University's acceptance of the offer marked the culmination of a process that both preserves the history of a charity and the University's links to the BFSS through its Osterley Campus.

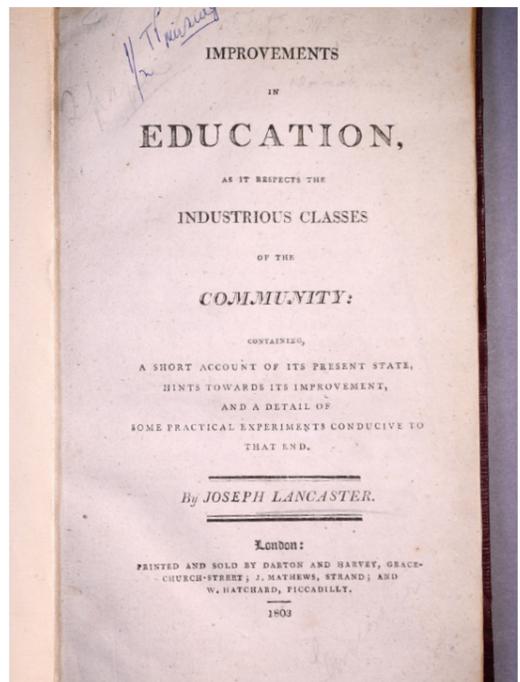
PROFESSOR STEVE HODKINSON
Former PVC External Relations, Brunel University and former Chair of the British and Foreign School Society (BFSS)



The Slave Book
"The Slave Book" was compiled by William Knibb, a prominent Baptist missionary and anti-slavery advocate, in 1826. It was intended to promote the education of enslaved children in the British West Indies and encourage support for this endeavour among educational reformers and abolitionists in Britain. West Indian slave-owners were generally opposed to the enslaved learning to read and, most especially, to write, and laws were established to variously discourage and prohibit this. Non-conformist missionaries, like Knibb, often faced strong resistance from the plantocracy. Knibb was trained at Borough Road College, prior to departing for Jamaica, and introduced the Lancasterian system of monitorial instruction, a hallmark of the British and Foreign School Society, to Jamaica. The book itself consists of examples of exquisite handwriting and embroidery from enslaved and freed children from Knibb's Lancasterian School in Kingston. I've chosen The Slave Book because it is a very moving and rare and remarkable artefact, revealing a part of British history which has long been overlooked, and because it forces our attention onto the children who were enslaved in the British empire, and reminds us that their experiences, voices and presence in the history of West Indian slavery remain largely silent and hidden.

DR INGE DORNAN
Senior Lecturer in Race and Gender History, Politics and History

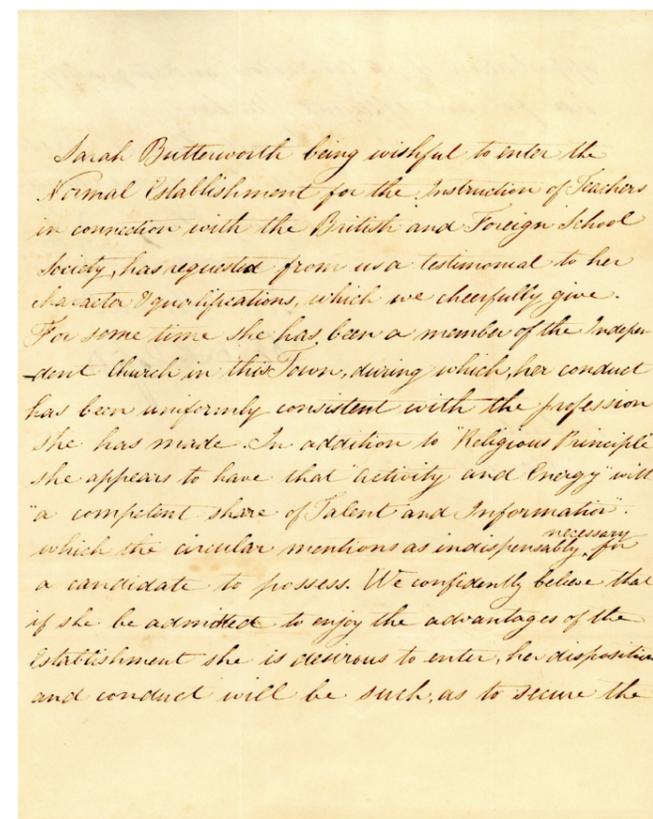
ARCHIVES AND SPECIAL COLLECTIONS IN TWENTY OBJECTS EXHIBITION



Improvements in Education, 1803 book
 I chose this publication by the educator whose work led to the Royal Lancasterian Institution, which became the British and Foreign School Society in 1814. The Lancasterian Method, or Monitorial Method, of teaching has often been summarised as one teacher per school instructing older and brighter children, who then instructed the mass of other children (in forms) in the '3Rs'. In essence this is correct, but Lancaster's Improvements describes a system which was far more sophisticated and detailed, for example how the youngest children learned capital letters in categories of those just having straight lines, those with curves and those with both. In the early nineteenth century when there previously had been little education provision for poor children, Lancaster devised a mass teaching system which was able to provide rudimentary 'education' provision. It was cheap in a situation where there was little money available, but could

manage with just a large school room and one teacher. Improvements is essentially a detailed description of his Monitorial Method as used at Borough Road School. Today of course what took place could not be described as teaching, but it provided 'instruction' for poor children in a context of undenominational instruction based solely on the Bible. Lancaster was a Quaker. At the same time 'his rival', Rev Andrew Bell, was developing his Anglican denominational monitorial schools. Lancaster had his critics, notably the Anglican Sarah Trimmer, but he produced several editions of Improvements, which still give the best insight to what he achieved at Borough Road while he was also extending the number of Lancasterian schools throughout Britain and later abroad.

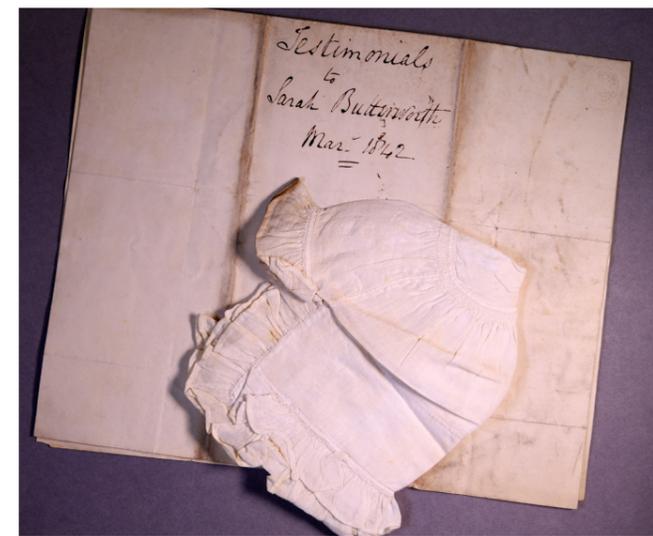
BRIAN YORK
 Former BFSS Archivist, and former History Lecturer at West London Institute of Higher Education



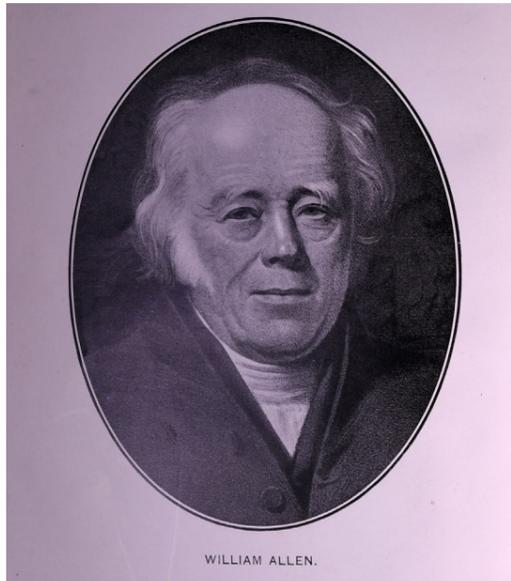
Female application to Borough Road College, with sewing example

I chose the female application to Borough Road College with the sewing example because it shows a type of portfolio that students would send alongside their applications. It shows a similar process to modern day students sending their portfolios, whereas now it is more digitised (which is a recent change) in the past students felt it would be best to send their sewing samples to prove their technique. I like this piece because it is an authentic piece which I was able to hold in my hands. Usually I would have looked through the applications but to see and hold something a student had made herself gave a very different, delighted feeling. Volunteering at an archive allowed me to appreciate the time it takes to go through all the documents and record them. Being able to open each application and read the answer and analyse the handwriting allowed me to value having an eye for detail when it comes to my future work.

SAMINA ANAND
 Brunel Alumna, former archive volunteer



ARCHIVES AND SPECIAL COLLECTIONS IN TWENTY OBJECTS EXHIBITION



WILLIAM ALLEN.

William Allen portrait

I have chosen the portrait of William Allen (1770-1843), a scientist, philanthropist and abolitionist. He was a committee member and treasurer of the British and Foreign School Society (BFSS) from 1808 until his death in 1843. Although Allen is not well known today, his contributions to education and abolition cannot be ignored. I have chosen him because without his work, the BFSS would not have survived. To this day the BFSS continues to support the education of disadvantaged young people in the UK and across the world.

PETER MILLER

Chair British and Foreign School Society (BFSS)

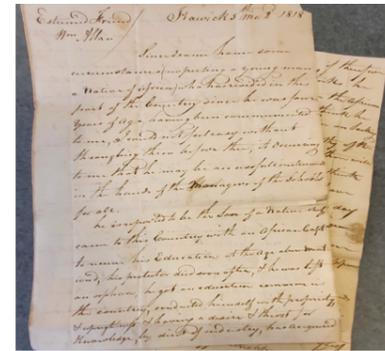
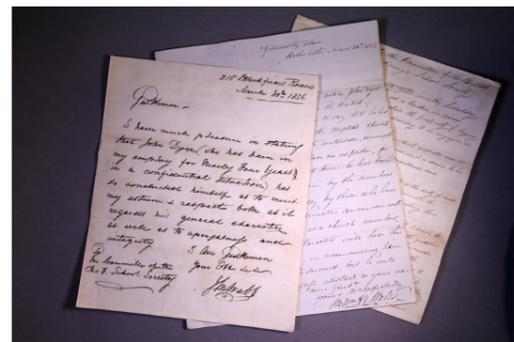
Application references, Borough Road College

My time at Brunel was my first significant experience of working with archives. Being a big fan of the nineteenth century it was hugely exciting to be handling original materials from this period, as well as learning to decipher the handwriting. It felt like a real connection to the past, and I imagined all the hands the items had passed through over the intervening years. I was struck by the references in the collection, they were often brutal in a way that you would never see today. Some of them were quite amusing, but it also felt like you were getting a real insight into not just the subject of the reference, but also the person who wrote it.

I enjoyed learning about the teacher training colleges and the origins of Brunel University, as well as exploring other parts of the collections and seeing open days and group visits in action. Being able to engage with archival material in an environment that doesn't feel intimidating is so important, and I always felt the team at Brunel did a brilliant job of this, encouraging students to actually use the archive in their research. Phaedra was also a wonderfully supportive volunteer manager and I consider my time working under her as key to my success in working in the archive sector.

MELANIE BAILEY-MELOUNY

Former archive volunteer



Letter from William Watson to William Allen, 2 May 1818

Since working with the archives on an article about his life, I've been fascinated by the life of Thomas Jenkins – Britain's 'first black teacher' – and his connection to Brunel and its founding colleges. I particularly like this letter from William Watson, a Scottish Quaker who knew Thomas, although his references to overcoming prejudice only hint at Thomas's amazing, film-worthy story.

Thought to be the son of an African chief, Thomas was taken to Scotland at a young age to be educated. Although not much is known about his upbringing, he clearly made an impression, as in his late teens or early twenties, his neighbours, in defiance of the local church, founded a school and installed Thomas as the schoolmaster.

He later went on to have a successful teaching career in London – where he studied at Borough Road College, one of Brunel's founding colleges – before living out his later years helping to set up schools in the colony of Mauritius. I'm so glad that even at the time there were people that recognised Thomas as being interesting and noteworthy, and made an effort to document his life. Whilst our glimpses into his life are quite fleeting, they tell of someone who overcame the challenges thrown at them as they wrote their name into the history books of two continents.

TIM PILGRIM

Senior Media Relations Officer, Marketing and Communications
Bs Hum magazines



I really like the Bs Hum especially the early 20th century copies because I am fascinated by that period. Reading the articles and looking at the adverts for shops, photographers, books etc and seeing the illustrations makes me feel like a time traveller transported back to life in the 1900s.

SALLY TRUSSLER

Media Production Manager,
IS: Digital Media and Technology

Who Do You Think You Are? Exhibition

As part of our move into the Bannerman Building, and to welcome students back onto campus, we decided to re-use the Who Do You Think You Are? Exhibition.

We installed the exhibition on the ground floor of the Library, opposite the entry turnstiles. It is housed in two flat-bed display cases – the first case includes surrogate copies of items from the archive showing the development of the Brunel campus since the 1960s, and the other case with surrogate copies of items from Brunel's predecessor colleges, including Borough Road College.

The exhibition is as popular as it was when it was originally installed in July 2018.

ENQUIRIES AND ACCESSIONS

Since last year's report, we have received 54 BFSS archive enquiries. This is despite the fact that we officially closed our enquiry service from 7th July until 1st October 2021 in order to move into the Bannerman Centre on campus, and then had to recreate our location lists before we could start to answer enquiries. The fact that we were able to continue the enquiry service to such an extent is thanks to the many years of work put into the creation of online resources, web-based cataloguing, and scanning by the archives staff and volunteers.

The enquiries have included the following:

- British Schools: Chipping Norton, Darlington, Hendon, Montreal (Canada), Borough Road Practising School
- BFSS Foreign Correspondence: Canada, Dominica, Egypt, Haiti, India, Mauritius
- BFSS: Newcastle Commission returns: Cambridgeshire, London, Surrey
- BFSS and relationship with Schools of Industry
- BFSS and relationship with Home and Colonial School Society
- BFSS Book Collection: Cass Collection
- Borough Road College: students, male and female, including Egyptian students
- Borough Road College: buildings
- Stockwell College students
- Stockwell College: staff
- Stockwell College: Kindergarten
- Stockwell College: Practising School
- Stockwell College: buildings
- Saffron Walden College: students

This year we received a particularly interesting enquiry, and one that made fantastic practical use of the BFSS archives, relating to the British School in Montreal, Canada.

In May 2021 we were approached by a journalist and campaigner in Montreal, Canada, asking for help with saving the British and Canadian School in Montreal. The school, founded in 1822 and built in 1826, was the oldest purpose-built school in Montreal, but had been bought by developers and was threatened with demolition.

We provided scans of the BFSS Foreign Correspondence Canada letters, as well as relevant sections of the BFSS Annual Reports, which proved that the building was much older than the land registry stated. We also facilitated contact with our colleague, Dr Inge Dornan (Divisional Lead/Senior Lecturer in Social and Political Sciences), who has worked extensively on the BFSS Foreign Correspondence since our cataloguing opened it up for her research. Dr Dornan was interviewed on a Montreal radio station about the importance of this building in the history of education. Its early pupils had been a mix of immigrants from all backgrounds and religions, such as children of fur traders, business owners, Scottish Presbyterians and Jews.

// Absolutely brilliant...thanks so much – great to be able to ‘meet’ him at last. Couldn’t be more pleased. //

RESEARCHER, MAY 2021

In February 2022, we received the following news:

I just wanted to let you know that the Quebec government is in the process of classifying the British and Canadian school as a provincial heritage site. This is the highest level of protection and means the building cannot be demolished or altered without express permission from the minister of Culture. This is a wonderful victory for all those who care about this wonderful building and I wanted to thank you from the bottom of my heart for your help in raising awareness about it! Happily the other buildings on the street will also receive protection.

Here is a link to an article about the fight to save the school building and its neighbourhood: <https://montrealgazette.com/news/local-news/can-chinatown-survive> and a video the enquirer made: <https://montrealgazette.com/news/local-news/montreals-forgotten-history-a-visionary-school-bringing-english-and-french-together>



This year, we have received five new accessions, two of which came from BFSS Headquarters. The other accessions from alumni/descendants included -

- Borough Road College Jazz band photos, 1966-67
- Drama production programmes, 1966-67 AND some returned BRC student applications from 1838 which the alumnus had 'borrowed' in 1967!
- Items of Harry Waddington, BRC 1929-1932, donated by his daughter

VISITORS TO THE ARCHIVES

Since re-opening our Reading Room last year, we have welcome three researchers wishing to consult BFSS material all from the UK.

RESEARCHERS	SUBJECT	ITEMS VIEWED	NO OF DAYS	FROM
Academic	Home and Colonial Society	Home and Colonial Society	1	UK
Academic	Stockwell Bromley buildings	History of Stockwell College, and photographs of buildings, grounds and building interiors	1	UK
Academic	Stockwell College Kindergarten and Elenore Heerwart	Stockwell College Kindergarten boxes including log books, correspondence between Heerwart and EJ Wilks (BFSS Secretary), Minute Book 1830-1835	1	UK

We also welcomed students to the Archives as part of the Historians and their Craft teaching session earlier this year. Students were able to see, read and hold a number of items from the BFSS archives. Now that we are in the heart of campus, this is an area of work we would like to increase.

Looking forward – 2022-2023

In the coming year, we will

- Re-start our successful student volunteering/work experience programme
- Continue to digitise material – to be uploaded in our CALM catalogue and to use on social media
- Continue cataloguing Stockwell College archives

“What a total star you are, thanks so much.”

RESEARCHER, MAY 2021

“What a wonderful surprise waking up to these scans. I got quite emotional reading them. This is more information that I ever thought I would find about my ancestor. Thank you so much. You have no idea how much this information means to me. You’re amazing.”

RESEARCHER, JANUARY 2022



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