



University of  
Nottingham

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# DISCOVER

The University of Nottingham's Manuscripts and Special Collections

ISSUE 20: DECEMBER 2022

## Preserving the past

Nine-month  
conservation project  
concludes

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Knowledge is Power  
exhibition: meet the  
miner—students

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New archives, plus  
spotlight: Murder  
mystery in 19th century  
Caunton





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Cover image: detail from MS 575/1 and ACC 3206

### COLLECTIONS AT A GLANCE

## A collection of Meteorological Records for Nottinghamshire, 1841–2011

Collection reference: **Met**

Explore collections:  
[mss-cat.nottingham.ac.uk/Calmview](https://mss-cat.nottingham.ac.uk/Calmview)



**Overview:** An artificial collection group of 107 boxes, which brings together a number of collections concerning meteorological recordings in Nottinghamshire. These include the records of Colonel Henry Mellish who maintained a weather station at Hodsock Hall, Nottinghamshire from 1875 to 1926; those of Arnold Tinn of Woodthorpe, Nottingham who opened two weather stations in Nottingham from 1916 to 1961; and sunshine records kept by Thomas Edge at Strelley Hall, Nottinghamshire from 1921 to 1932. The largest group of records are those of the weather station maintained by University of Nottingham Geography Department, predominantly between 1962 and 1981.

**Why you should explore the collections:** Because discussing the weather is a national obsession, and these records would be of interest to anyone concerned with changes in weather patterns.

### DID YOU KNOW?

In 1962 a new climatological station was opened at the University of Nottingham. That first winter (1962–63) was one of the coldest on record, with the nation buried under snow for almost three months.

### WELCOME

## Letter from the Keeper

I have been sitting in my office on King's Meadow Campus trying to decide what to focus on in this 'Letter'. The last few months have been a busy time for Manuscripts and Special Collections, with the conclusion of two funded projects, the recruitment of new staff, and the launch of our exhibition *Knowledge is Power*. One piece of work that has loomed particularly large is the submission of our application to renew our archive accreditation, which went in at the beginning of November.

Accreditation is the UK quality standard for archives, which recognises good performance in all areas of archive service delivery. Accredited status is awarded for a period of 6 years and so, having first been accredited in 2016, in 2022 it was time for us to reapply. This has been a huge team effort by everyone involved, and having seen us through the first application I can now clearly understand why the previous Keeper Mark Dorrington chose to retire before it was time to re-apply. (Mark, if you're reading this, I'm only joking – sort of). We will find out the results of our application when it goes before the assessment panel in March.

There are various bits of staff news to update you on. Firstly, I would like to welcome our new digitisation assistant, Catherine Martin, who replaced Jonny Davies who has taken up a position at Kew Gardens. Catherine will help us to continue to support our users through the delivery of our reprographics service and the creation of digital images of the collections. Secondly, Kathryn Steenson is our newly appointed Senior Archivist: Academic and Public Engagement with responsibility for our teaching, outreach and exhibition

programmes and many other things, including the editorship of *Discover*. We have also received funding from within the university for the creation of two heritage learning officer posts. These will work with primary schools to create and deliver learning programmes based on our archival, printed and museum collections. Charlotte May and Stephanie Tristram have been appointed to these posts and you'll be able to hear more about them and their work in future issues.

We have recently concluded two funded projects; the conservation of the papers of architect TC Hine funded by the National Manuscripts Conservation Trust and the cataloguing of material relating to the promotion of animal welfare within scientific research funded by a private donor. You can read about both of these projects later in this issue.

This current issue of *Discover* magazine is our 20th. We started the magazine back in 2015 as a way of promoting our collections, engaging with audiences and sharing news about exhibitions, projects and events. In the eight years since then we have grown our readership and received lots of feedback. Whether you are a new reader or have been with us since the start we would love to hear your thoughts about the magazine and the types of articles that you would like to see included. For now, I hope that you enjoy reading this issue.

**Hayley Cotterill**  
Keeper of Manuscripts and Special Collections

### Opening times

Reading Room at King's Meadow Campus

- 9.30am–5pm Monday–Tuesday
- 9.30am–6pm Wednesday–Thursday

Weston Gallery at Lakeside Arts, University Park

- 12 noon–4pm Tuesday–Sunday



For holiday opening hours, see our website  
[nottingham.ac.uk/mss](https://nottingham.ac.uk/mss)



On now until  
**12 March 2023**  
**Free exhibition**  
Weston Gallery

@mssLakeside @mssUniNott



# Saving scrapbooks: TC Hine conservation project

by Emma Bonson, Project Conservator



Large scrapbook photographed prior to conservation treatment. Papers of Thomas Chambers Hine, MS 575/1



In a previous issue of this magazine we reported on the work to conserve the papers of architect TC Hine. This exciting project was funded by The National Manuscripts Conservation Trust and I got the fantastic opportunity to be the project conservator. As the conservation work has now drawn to a close I want to take this opportunity to look back on what has been achieved.

Thomas Chambers Hine (1813-1899) was a notable architect who moved to Nottingham from London after completing his training in 1834, and here at Manuscripts and Special Collections we have a collection of Hine's personal papers consisting of two scrapbooks and a book of designs of agricultural workers' cottages.

TC Hine was a great collector of letters and autographs, and his collection includes a vast array of letters and images from prominent names both of his time and the past such as Charles Darwin, Lord Byron, Charles Dickens, WE Gladstone and Sir Joseph Banks as well as Kings George II and III. In his scrapbooks Hine organised these into topics and sections such as royalty, authors, architects, and artists amongst many more.

The aim of the 9-month conservation project was to remove the leaves of the scrapbooks from their binding, stabilise the contents and repackage the collection. Work began in January 2022 to document the condition of each item, of which there are over 1,000 in the main autograph

**9-month project**  
**Over 1,000 items**

**Includes letters from Charles Darwin, Lord Byron and Charles Dickens**

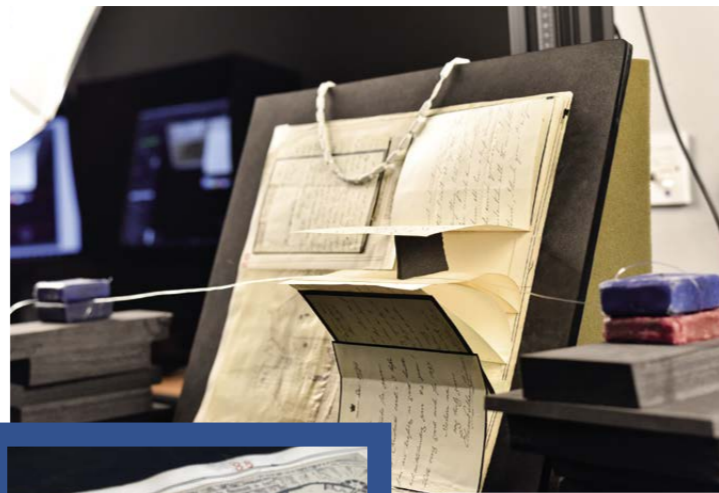
scrapbook (MS 575/1). This was then followed by careful cleaning. Much of the damage to the collection was being caused by the binding. The fragile nature of the leaves meant that they were unable to support the sheer number of items that Hine had added. Our senior conservator used a paste poultice to soften the binding cloth adhesive to allow the binding cloth to be lifted, and the leaves removed.

Once the leaves were separated from the binding, I could begin repairs to any damaged items in the collection as well as to the fragile areas of the album leaves themselves where they needed strengthening and support. The most common damage found within the scrapbook was tears, especially along the edges of the pages. Often the smaller letters had folds and creases in them, and others were completely loose from the pages. As project conservator I carried out a variety of in-situ tear repair treatments using wheat starch

paste and handmade Japanese paper tissues, some simply to support tears and weak areas and others to build up and infill areas where paper had been lost.

During the project process, I found it interesting to spot the details of Hine's methods and how he preferred to compile his scrapbook. Letters were attached with the back page showing, this was mostly because he was an avid collector of autographs so would make sure the signatures of the letters were on show. He was frugal with his choice of materials, often using off-cuts from his architectural drawings, which can be spotted underneath the items he has collected, a method often used in scrapbooking, even today. There are detailed sketches from Hine himself appearing throughout the scrapbook pages, giving this carefully curated collection his own distinctive style.

Although conservation work has been completed to stabilise the pages of the scrapbooks, the album contents will remain vulnerable to handling. Thankfully this is where digitisation plays its part. Digitisation of the scrapbook was an extraordinarily complex process due to the volume of items on each page and the need to capture every opening of each individual item. Post-processing of the images is in progress and will continue into the new year; once completed readers will be able to use these digital images to access the contents of the TC Hine collection for the first time in decades. The physical documents are now safe in their custom-made boxes ready for future cataloguing and research to be carried out.



From top: Project conservator Emma Bonson at work on the papers of Thomas Chambers Hine.

Scrapbook page set up for digitisation.  
Detail of repairs after treatment.  
Conservation bench work in progress.

## Five minutes with... Nicholas Blake



### What is your job title and how long have you worked in Manuscripts and Special Collections?

“I’m a Library Assistant and have been here for almost 10 years now.”

### What does your job involve?

“I look after the printed Special Collections. I also help out in the Reading Rooms, create displays, write blog posts, answer enquiries, supervise classes, make promotional videos... a little bit of everything!”

### What do you most enjoy about your job?

“I really enjoy promoting the collections, and also making finding aids. I created a list of all our published maps recently, which has been very useful for readers and staff. I’ve also been making our student newspapers available as searchable PDFs in the Reading Room. But a lot of the time I just really enjoy putting things in order and labelling them up nicely. I once proudly showed a collection I was repackaging to my mum who said, “Mmm, this seems terribly dull”; but I enjoy it!”

### What’s been your favourite project to work on recently?

“I’ve been working on sorting, reclassifying, and repackaging our publications relating to the University of Nottingham. There are so many interesting and unique titles and I especially love the ones produced by students for student societies and halls of residence. They’re so fun.”

### What is your favourite book or collection of ours?

“I’ve got lots of favourite books, but I’m going to pick a 17th century book called *The Works of Ambrose Parey* which collects together his knowledge of anatomy, the bizarre inventions he’s designed, and his research on natural history, including his strange descriptions of animals. Some of them are very familiar to us now such as the walrus or

the giraffe, but at the time they were very exotic to Europeans. But there’s also descriptions of the most fantastical creatures which definitely don’t exist, like this weird tortoise with twelve legs and four eyes. It’s a wonderful view of the world.

### Have you ever discovered anything unusual or unexpected in the collections?

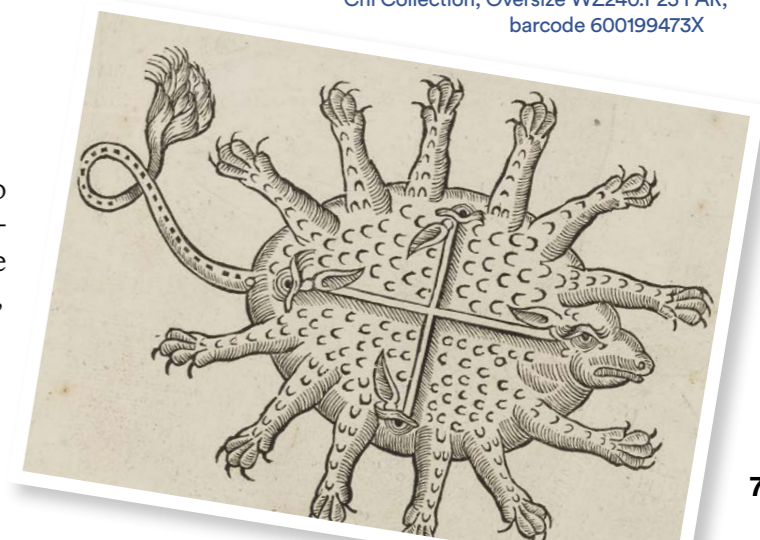
“This is a bit niche, but I recently found a newsletter from the University Drama Society from the 1980s written by Ramsay Gilderdale, who played Guy of Gisbourne in *Maid Marian and Her Merry Men*, which was one of my favourite TV programmes when I was a child.

### If you could save anything from the present for a library of the future, what would it be and why?

“I pick my collection of *Doctor Who* related non-fiction books, magazines and fanzines. Acquiring them over the years has made me very poor so I’m hoping at some point I can persuade the University to buy them off me. And then I can get to sort them and package them as part of my job\*.

\*Editor’s note – This won’t be happening, but nice try.

Drawing of a mythical tortoise from Ambrose Paré, *The works of Ambrose Parey* (1691). Med-Chi Collection, Oversize WZ240.P25 PAR, barcode 600199473X



## Knowledge is Power: Class, Community and Adult Education

# Miner-students



“I would say my whole future was determined by my experience in adult education [...] The greatest crime is that men should have to work underground.” – Anonymous student

Knowledge certainly was power for many day-release miners who took courses at what was then University College Nottingham in the early 20th century. Wilfred Paling (1883-1971) was a former miner turned politician who took Workers' Educational Association classes, including the history of trade unions, and later won a scholarship to study mining at the University College. His studies must have been somewhat radicalising as he found it difficult to get a job in any of the Nottinghamshire collieries after his scholarship ended due to his union and political activities. Paling then became MP for Doncaster in 1922, followed by an impressive political career which included roles as Minister of Pensions and Postmaster General in Clement Attlee's post-Second World War cabinet.

Like Paling, Walter Brierley (1900-72) also left school at 13 and went immediately to work underground at Waingroves Colliery in Derbyshire. After taking Workers' Educational Association night classes, Brierley

obtained a Miners' Welfare Scholarship to study History, English, Latin and Logic at University College Nottingham, an experience which inspired his brief but

well-regarded career as a novelist associated with the Birmingham Group. *Means-Test Man* (1935) was his most successful book, documenting a week in the life of an unemployed miner and his family. University College Nottingham, thinly disguised as Trentingham College, appears in Brierley's 1937 novel *Sandwichman*, a semi-autobiographical tale of a miner, Arthur Gardner, who takes day-release classes. The novel shows the influence of DH Lawrence in both style and content, and indeed Eastwood's finest gets a namecheck:

'Lawrence doubtless roamed about here, feeling penned-in by his existence as a student and teacher, driven or pulled to another expression, the real expression of himself. [Arthur] felt the same about his pit life: it was an obstruction to his real self.'

Various former miners joined the academic staff at the university including Jack Simpson who became a staff tutor in Economic History, and Alan Griffin who was special professor of Industrial History and Relations.

You can find out more about miners and adult education at the exhibition *Knowledge is Power: Class, Community and Adult Education*, on display at the Weston Gallery, Lakeside Arts. The exhibition has been jointly curated by Professor John Holford (School of Education) and Manuscripts and Special Collections.

**Knowledge is Power runs until  
Sunday 12 March 2023**

Photograph of novelist Walter Brierley (1900-1972). Artificial collection of material relating to Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire, MS 484/23. Front cover of Walter Brierley, *Means-test man* (1983). East Midlands Collection, Der 1.W8 BRI, barcode 6002113469

## Exhibition events

### Lunchtime talks

1-2pm, £3 (free concessions)

A series of talks will be held in the Djanogly Theatre to accompany the exhibition. Talks are £3 (concessions free). All talks start at 1pm and last for approximately 1 hour. Advance booking is recommended.

### Adult Education and the Left: Culture, Democracy and Labour

Tuesday 31 January

University adult education is often associated with "the Left". Many involved in university and WEA classes were active in politics and trade unionism and had an enduring impact on higher education. Professor John Holford reflects on how adult education has shaped British politics and culture – and why we need it even more today.



### Workers' Education and the Co-operative Spirit

Tuesday 14 February

Professor Cilla Ross, former Principal of the Co-operative College, reflects on Nottingham's first adult education professor, Robert Peers, his interest in the co-operative movement, and how these ideas remain central to economic and social justice at work and in the wider society.

### Film screening and panel discussion

Djanogly Theatre, £3

### Portrait of a Miner and Band Fever (15)

Thursday 9 March, 7pm

The films run for c.40 minutes and will be followed by a 45 minute panel discussion.

A unique opportunity to see two short films made by the National Coal Board about Nottinghamshire miners and their communities: *Portrait of a Miner* (1966), shot at Thoresby Colliery, while *Band Fever* (1978) focuses on a juvenile jazz band competition in Mansfield. A panel discussion on adult education, trade unions and Nottinghamshire's mining communities will follow the screening.

**Book for all events at:**

**Box Office:**  
**+44 (0)115 846 7777**  
**[lakesidearts.org.uk](http://lakesidearts.org.uk)**



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Top: Photograph of staff in the Adult Education Department (Alan Thornton, Jack Simpson, Harold Wiltshire, Peter Wassell and Karl Stadler) on a staff away-day in Skegness, 1958. Courtesy of Sue Butler.

Photograph of the Adult Education Department at the University of Nottingham, Shakespeare Street, c. 1960s. University of Nottingham Collection, ACC 3187.

# Plants and prayer: health and healing before 1700

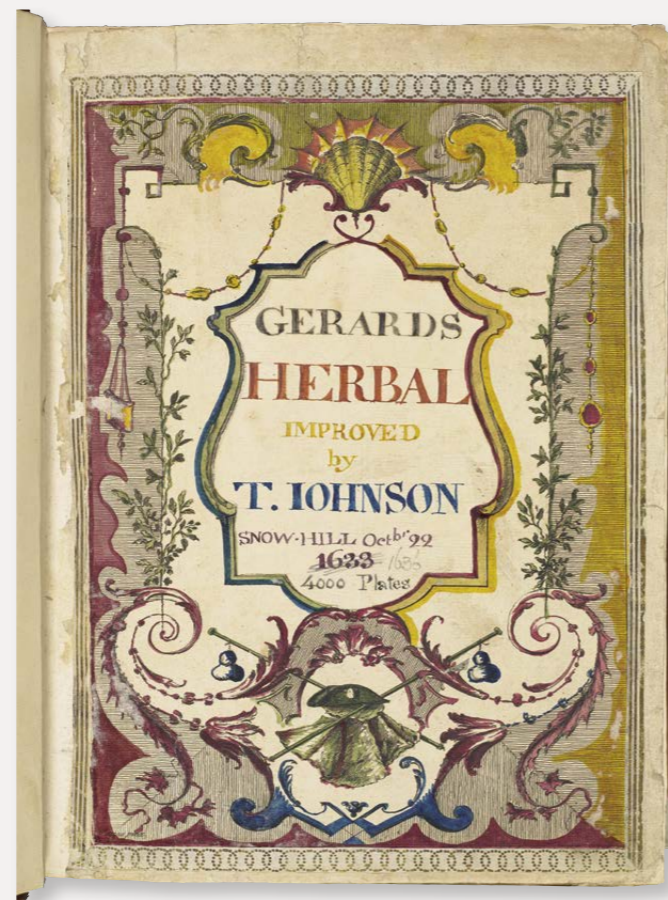


Healing is what makes us human – but concepts of health and methods of healing have changed much over time. In the forthcoming Weston Gallery exhibition opening in March 2023, we explore medicine, care, and healing before 1700 and some of the changes that led to the development of medicine as we know it today.

Healthcare in the past was not just the domain of the physician: priests to apothecaries to barbers all provided different forms of care. Medical manuscripts and books from our collections tell us about diseases, treatments, the relationship between healer and patient, and the lengths to which people went to find cures.

This exhibition is being jointly curated by University of Nottingham Libraries, Manuscripts and Special Collections, Dr Christina Lee, School of English, University of Nottingham, and Dr Erin Connelly, School of Life Sciences, University of Warwick. Both Drs Lee and Connelly have been involved in the AncientBiotics Project, investigating whether any of the remedies used in medieval pharmacology may be adapted to help to find new solutions for modern problems, such as a rise in antimicrobial resistance.

*Plants and Prayer* runs from 30 March – 3 September 2023 at the Weston Gallery, Lakeside Arts, University of Nottingham.



Top: A medieval illumination of a bishop blessing a bowl of bones for the Feast of Relics, from the 15th century. Wollaton Antiphonal, MS 250

*The Herball, or, Generall Historie of Plantes* gathered by Iohn Gerarde of London Master in Chirurgerie, 1636. Special Collection Over.X RS164 GER, barcode SC124

## Exhibition events

### Lunchtime talks at the Djanogly Theatre 1-2pm, £3 (free concessions)

A series of talks will be held in the Djanogly Theatre to accompany the exhibition. Talks are £3 (concessions free). All talks start at 1pm and last for approximately 1 hour. Advance booking is recommended.

#### Pustules and Potions: What Was Medieval Medicine Really Like?

Tuesday 4 April,

Suitable for ages 14+

*Please be aware that there will be images of disease and illness.*

The perception is that medieval medicine was backward – but is this true? Dr Christina Lee explores what medieval healing and medicine looked like, from remedies and healing practices to the question of where people could seek help for their illnesses, and explores the changes to medicine over time.

#### Elixirs and Stains: Exploring Modern Approaches to Medieval Medical Manuscripts

Wednesday 19 April

Dr Erin Connelly explores technologies involving analysis of manuscript stains and the creation of medical ingredient networks using tools from complex network mathematics and digital humanities. The talk discusses these and their applications to modern questions of ethnopharmacology and antimicrobial efficacy.

#### Medicine on the Move: The Introduction of Ingredients and Information in the Early Medieval West

Wednesday 10 May, 1-2pm

Dr Claire Burrige shares her research on early medieval medical recipes, highlighting the appearance of non-local ingredients that were unrecorded in classical medical writings. To what extent does the inclusion of exotic ingredients, such as ambergris and camphor, shed light on the movement of medical knowledge?

## Weston Gallery Tours

Free. Advanced booking required.

Thursday 18 May and Tuesday 27 June, 11am – 12 noon.

Join us for a guided walk through of the exhibition and learn about the stories behind the items on display.

## Book events

Box Office:

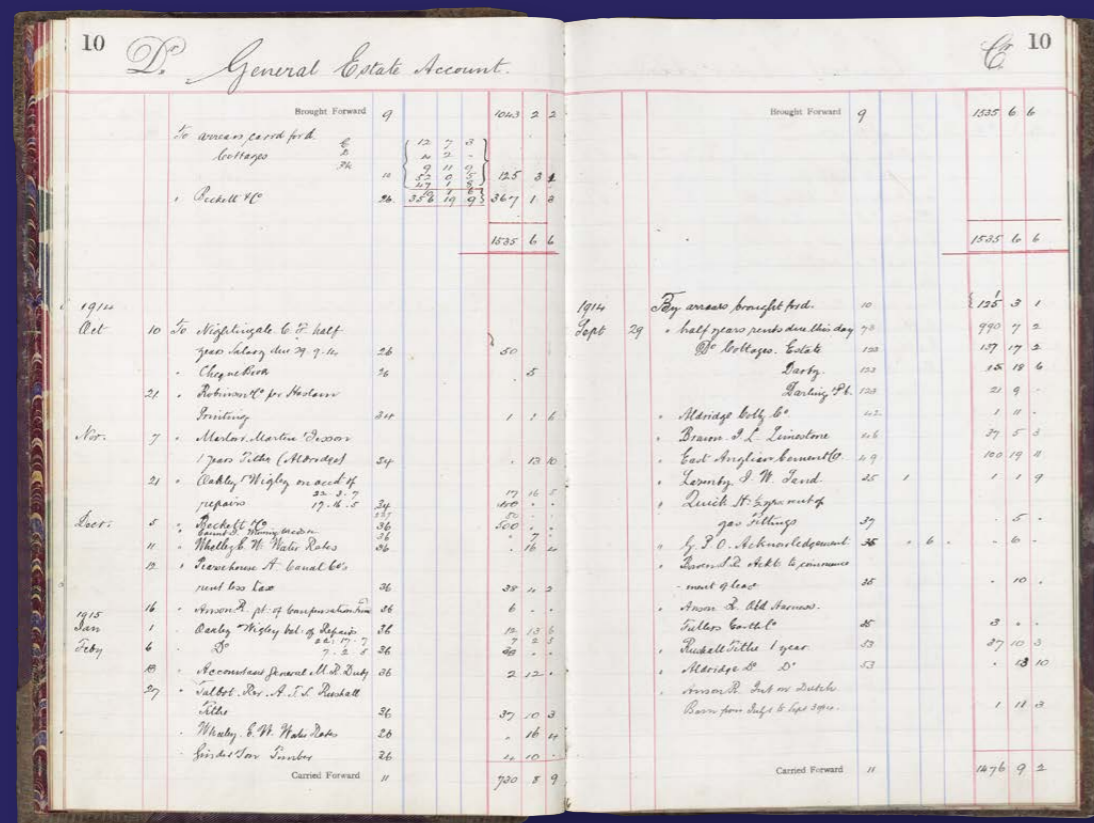
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# Additions to the archive



Rushall Estate Ledger, 1910s. From ACC 3201

Our holdings continue to grow and over the past few months we have received a number of additions (accruals) to existing collections as well as a small number of new collections.

### Family and Estate Papers

We are very pleased that some long-awaited estate papers have come to us as accruals to the Papers of the Mellish Family of Hodsock, Nottinghamshire (Me) and the Buchanan collection (Bu). The Mellish accrual (ACC 3201) includes correspondence and financial papers for the Hodsock and Rushall Estates, whilst the Buchanan accrual (ACC 3202) includes papers from Sir Andrew Buchanan, Lord-Lieutenant of Nottinghamshire.

We have also acquired papers relating to the management of the Teversal Manor estate (MS 1051). This small collection comprising two lever arch files has been catalogued and the descriptions are available to view here:

Scan to access Teversal Manor estate MS 1051

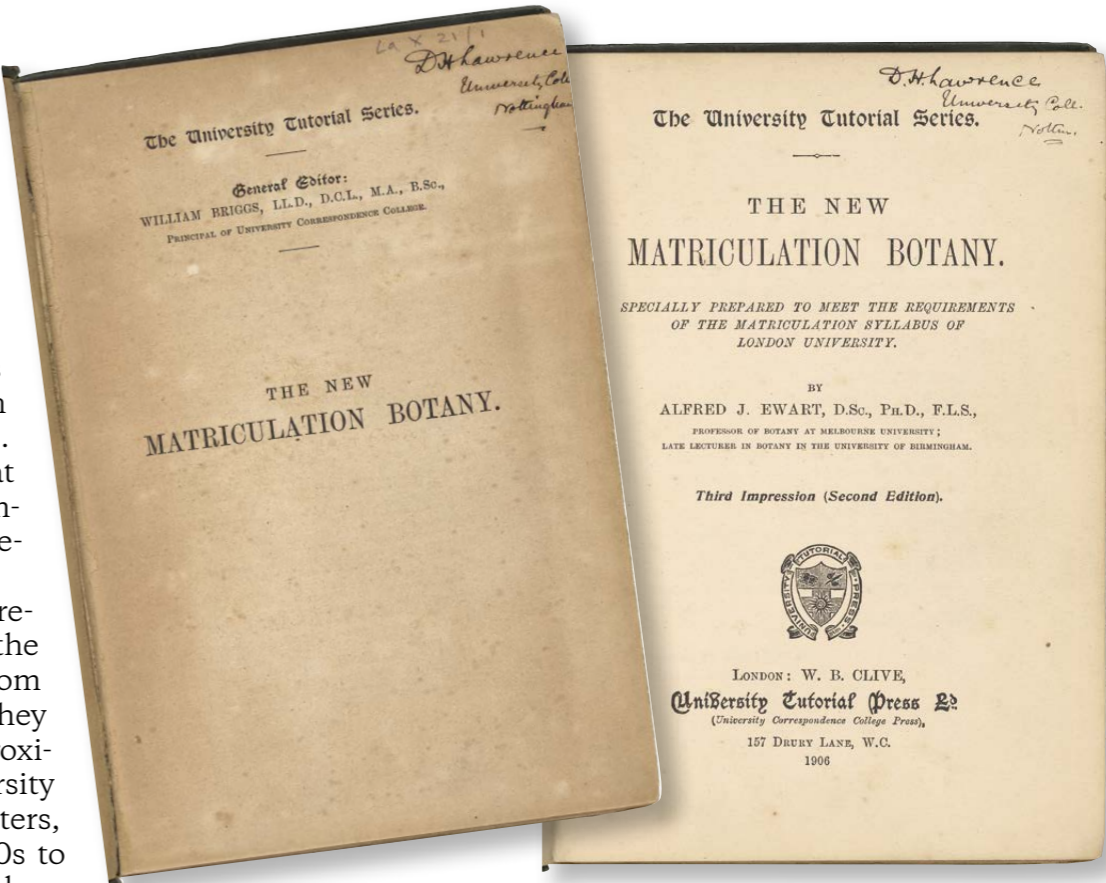
### University of Nottingham

It has been a good few months for additions to our university collections. Inspired by the *Knowledge is Power* exhibition the Department of Education have made several transfers of papers - as evidenced by the number of different accessions (ACC 3193, ACC 3194, ACC 3198, ACC 3200, ACC 3206, ACC 3207, and ACC 3209). These include photographs, brochures, and old lesson plans.

There have also been two accessions from student halls of residence; the Records of Florence Boot Hall (ACC 3213), and the Archive of Hugh Stewart Hall (ACC 3214). These include group photographs and papers relating to the running of Florence Boot Hall which were compiled by Helen Meller for a 70th Anniversary publication, and large scrapbook volumes of photographs of staff and students at Hugh Stewart Hall dating back to 1934. We hope to collect records of all of the university halls of residence and once catalogued these papers will form part of the student and staff life section of the Archive of the University of Nottingham.

A pleasing addition to our own history has come in the form of papers relating to the Wolfson Foundation's funding for the move of Manuscripts and Special Collections to Kings Meadow Campus in 2006 (ACC 3204). Our Reading Room at King's Meadow Campus was named as a result of this funding.

We have also received an addition to the university archive from Angel Row Library. They have donated approximately 200 University of Nottingham posters, dating from the 1960s to 2000s (UL/F/3). Work on listing the posters has been started by one of our student placements, and they include advertisements for plays by the University of Nottingham Dramatic Society, operas by the Music Society



Opera Group, and courses run by the Adult Education Department at Shakespeare Street. The posters previously formed part of the Nottingham Local Studies Library.

### DH Lawrence

We are very pleased to announce the purchase of a textbook belonging to DH Lawrence when he was a student at University College, Nottingham (La X 21). Lawrence's copy of Alfred J. Ewart, *The New Matriculation Botany* (1906), has the flyleaf and first two pages inscribed 'D.H. Lawrence, University Coll. Nottingham'. The volume has several inserts including a news cutting dated 8 February 1962, 'Lawrence papers turn up in the post', which describes the anonymous return of Lawrence's application for a teaching post in Croydon in 1908.



Left: Photograph of Sue Edmond, Warden of the Adult Education Centre on Shakespeare Street during Victorian Week, c.1980s. From ACC 3206

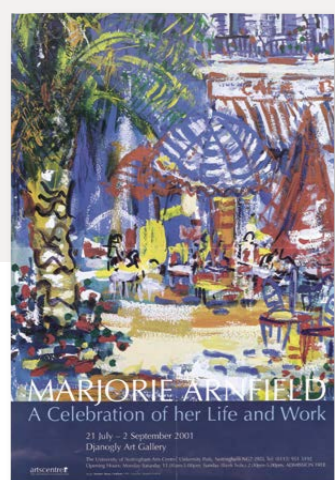
Above: DH Lawrence's copy of *The New Matriculation Botany* with his name handwritten on the title page. DH Lawrence Collection, La X 21

## RECENT ACQUISITIONS

Right: Garden plan for the winter garden at Coleorton Hall by William Wordsworth in *Memorials of Coleorton* (1887). East Midlands Special Collection, Lei.1.W8 BEA, barcodes 1004761203 and 1004761212

Below: Poster for exhibition Marjorie Arnfield: a celebration of her life and work, 2001, Djanogly Art Gallery. From Archive of the University of Nottingham: Student and Staff Life, UL/F/3

Title page, with engravings, of *Guide for youth, or the life & last hours of Henry Kirke White* (1820). East Midlands Special Collection, Not 1.W8 WHI Z, barcode 1008338430

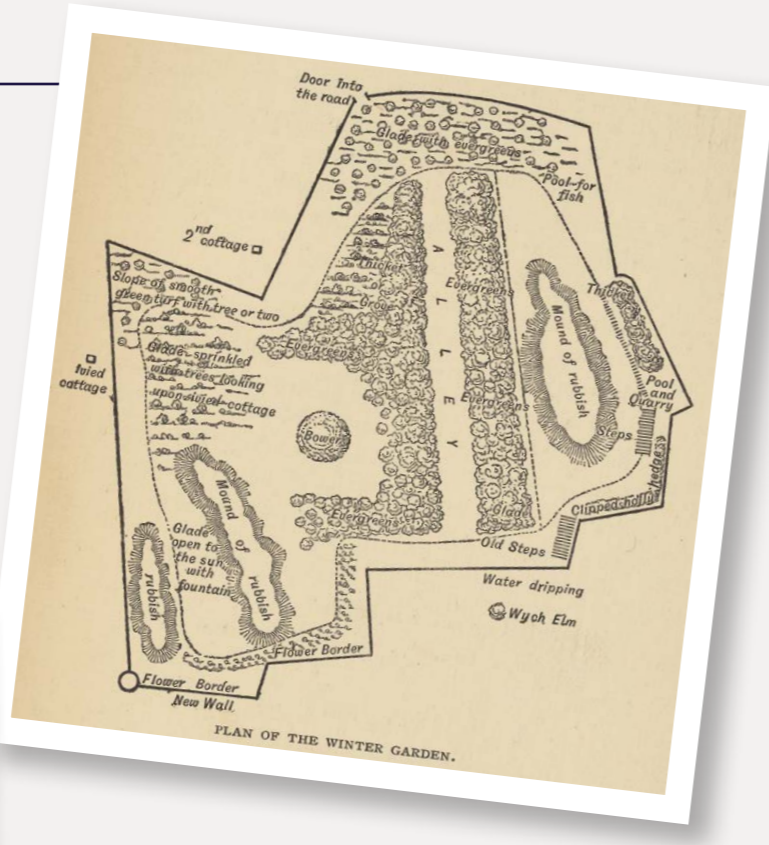


## An unusual item

Very occasionally we accept material outside of our normal scope of papers, books, photographs, digital files and audio-visual material, and we have received a donation of a tablecloth with emblems of women's organisations that were active in Nottingham. The tablecloth was created by the Soroptimist International - Nottingham, a local branch of the worldwide organisation for women. It was created around the 1950s and includes one motif of Ukraine, a reference to the settlement of Ukrainians in Nottingham post World War 2. The tablecloth has been acquired as part of our establishment of a feminist archive - see issue 18 of *Discover* for more details.

## Special Collections

Notable additions to the East Midlands Special Collection include a first edition of published correspondence between Sir George Howland Beaumont (1753-1827) and the artists who enjoyed his friendship and hospitality at Coleorton Hall: *Memorials of Coleorton, being letters from Coleridge, Wordsworth and his sister, Southey, and Sir Walter Scott to Sir George and Lady Beaumont of Coleorton, Leicestershire 1803 to 1834*, edited by William Knight. This two-volume work ar-



ranged the correspondents' letters in chronological order for a continuous story development. The letters contain references to the landscape around Coleorton Hall alongside mentions of poems that began during wintry walks across fields in Leicestershire and in Charnwood's forests. William Wordsworth and his family moved from Dove Cottage, in Grasmere to a farm-house adjacent to Coleorton Hall, in autumn 1806. During this time Wordsworth designed a winter garden for his hosts, the hand-drawn plan of which is reworked for printing from Dorothy Wordsworth's letter to Lady Beaumont dated 23 December 1806. Wordsworth superintended the building of the winter garden according to his design, in the Romantic spirit of restoring human settlements back to the landscape since 'the house should belong to the country'.

A further addition to the East Midlands Special Collection is a rare survival of commemorative literature occasioned by the death of the Nottingham poet Henry Kirke White (1785-1806): *Guide for youth, or the life & last hours of Henry Kirke White, of St. John's College Cambridge, until 19th October 1806 AE. 21 years / by his tutor*, the Revd S. Piggott A.M. The slim *Guide* ran to four editions, of which one copy is held in our collection. Two copies of the third (1818) edition are held in the UK. No other copies are known. The author, Solomon Piggott, who had been Kirke White's tutor in his youth, retells the poet's life as an example of pious dedication to God, from an early success as an inspirational teenage Sunday school teacher to the ultimate goal of going into ministry, checked only by an untimely death.

## SPOTLIGHT

# Nottingham Bachelors' Balls

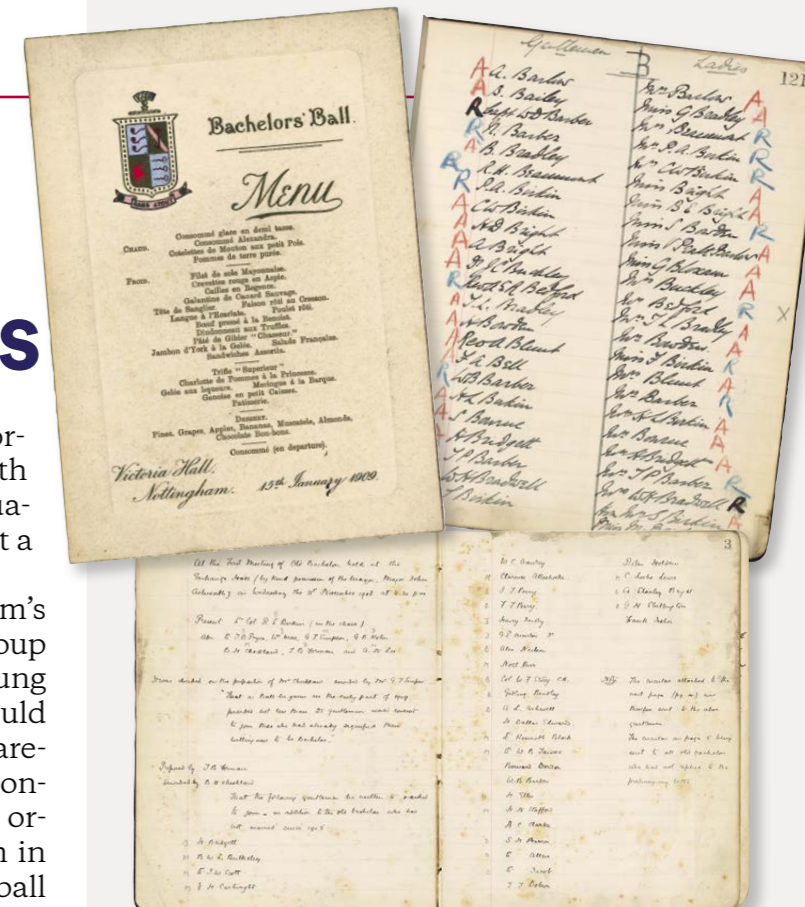
If a single man in possession of a good fortune was in want of a wife in late nineteenth century Nottingham, he rectified the situation by joining a committee and paying to host a dance to meet eligible young ladies.

Not much is known about Nottingham's Bachelors' Ball. As the name suggests, a group of wealthy unmarried men, many of them young but a few comfortably into middle age, would organise a social event for several hundred carefully-chosen guests. The volume shown here contains signed meeting minutes relating to the organisation of prestigious balls in Nottingham in 1909 and 1912, with mention of an earlier ball held in 1905 and an unsuccessful attempt to organise one in 1928.

This volume captures the beginning of the end for Bachelors' Balls. There must have been records from their earlier heyday, and it's a shame that no more survive, because they were glittering society events attended by some of the highest of high society. According to his obituary printed in *The Times* in 1943, the 6th Duke of Portland was one of 60 bachelors who gave the 1880 Bachelors' Ball, which led to the formation of the Bachelors' Club.

Nottingham's eligible bachelors were invited by members of the committee, and were in turn permitted to suggest eight men whom they felt would be suitable attendees - and able to afford the £5 contribution to cover the costs. Lists of acceptances and refusals are scattered throughout the minutes, and at the back is an index of men and women who had been invited. Most have been annotated with their marital status - B or M for Bachelor and Married, and D for members who had died since the previous Ball.

It must have been a glorious scene of pre-WWI upper-class Edwardian largesse. Almost 400 men and women – usually slightly more of the latter – arrived in horse and carriages at the grand Victoria Hall, Talbot Street, to a room tastefully decorated in mauve and cream with complementary floral decorations. Herr Moritz Wurm and his Blue Viennese Orchestra provided the music, a popular band that had been a staple at concerts and dances up and down the country since the 1890s. The menu from the 1909 Ball shows guests could choose from a remarkably heavy selection of hot



Menu for the 1909 ball, extract from the alphabetical list of gentlemen and ladies invited to the dance - annotated to show acceptance or refusal, and meeting minutes with a list of suggested bachelors, later annotated to indicate 'bachelor', 'married' or 'died'. Minute book of the Bachelors' Ball, Nottingham. MS 243

and cold foods, including ‘cotelettes des Mouton aux petit Pois’ and ‘Pomme de terre puree’ (lamb chops with peas and mash), ‘crevettes rouge en Aspic’ (prawns in gelatine) and a selection of fruit and bob-bons for dessert, washed down with Bollinger champagne (the vintage selected by the committee after tasting several samples).

The president for every ball mentioned in Nottingham was Lt Col Richard Leslie Birkin (1863-1936) of the South Nottinghamshire Hussars, who, in civilian life, worked for his family's lace manufacturing business. Birkin was still at the helm when the committee attempted to revive the Balls in 1928. The reason for the long gap is not explicitly stated, but it was almost certainly the devastation of WWI and the following influenza epidemic.

Society had moved on by the time the committee reformed to revive the Balls. A new generation had come of age and many of the previous attendees were married or dead. After attracting little interest, the committee abandoned the 1928 Ball, with Birkin covering the expenses already incurred. There were no further Bachelors' Balls, and even if there had been, the stalwart president would have been ineligible to attend: he married Rizza Bianchi in 1929.

# Advocates for animal welfare

Work has just finished on an 18-month project, generously funded by a private donor, to catalogue papers which chart the progress made in promoting the concept of the Three Rs, the guiding principles on the use of animals in scientific research:

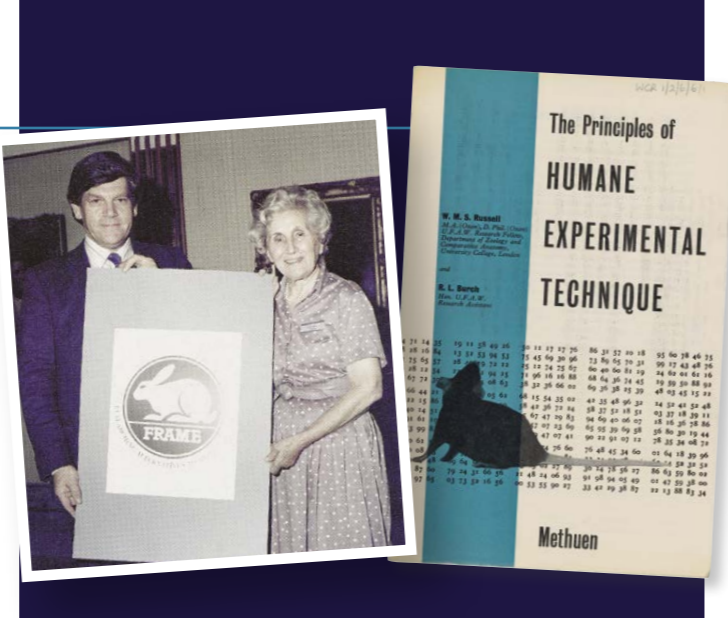
- **Replacement** - the use of non-animal subjects wherever possible, with research into the development and validation of alternative research and testing models.
- **Reduction** - the minimising of the number of animals used, through better research design, the sharing of information through the creation of databases or through employing statistical methods.
- **Refinement** - improvement of experimental procedures, ethical sourcing and improved housing of animals to minimise suffering.

The papers span three collections gifted to the university via the agency of Michael Balls, Emeritus Professor of Cell Biology at the University of Nottingham.

- **WCR/1 and WCR/6/1:** Papers of Professor William Moy Stratten Russell (1925-2006) relating to the Three Rs principles for the more ethical use of animals in scientific research.
- **MS 1016:** Papers of Professor Michael Balls (b.1938), Chairman of the Trustees of the Fund for the Replacement of Animals in Medical Experiments (FRAME).
- **PMB:** Papers of Professor Michael Balls, scientist and Professor of Cell Biology at University of Nottingham, 1960-2021.

Russell, and his assistant Rex Burch, were co-authors of *The Principles of Humane Technique in Experiments on Animals* (1959), which set out the Three Rs concept. The book had a big influence on Michael Balls, who would in turn help to promote Russell and Burch's work to an international audience.

The Fund for the Replacement of Animals in Medical Experiments (FRAME) was co-founded in 1969 by another advocate for animal welfare, Dorothy Hegarty. Michael Balls was invited to be-



come a Trustee of FRAME after presenting at a symposium on the use of alternatives to animals in drugs research. He went on to take over as Chair of the Trustees in 1981, when Dorothy Hegarty stepped down, and was responsible for moving FRAME's headquarters from London to Nottingham, where he was a lecturer in microbiology.

FRAME was part of a 'Triple Alliance' with the British Veterinary Association and the Committee for the Reform of Animal Experimentation (CRAE). Together they provided the Home Office with proposals for the reform of the 1876 Cruelty to Animals Act and acted as advisors to the government through all stages of what became the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986.

The FRAME Alternatives Laboratory, based at the University's Medical School, has provided a succession of University of Nottingham medical students with research opportunities. This long-lasting partnership between FRAME and the university still exists today.

Together, the collections provide a fascinating insight into changing attitudes towards the use of animals by the scientific community and pharmaceutical and cosmetics industries. They can be used to explore the impact of activism, research, and lobbying on policy, law-making, and public opinion.

Professor Balls was appointed a CBE in 2002 for his contributions toward humane animal research and has received many awards and honours during his career for his work in advancing alternative methods to animal testing, for services to cell biology, for contributions to the welfare of laboratory animals and for his role in advancing the field of in vitro toxicology.

Above: Dorothy Hegarty, founder of FRAME, at the launch of the new FRAME logo. Papers of Professor Michael Balls, Chairman of the Trustees of FRAME, MS 1016/3/5/38 Promotional leaflet for *The Principles*, 1959. Papers of William Russell, WCR 1/2/6/6

## Calling time on Last Orders

Dr David Beckingham, School of Geography, Co-curator of the *Last Orders* exhibition

In the June issue of *Discover*, I talked about selecting materials to illustrate local cultures of alcohol and abstinence. The records of families such as the Dukes of Newcastle and Portland formed the spine of our *Last Orders* exhibition - rich in drink issues because of their ownership of large estates, with pubs, and their possession of offices of state.

The exhibition showed how national issues and dilemmas about drink reached right into local places. Beyond such local stories, however, the archive also contains materials that connect drink to political and economic questions in other parts of the country and even beyond the scale of the nation.

There is much to say about the regional politics of drink, and how the consumption of alcohol supported notions of Britishness. Drink flowed freely at election time. Sir William Molyneux wrote to the 3rd Duke of Portland in 1768 congratulating him on his Cumberland election victory over 'Northern Tyrant' Sir James Lowther. 'Me and my whole family will be as merry & jovial as forty beggars,' Molyneux wrote, 'the bells are now ringing ... and bumpers of dear Franks claret is going round to the Duke and Duchess's health' (Pw F 6837).

For anti-alcohol campaigners, drink was less a marker of British liberty than a kind of violation of it - clouding judgment and corrupting politics. Keen to criticise the power of the drink lobby, nineteenth-century temperance activists politicised alcohol and made its regulation an electoral issue.

Alcohol policymaking reflected dilemmas. Politicians weighed the responsibility of government to balance the freedoms and responsibilities of citizens, while the exchequer tallied the financial contribution of alcohol duties. A correspondent of

the Marquis of Tweeddale in 1742, complained that labouring people in Scotland were buying cheap tea rather than ale - with a consequent drop in revenues (Ne C 1610). Against the backdrop of agricultural depression, in 1830, the politician William Huskisson cautioned John Evelyn Denison that repealing malt and beer duties could damage the public finances (Os C 71). The Duke of Wellington later stunned his critics by reducing duties to stimulate the production of beer and creating new beerhouses to promote its sale.

Various documents locate drink in the tangled geographical threads of international and colonial politics and trade. In the Portland (London) Collection, evidence to a government committee in 1778, held against the backdrop of the Revolutionary War, contains valuations of ships and their cargoes of sugar, rum and slaves (Pl C 35). In 1860, Chancellor of the Exchequer William Ewart Gladstone cut duties on French wine. A subsequent letter to diplomat Sir Andrew Buchanan, wondered if Spanish wines would be entitled to profit by the reported reductions (Bu 11/7). Gladstone had been friendly with the 5th Duke of Newcastle since their days at Oxford. Notes from 1860 by the Duke - when he was Secretary State for the Colonies - contain the intriguing comment that 'Sugar countries may make some objection' to changes in duties (Ne C 12667).

The materials I have briefly described speak of drink at once as an affair of state and as deeply attached to personal relationships and particular places. The impacts of drink production and consumption reached widely. It is that doubleness of drink, the way it connects to much larger issues, that drives my research. Thanks to the opportunity to curate *Last Orders* alongside Manuscripts and Special Collections, I now have many more avenues to pursue.

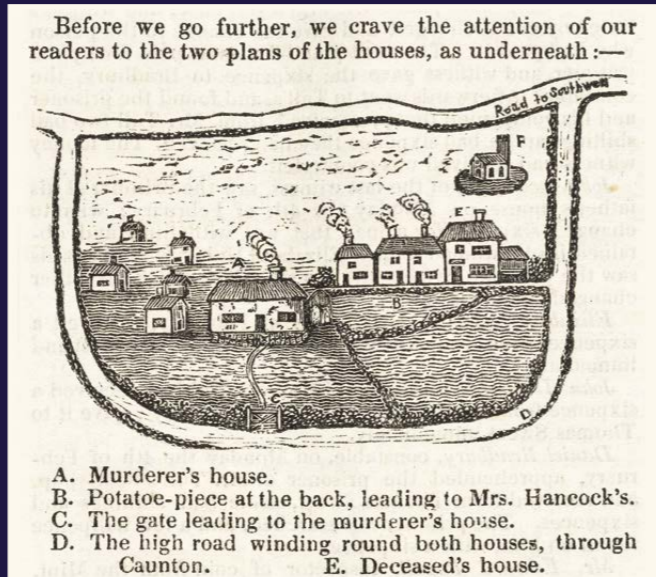


# Driven to murder

You can't work in an archive without coming across dark tales of murder and mayhem. One such murder took place in Cauntton, Nottinghamshire, in March 1839. The perpetrator was John Driver and he was hanged on 31 July 1839.

John was born to Jack and Betty Driver and baptised at Southwell Minster on 12 August 1812. He married Jane Raworth in December 1837. After their marriage, John and Jane moved into his parents' house, a single storey dwelling made of mud. They had one child, Eliza, born circa December 1838.

In January 1839, Jane died and Jack became ill. Betty walked thirty yards across the fields to the dwelling and shop of Ann Hancock to buy him some medicine. Somehow, laudanum found its way into a tincture of rhubarb bottle, and Jack was killed. Betty was heard cursing and swearing revenge on Ann around the village. According to the *Nottingham and Newark Mercury* of 22 March 1839, John's parents were 'bad and abandoned' people, with Betty said to be 'one of the most vile blasphemers...capable of plotting and instigating any crime'. When the coroner's report cleared Ann of all blame, she vowed to make any amends that lay in her power. However, some claim Betty pressured John to harm her.



On 14 March, John went with friends to Newark to watch a circus. They later sat drinking, parting in the early hours of the next day, when John said, 'Come, let's be off, I've a job to do when I get home'. About eight o'clock in the morning, a young boy found Ann's house broken into and fetched the neighbours. They found her bedroom ransacked and Ann murdered in her bed with a bandage stuffed into her mouth. She had received a blow to her head with a stick and had been strangled. The Drivers were immediately suspected. John was apprehended and found to be wearing two pairs of trousers, which had money, a piece of ribbon, and Ann's watches in their pockets. A large bloodstained stick with grey hairs attached was found at Betty's house. John and his mother were conveyed to Newark Jail and a coroner's jury was summoned.

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## Timeline of tragedy:

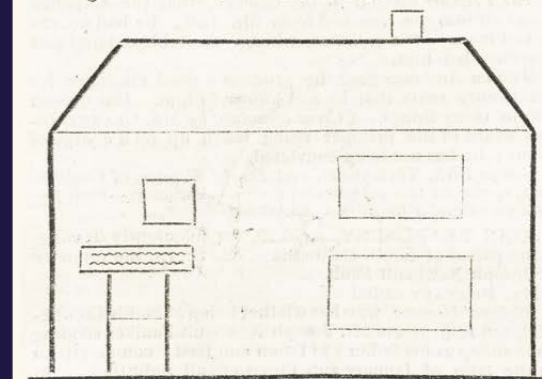
- 4 December 1837** – John Driver marries Jane Raworth.
- 23 December 1838** – Their child, Eliza, is baptised.
- 1 January 1839** – Jane Driver is buried.
- 31 January 1839** – Jack Driver, father of John is buried.
- 15 March 1839** – Ann Hancock is murdered.
- 27 June 1839** – Eliza is buried.
- 31 July 1839** – John is hanged.

On the morning of 18 March, the coroner, Philip Falkner, Esq., arrived at Cauntton and an inquiry was held at the Plough Inn. The jury viewed the body, the boy was questioned, and both prisoners were present: 'Why, I did it,' John confessed, adding his mother was innocent. She indicated she did indeed know nothing about the crime. John was committed to the County Gaol at Nottingham to take his trial at the next Assizes. At some point he stated that the murderer was a Henry Lawson of Little Carlton, but this proved false.

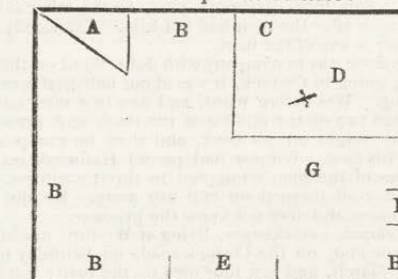
His trial was held on Friday 19 July before Lord Abinger. He pleaded not guilty and his mother pleaded with him not to incriminate her. The jury found him guilty in minutes. The judge passed the death sentence and John was removed from the bar. According to the newspaper report he was 'quite unaffected'. He now received religious instruction and benefitted from a belief he would go to Heaven. One can imagine this brought him comfort: Jane was dead, his father too, followed by his daughter Eliza in June. On the Saturday, an emotional visit was made by his mother and brother. For his last meal, he requested a plum pudding.

On the day of his execution, he ate a hearty breakfast and attended prayers. He dictated a let-

View of the Front of the House; the long window up stairs being the room in which the murder was committed,



Every thing seemed in the utmost disorder and confusion, flannels, articles of clothing, &c., being strewed all over the floor. Below is a ground plan of the room, which will no doubt enable our readers to form an idea of that which we have attempted to describe:—



- A. The door of the room.
- B. Boxes and trunks.
- C. The bed.
- D. The body of the deceased.
- E. The chamber window.
- F. The fire-place.
- G. The spot where the murderer stood to commit the deed.

ter to Rev. W. Butler, which began, 'Tell my mother to pray to the Lord to take away her wicked heart'. Reports suggest up to 20,000 rowdy people congregated from 5am in incessant rain to watch the hanging. The windows of the County Tavern opposite had been removed to afford those inside a better view! He was pinioned and led out to the scaffold in front of the County Hall, where he acknowledged his crime and accepted the punishment. After making a short address, he was 'launched into eternity' amongst great shrieks and shouts. A young man was apprehended by a constable just feet away, picking pockets, and committed to the House of Correction for a month. John was buried later that day within the precincts of the gaol, the place marked 'J. D., 1839'.

Information about the murder is taken from reports in the *Nottingham & Newark Mercury* of 1839.

Manuscripts and Special Collections holds copies of many local newspapers which can be viewed in the reading room on request.

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from Manuscripts and Special Collections  
at the University of Nottingham

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Our expert staff offer talks on a range of topics including:

- Introduction to Manuscripts & Special Collections
- Sex and Scandal in Nottingham Church Court
- Supernatural Stories from the East Midlands
- Health, Wealth, and Tastiness
- An Unheroic History of Robin Hood
- Murder Most Horrid

## Our tours (last for approximately 60 minutes)

- Private behind-the-scenes tour at Manuscripts and Special Collections, display of archives and rare books.
- Private curator's tour of the exhibition gallery at Lakeside Arts.

For group size, fees and refreshments, see online.

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