

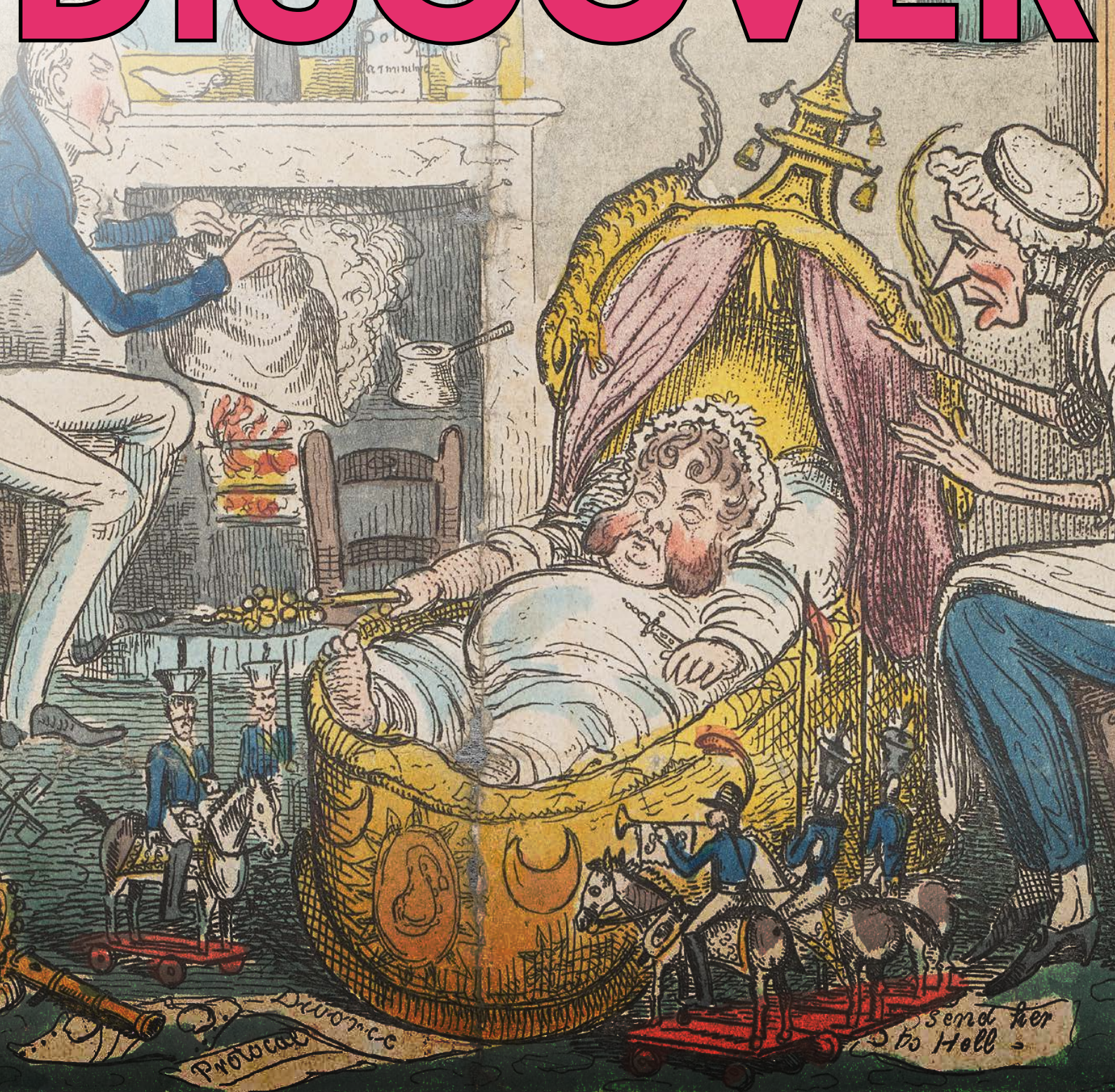


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Issue 13: January 2020

DISCOVER



The University of Nottingham's Manuscripts and Special Collections

INSIDE: New Year Blues, Georgian Delights, Completion of MRI project

Introduction

Welcome to the latest edition of *Discover*, The University of Nottingham Manuscripts and Special Collections' Newsletter.

As I write this, a new regional organisation for archives has just been launched, to replace the East Midlands Regional Archives Council. Archives Connected East Midlands is a new network, which aims to provide a strong regional voice for archives. It welcomes both individuals and organisations, no matter their size, working in archives and record keeping in the region. It will organise training and networking events and work on partnership projects. So if any readers are interested in joining please contact info@archivesconnected.org.uk.

This issue marks the successful end of our Wellcome funded MRI project. The project team are to be congratulated on their achievements: over 5,000 catalogue entries have been created; 250 boxes of archives repackaged and preserved; 17,000 slides digitised and 8 blog posts published. A Research workshop will be held on 9 January 2020 to introduce the collections to researchers and encourage discussions around potential research projects.

The MRI project has also lead to the identification and acquisition of further records relating to the development of MRI at Nottingham. Similarly, a very useful bi product of our exhibition programme is the acquisition of additional records relating to the subject of the exhibition. Therefore, I am delighted that the Fully Fashioned exhibition has brought in further donations of material relating to the textile industry. We are always interested to hear about any collections of archives which readers might know about.

We continue to work on our Digital Preservation project and I am pleased to announce that we have acquired Preservica as our Digital Preservation system. Staff are now undertaking training and beginning to implement the software. This will mean that for the first time we will be able to acquire and properly preserve born digital archives.

If you would like to find out more about any aspect of our work please do not hesitate to contact me. Meanwhile I hope that you enjoy reading this edition of *Discover* and I would like to send you best wishes for the New Year.

Mark

Mark Dorrington
Keeper of Manuscripts and Special Collections

Festive foods...

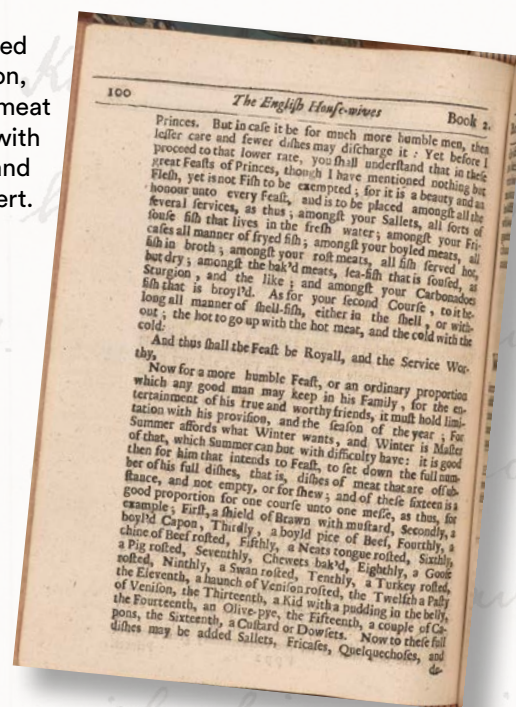
Christmas and New Year has always been a time for (over) indulgence in food and company. Although much of what we think of as a traditional Christmas – Christmas tree, roast turkey, and Christmas cards – is Victorian, the Georgians could certainly have given them a run for their money when it came to celebrating the festive season.

And a 'season' it was: Christmas and New Year celebrations spread over twelve nights. Most of the population was rural and agrarian, and at this time of year there was both less work to do in the fields, and less useful daylight in which to do it. Christmas Day wasn't an official public holiday but in the pre-industrial era, many businesses opted to keep shorter hours during the festive period.

There were church services, gift-giving (more commonly on New Year's Day than Christmas Day itself) and socialising that ranged from sedate to raucous, but the key ingredient was food. Foods were prepared weeks or months in advance, with the intention of using up winter stores and giving people something to look forward to in the cold, dark depths of December.

Food, especially meat, was used to display wealth and social status at festive gatherings. In *A Way To Get Wealth* by Gervase Markham, the list of foods for a great feast or banquet runs to two pages. Even for more modest feasts Markham suggests several courses, including brawn (a cold terrine of meat from a pig's head set in jelly) with mustard, boiled beef, roasted capon, chewets (minced meat or fish combined with fruit and spices), and a custard for dessert.

Gervase Markham,
A Way to get Wealth
(1683). *Special Collection*, S509.M2
barcode SC2475.



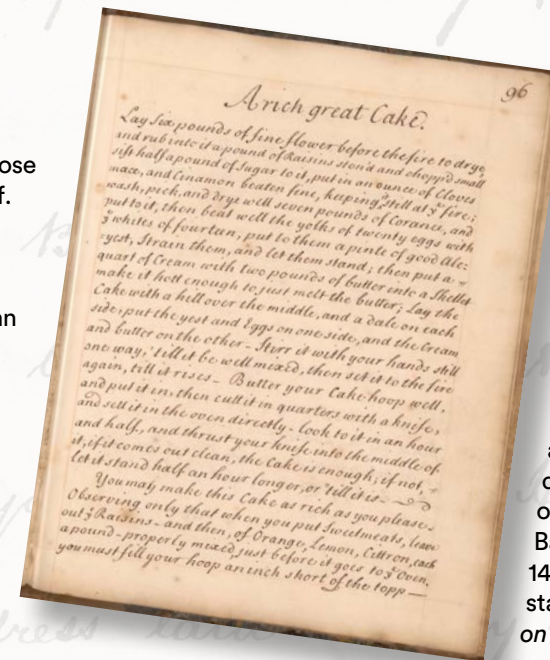
Venison was served in well-to-do eighteenth century houses, with goose common for the slightly less well off. Turkey became a popular addition to the menu in wealthy Victorian households. As one turkey was enough to feed the average Victorian family it became widespread amongst the middle classes, replacing other meats served until it has become the quintessential Christmas food.

As well as meat, a typical Georgian Christmas feast included cheese, soups, gingerbread (ginger was one of the cheaper spices), and mince pies which did, as the name suggests, contain actual minced meat mixed with the dried fruit and spices. In the early nineteenth century meatless versions started to appear, and by the end of the Victorian period, they had become the default.

Currants, dates and citrus fruits were readily available and easy to preserve, so it is not surprising that they feature prominently in many festive foods. It's likely that most people reading this have eaten Twelfth Night cake, but probably not on Twelfth Night. The 5th January (in the Church of England; other denominations calculate it differently) was the end of the twelve day Christmas period, and was marked with another round of celebrations. A rich fruit cake was baked with dried peas or beans inside, and whoever found them in their slice was crowned King or Queen and led the festivities for the rest of the day. Gradually, as the celebrations became truncated, Twelfth Night cake became Christmas cake and the tradition of adding a choking hazard-cum-prize was taken up by the Christmas pudding instead.

...and New Year Blues

After all that food, it's not surprising that well-intentioned resolutions to eat and drink less are not a modern phenomenon. William Parsons was one of the sons of Parsons & Sons Solicitors of Nottingham and kept a series of diaries from 1830 until 1871. In January 1831 he was an unmarried young man of about 21, with a large social circle and a disposable income. And, like the generations before and after him, he made the most of it at night and bitterly regretted it in the morning. He begins 1831 determined to avoid idleness, to avoid unwholesome company and work hard. By the 7th of January he has broken his resolution in the first of many instances. His heavy drinking occasionally causes him to miss work and gamble more than he ought, which he hides with varying degrees of success from his family, fiancé and friends. Unfortunately his commitment to his diary was not much greater than his commitment



Recipe for a rich great cake in Elenor Mundy's recipe book, 1728. MS 86

to sobriety, so for many years the diary entries tail off after several months. Given that he repeatedly makes similar promises to himself, it seems William is no better at keeping his New Year resolutions than the rest of us.

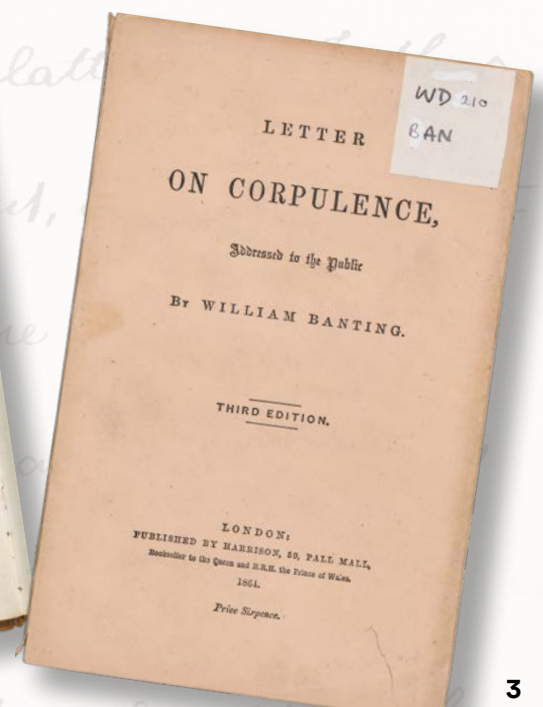
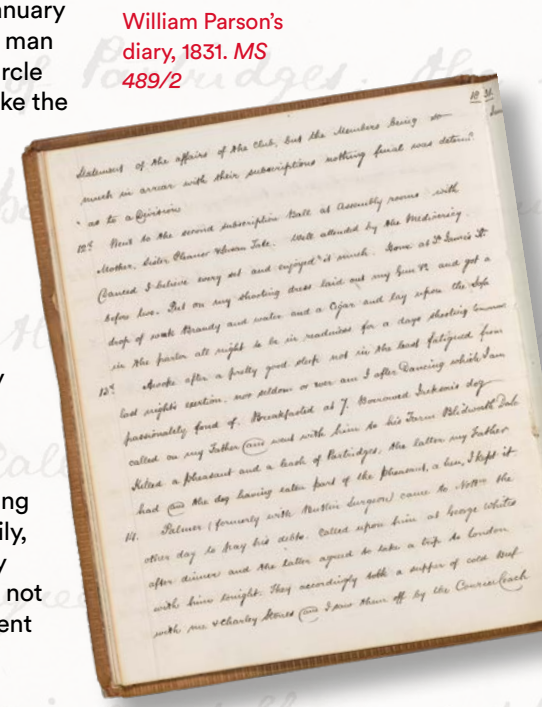
The fad diet is no modern creation either. Undertaker William Banting was an early advocate of a low-carbohydrate diet, based on his own experiences of obesity and weight-loss. By his mid-60s, Banting weighed over 200lbs (just over 14 stone or 90kg) and was struggling with stairs and tying his shoelaces. In his *Letter on Corpulence, Addressed to the Public*, he wrote of his unsuccessful dieting, fasting and spa regimes he had tried. Some of it seems

a little naïve to our modern, healthy-eating attuned eyes: Banting was surprised to learn that beer, sugar and bread may have contributed to his weight. Eventually he and Dr William Harvey, who was researching low carbohydrate diets and diabetes, worked out an eating plan consisting of four meals a day of meat or fish, vegetables, excluding potatoes, and fruits. He also avoided sugar, beer, bread and dairy products. Banting missed hot buttered toast and milk in his tea, but the six glasses of wine and the tumbler of brandy allowed each day probably helped him cope.

After losing 35lbs, he published his booklet, *Letter on Corpulence, Addressed to the Public*, at his own personal expense. It proved enormously popular and went through multiple editions. It established 'banting' as a word for dieting, especially involving cutting out carbohydrates (it has nothing to do with 'banter'). Many modern low-carb diet books acknowledge Banting's contribution, although sadly the official government advice is to drink no more than six glasses of wine per week, not per day.

William Banting's, *A Letter on Corpulence, Addressed to the Public* (1864). *Medical Rare Books Pamphlet* WD210 BAN, barcode 6200423722

William Parson's
diary, 1831. MS
489/2



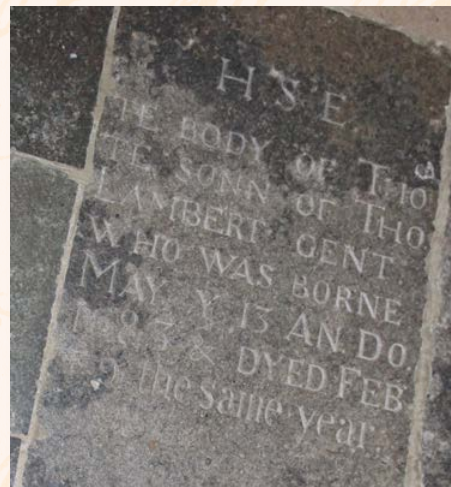
From Lady Day to New Year's Day, or Julius Caesar versus Pope Gregory

New Year's Day: a time to look forward to the year ahead and plan how you are going to do things differently. Whether that is finally making use of that gym membership, learning a new language, or beating your high score on Fortnite, one thing that we can all agree on is that New Year's Resolutions are made in January and rarely last until February. But such has not always been the case. In fact in England and Wales the New Year itself did not even start until March.

Today the 25th March will come and go with very little notice taken of it, but to our ancestors it was one of the most important days of the year. The 25th March is Lady Day, which commemorates the Feast of the Annunciation – when the Archangel Gabriel visited the Virgin Mary and informed her that she was to be the mother of Christ. Lady Day is one of the four traditional quarter days in England and Wales (the other three being Midsummer, Michaelmas and

Christmas Day); days when rents were due, servants were hired and new school terms started. Until 1752 Lady Day was also the first day of the New Year. If we take the year 1750 as an example this meant that in March the dates would run as follows: 23rd March 1750, 24th March 1750, 25th March 1751.

When looking at documents created in England and Wales before 1752 it's important to remember this difference in dating in order to avoid errors with chronology. Bottom left is a release which is clearly dated January 30th 1648. Taking the new year as starting on the 1st January we would now consider this document to have been written on the 30th January 1649, and that is how the date appears in our catalogue.



Grave of Thomas Lambert in Salisbury Cathedral, photograph credit Martin Jones.

A famous example of this potential confusion with dates is a tombstone in Salisbury Cathedral which commemorates a boy who was born on 13th May 1683 and died on 19th February of the same year. While to modern readers this may look like an error, it is perfectly possible to be born in May and die in February of the same year once you know that the new year starts in March.

Confused? It's about to get worse....

The year beginning on the 25th March is not the only potential pitfall when looking at items written in the past. Also lurking there to trip you up is the battle between Julius Caesar and Pope Gregory, or to put it another way, the change from the Julian to the Gregorian calendar.

The Julian calendar was the system of dating introduced in 46BC and named after Julius Caesar. It was used in Europe and its settlements or colonies. The calendar added one extra day every four years, giving us our leap years, because it had been calculated that the earth took 365 ¼ days to orbit the earth. Unfortunately these calculations weren't completely accurate meaning that over the course of a millennium the Julian calendar was over-correcting by eight days.

Release from Jane Cartwright to William Cartwright; 30 Jan. 1649. The estate papers of the Denison Family of Ossington, Nottinghamshire, De A 7/3.

In the 1500s a solution was arrived at which involved removing some leap years. The new calendar was called the Gregorian calendar, after Pope Gregory, who ruled that it should come into force in 1582. By then the Julian calendar had added ten days too many, because of its over-correction, and it was necessary to skip ten days with the 4th October 1582 being immediately followed by 15th October 1582.

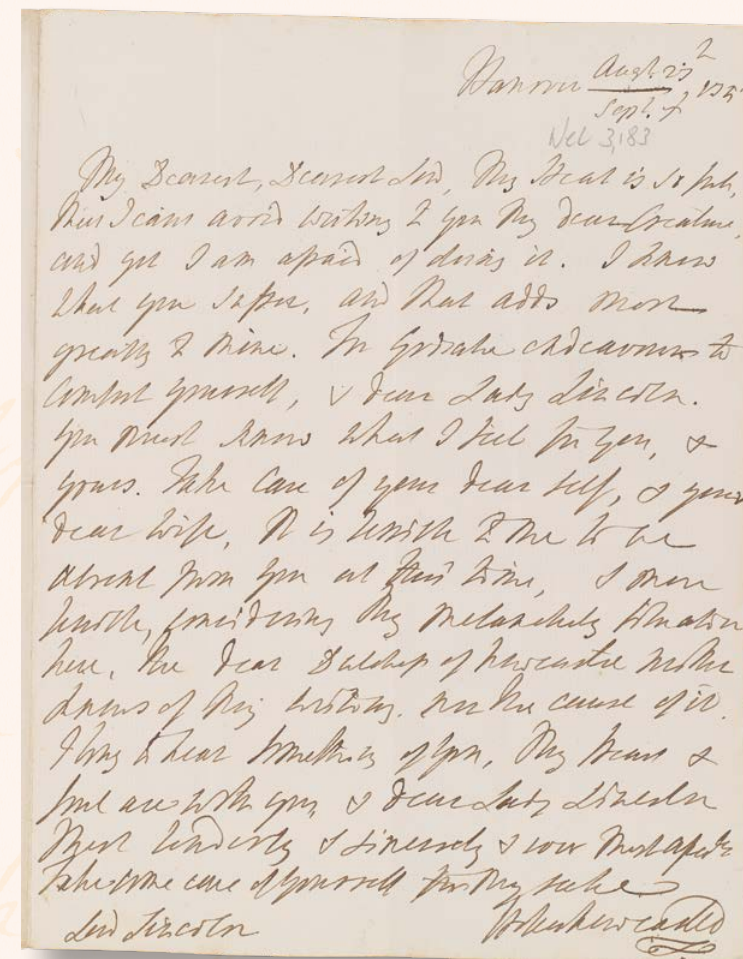
Complications arose because Pope Gregory had no legal power to enforce the use of the new calendar and it was not universally adopted. As you might expect take-up of the new calendar was lower amongst Protestant countries than Catholic ones. With some countries continuing to use the Julian calendar and others adopting the Gregorian calendar, the date differed depending on which country you were in.

On the right is a letter which is dated from Hanover on August 27th/4th Sept. 1752. Here the writer is including both the Julian and Gregorian calendar dates. Another common way in which people signified which calendar they were using was to add 'N.S.' after a date for 'New Style' – meaning that they were using the new Gregorian calendar. This is something that has continued in some archive catalogues – with cataloguers using 'O.S.' or 'old-style' and 'N.S.' to make it clear to users which calendar is being followed.

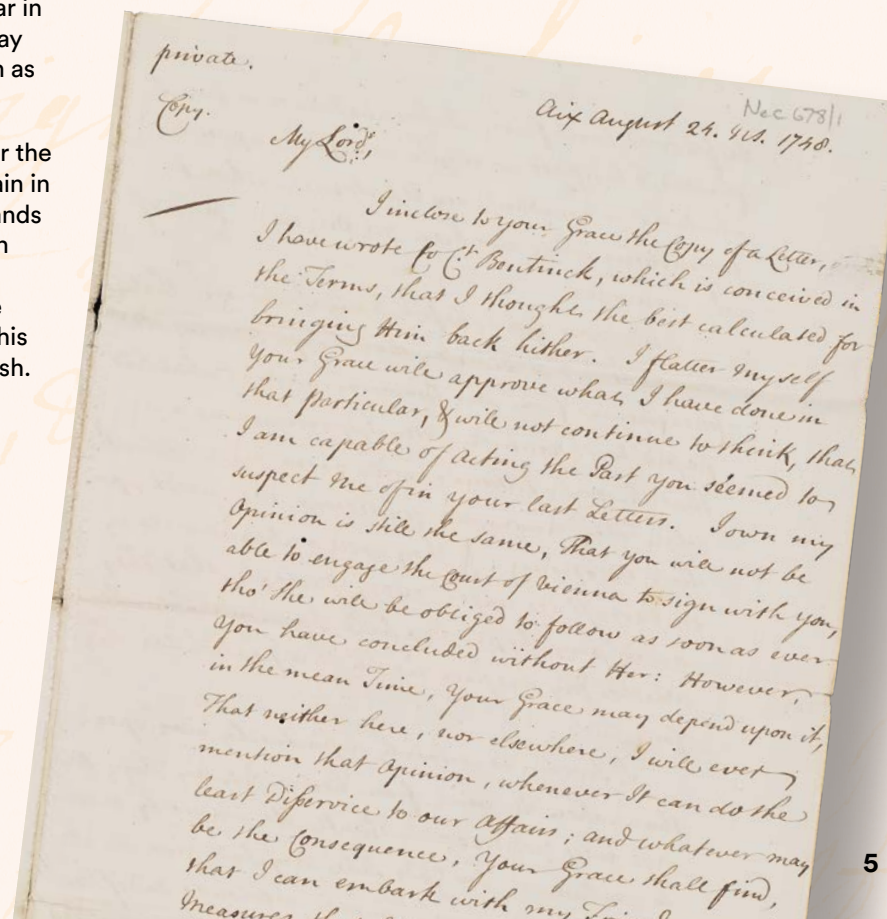
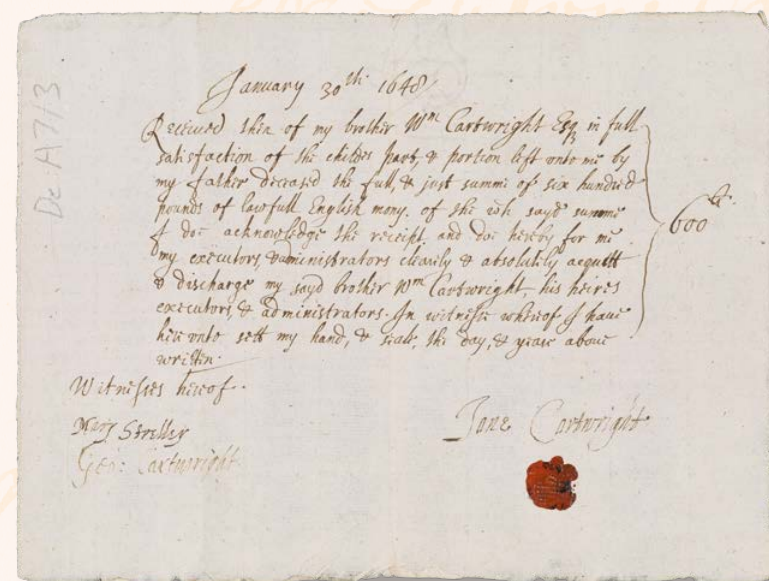
England and Wales adopted the Gregorian calendar in 1752, the same year that they changed the start of the civil year to the 1st January. Eleven days needed to be skipped over in order to align with the Gregorian calendar and this took place in September with 2nd September 1752 followed by the 14th September. However the Julian calendar is not merely a historical relic, found only in archival documents. It is still used as the liturgical calendar in Orthodox Christianity, which is why Christmas Day is celebrated on the 7th January in countries such as Russia.

Calendars and styles of dating have changed over the centuries and numerous different calendars remain in operation today. Still, if you are one of the thousands of people whose new year's resolutions lie broken and forgotten, you can always start again on the 25th March secure in the knowledge that you are being historically accurate. And who knows, by this time next year you really might be fluent in Flemish. Gelukkig Nieuwjaar!

Copy of letter sent from Aix-la-Chapelle in the Holy Roman Empire. The author, the Earl of Sandwich, has written 'NS' after August 24th to show that he is using the Gregorian calendar. Newcastle (Clumber) Collection, Ne C 678/1.



Letter from T. Pelham-Holles, 1st Duke of Newcastle under Lyne, Hanover, Germany, to HF Clinton, 9th Earl of Lincoln. The letter is dated giving both the Gregorian date, 4th Sep. 1752, then in use in Germany and the Julian date, 27th August, as it was in England. Newcastle (Clumber) Collection, Ne C 3183.



GEORGIAN DELIGHTS

LIFE DURING THE REIGN OF GEORGE IV (1820–1830)

Exhibition news

George IV: King of Bling or Royal Joker?

Dr Richard A Gaunt

When King George IV died in June 1830, *The Times* asked, ‘What eye has wept for him? What heart has heaved one throb of unmercenary sorrow?’. George was a controversial figure throughout his lifetime (1762–1830). As Prince of Wales, after 1783, George became notorious for his frequent love affairs and lavish self-indulgence, spending wildly on gambling, fashion, and architecture. He became infamous as the creator of Brighton Pavilion, which Lady Frances Bentinck described in 1821 as ‘the offspring of a Marriage between a Mosque and a Pagoda’. His politics were opposed to those of his father, King George III, whom he offended by contracting a secret (and illegal) marriage with the Catholic Maria Fitzherbert. However, George’s Whig political friends felt betrayed when, as Prince Regent after 1811, he continued his father’s Tory ministers in office.

By the time that George IV succeeded to the throne, as King of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland and King of Hanover, at the end of January 1820, he was a figure of fashion and fun, famous for his outlandish outfits, close circle of friends (including the famous Regency ‘dandy’ Beau Brummell), and racy love life.

As the exhibition *Georgian Delights. Life During the Reign of George IV (1820–30)* demonstrates, using material from the University of Nottingham’s Manuscripts and Special Collections, George IV inherited his throne at a dangerous time. The end of the Napoleonic Wars in 1815 was followed by five years of domestic political turmoil, including the infamous ‘Peterloo Massacre’ of 1819. Within a month of becoming King, a plot to assassinate the cabinet was uncovered (‘The Cato Street Conspiracy’), whilst revolutions in Europe, and George’s own disastrous marriage with Caroline of Brunswick, became headline news. George was determined that Caroline should not become Queen Consort and unsuccessfully attempted to divorce her, by way of a ‘Bill of Pains and Penalties’ which was debated in the House of Lords. Caroline became a rallying point for the discontented, whilst George became an object of hostility and ridicule for humourists like William Hone and caricaturists including George Cruikshank and John Doyle.

The exhibition highlights Catholic Emancipation as a major political event during George IV’s reign. It was achieved by peaceful pressure from Daniel O’Connell’s Catholic Association in the face of ultra-Protestant opposition from Tory aristocrats like the 4th Duke of Newcastle. Newcastle, who carried ‘Curtana’, the sword of mercy, at George IV’s coronation in 1821, was one of many individuals who attempted to bolster George’s opposition to Emancipation – the right for Catholics to sit as Members of Parliament.

Displays also highlight the precarious state of the succession to the throne. George and Caroline’s only child, Princess Charlotte of Wales, died in 1817, whilst George’s next eldest brother, Frederick, the ‘Grand Old Duke of York’ (of nursery rhyme fame) died a decade later. It was left to George’s younger brother, William, Duke of Clarence, to steer Britain towards a decade of Reform, as King William IV.

With satirical images, lavish coronation ceremonial, political pamphlets, polite music, and mementoes of the golden age of coaching, the exhibition offers a fascinating insight into a King who is better remembered as a celebrity, rather than a serious monarch. An accompanying series of lunchtime talks, curator tours and a film screening, provide opportunities for exploring the exhibition’s themes and colourful personalities in more detail.

The exhibition has been jointly curated by Dr Richard Gaunt, Associate Professor in History (School of Humanities) and Manuscripts and Special Collections at the University of Nottingham and designed by UoN Design.

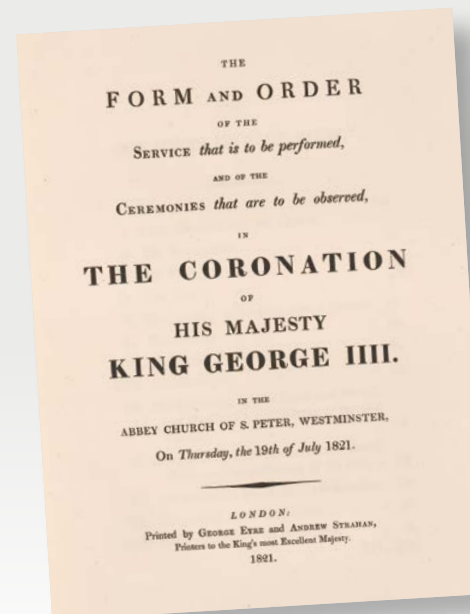
Friday 13 December – Sunday 29 March

Tuesday – Friday, 11am – 4pm.
Saturday and Sunday, 12 noon – 4pm.
Closed Mondays.

Free

Weston Gallery

DH Lawrence Pavilion, Lakeside Arts, University Park, Nottingham, NG7 2RD.



Booklet describing the service and ceremonies for the coronation of George IV, 19 Jul. 1821. Newcastle (Clumber) Collection, Ne C 5105/1



Frontispiece from *Memoirs of Caroline, Queen Consort of Great Britain vol. 2* by JH Adolphus (1821). Special Collections, DA538.A2, barcode SC21292



Illustration of George IV from *Memoirs of Caroline, Queen Consort of Great Britain vol. 2* by JH Adolphus (1821). Special Collections, DA538.A2, barcode SC21292

Exhibition events

Booking information:

Box Office: 0115 846 7777,
lakesidearts.org.uk

Lunchtime talks

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

The Return of the Royal Mistress: George IV and his Female Favourites

Wednesday 29 January 2020

The accession of George IV was the first time a British sovereign had kept a mistress since the time of his great-grandfather, George II, in the 1750s. Dr Nigel Aston of the University of Leicester looks again at the influence and assesses the importance of two much criticised women, Ladies Hertford and Conyngham, in relation to the king’s personal and public life between 1811 and 1830.

The Diabolical Cato Street Plot

Monday 24 February 2020

On the evening of 23 February 1820, Bow Street Runners entered a hayloft in Cato Street, London, to arrest a group of armed conspirators who were planning to assassinate the British cabinet at a dinner in Grosvenor Square. Exhibition curator Dr Richard Gaunt re-considers the ‘Cato Street Conspiracy’, by uncovering its motivation, history and consequences.

Title page top left: *The Cradle Hymn*, 1820. The Fagan Collection of Political Prints and Caricatures, Pol P 42

Two Sides of a Royal Coin: George IV as Husband and Brother

Wednesday 18 March 2020

Acclaimed historical biographer Flora Fraser will speak about her research in the Royal Archives when writing *The Unruly Queen: The Life of Queen Caroline* and *Princesses: The Daughters of George III*. George IV grew to detest his wife, Queen Caroline, but was a loving friend to his six sisters. Flora will examine these two sides of a royal coin.

Film screening

Beau Brummell (1954)

Thursday 16 January 2020, 7pm

2 hours
£5 (£3 concessions)

Beau Brummell (Stewart Granger) rises from poverty to become the friend and adviser of George, Prince of Wales (Peter Ustinov). When Brummell oversteps the mark with the Prince, he risks his position at court and his chance at finding happiness with the aristocratic Lady Belham (Elizabeth Taylor).

The film will be introduced by Dr Richard Gaunt.

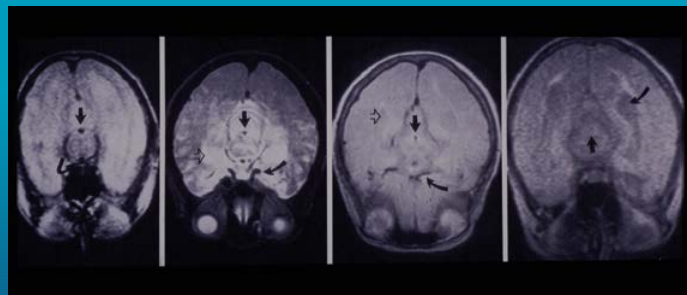
GALLERY TOUR

Monday 27 January, 2.30–3.30pm

Monday 24 February, 2.30–3.30pm

Weston Gallery
Free, advance booking required

Join the exhibition curator, Dr Richard Gaunt, for a guided walk through the exhibition and learn about the stories behind the items on display.



MRI Collections Project draws to a successful close

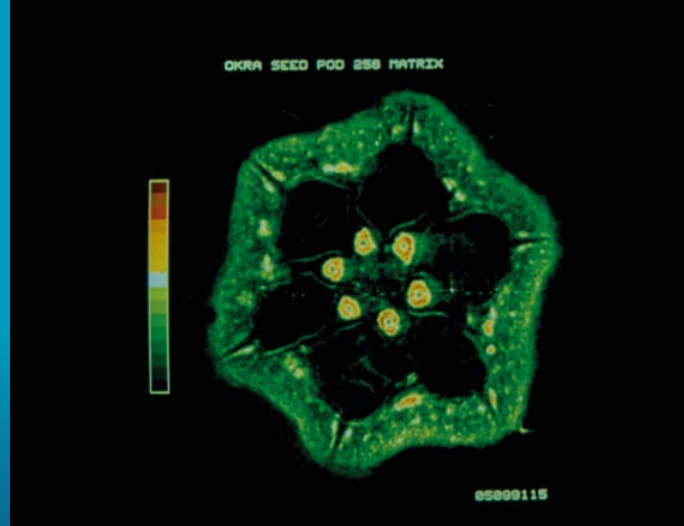
Manuscripts and Special Collections completed the MRI Collections Project, funded by a Wellcome Trust Research Resources award, in September 2019. During this significant project we catalogued, preserved and selectively digitised the papers of the Nobel Prize winning physicist Professor Sir Peter Mansfield and two other scientists involved in the development of MRI at Nottingham, Professor Raymond Andrew and Professor Brian Worthington, together with associated records of the British Radiofrequency Spectroscopy Group (BRSG). The project team within Manuscripts and Special Collections consisted of a Project Archivist, Archives Assistant and Digitisation Assistant.

Across all four collections, more than 5,000 catalogue records have been created as a result of the project. All of the material has been repackaged using archival quality materials into approximately 250 archive boxes. This is a fantastic achievement, and our thanks go to all those involved.

Another important part of the project was the digitisation of a huge number of 35 mm slides. Digital images of all the slides were produced by photographing them using a bespoke camera rig. The images were then assessed by project staff, and around 13,000 have been retained for the permanent collections. They include fascinating images of MRI scans of the human body, graphs of experimental results, and pictures of early MRI scanning equipment.

The collections also contain around 60 items of audio-visual material, such as videotapes, film reels and audio cassettes. This material has been digitised, to make access easier for researchers and to preserve these important recordings for the future. The recordings include footage of early experiments on Echo Planar Imaging, and of television programmes which featured the work of the MRI groups at Nottingham. It is particularly pleasing that Mansfield, Andrew and Worthington all feature in one or more of these recordings.

The three scientists' collections are similar in several respects, the main one being that they all contain a substantial quantity of research papers. Those in the Mansfield collection generally relate directly to MRI research, whereas those in the Andrew collection are more



From top left: MRI images of the human brain. Papers of Professor Brian Worthington, *PBW/12/8/10*
MRI image of an okra seed pod. Papers of Professor Sir Peter Mansfield, *PPM/15/5/15*
Peter Mansfield lying inside a mock up of an MRI scanner. Papers of Professor Sir Peter Mansfield, *PPM/15/78/11*

concerned with nuclear magnetic resonance research and magic angle spinning (a technique which Andrew pioneered). Worthington's collection covers the clinical applications of all kinds of medical imaging, including X-rays and CT scanning as well as MRI imaging. The large number of published academic papers in each collection reflects the fact that such 'hard copy' papers were the main source of reference material for academics in the pre-internet age.

One feature present in the Mansfield collection, but not in those of Andrew and Worthington, is the large quantity of papers relating to patents. Mansfield applied for a great many patents for his MRI-related inventions and techniques, and was vigorous in enforcing them.

Although the project has now ended, work on the MRI collections will continue! During the last 12 months we have received additional material from several sources, and we hope that further donations will occur in the future. We are also holding a research event at which academics can discover more about the collections. Cataloguing these papers has been fascinating, and we hope that our work will help to tell the thrilling story of the pioneering work on MRI which was undertaken in Nottingham, and which continues to the present day.

The MRI collections are now available for researchers to access in the Manuscripts and Special Collections Reading Room. The catalogues for all the collections are also available online via the Manuscripts and Special Collections Online Catalogue: mss-cat.nottingham.ac.uk/.

5 minutes with... Abigail Cobley

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

I'm a Store Room Assistant and I've worked here for 11 years.

What does your job involve?

The bulk of my job is to produce archival and printed items from the Manuscripts and Special Collections store and take them to our reading room. I also get material out for classes, exhibitions, and for members of Manuscripts and Special Collections staff. I record the statistics at the end of every month to see how many readers we've had and how many documents we've produced. I also help with the arrival of new collections and the movement of collections within the store. When time allows I number up documents – writing an individual document reference in pencil on newly catalogued material. At the moment I'm repackaging and numbering documents relating to the Students' Union. Every few hours I check the library management system, ALMA, to see if any requests have been submitted by readers who want to view items from our special collections. If there are any requests, I'll get the items out straight away.

How do you locate the material you need to get out?

We have a locations database for our manuscript material, which has just been transferred to a different system so I have been learning how to use that. After eleven years I do know where some of our material is without having to check the database, but with three and a half million archival documents in our collections there is a lot that I still have to look up. Our printed collections are not on this database but we can locate these items using their class marks, with the printed stock arranged by collection and in class mark order.

Can you describe a typical day?

The first task of the day is to open up the store, which contains our collections. Then I take pre-ordered material to the Reading Room. We encourage people to let us know when they want to visit and what they would like to see so that we can have the material waiting for them in the Reading Room when they arrive. Readers can also put in requests on the day and if there are further requests during the day, I will fetch those too. We aim to produce material within thirty minutes. Once reader's requests have been dealt with then if material needs getting out for an upcoming class or visit I'll make a start on that. I'll also get out any documents which need to be copied for researchers who are unable to visit our Reading Room in person. Getting material out is a priority but I also put material away, carefully matching up the request slips to ensure that every item is returned to its correct place in the store. I'm often the first person to see the material, so I need to be aware of any problems which may delay its delivery to readers in the Reading Room. For example, a



document may look fragile or have General Data Protection Regulation issues, in which case I will seek advice from an archivist. You have to be able to juggle in this job, so I'm prioritising all the time. If the phone rings and it's a request from a reader then I'll do that straight away, before going back to my other duties.

Your previous job involved conservation work. Please tell me more.

I worked for 'Derry Paper and Book Conservation' from 2002-2008. This company originally started out as a printing firm in Nottingham in the late 1800s and will be a familiar name to many people. When I worked there, the company had contracts with The British Library and The British Museum and I used to be one of the people who helped with the conservation work on the books. Our task was to take the book from its present state and transform it into a newly-bound book, complete with gold leaf lettering on the spine. Before the book was taken apart I would record the page order, after which the cover was removed. The sections were washed in water and put back into the approximate shape of the book, before being put into a gelatine size. The book was then covered in acid-free paper and put into a press to remove excess water. The sections were laid out on mesh shelving to dry and the next day the sections would be gathered up and repairs done to tears and missing corners. For this we used lens tissue and Japanese tissue, glued on with wheat starch paste. The book was then ready to be stitched back together with acid-free cotton. I was fast and neat at stitching so this was a significant part of my job. Any bookplates and notes rescued from the original binding were always incorporated into the new binding. What I liked most about the whole process was that afterwards the book was readable again and would be accessible to researchers.

What attracted you to the post of Store Room Assistant?

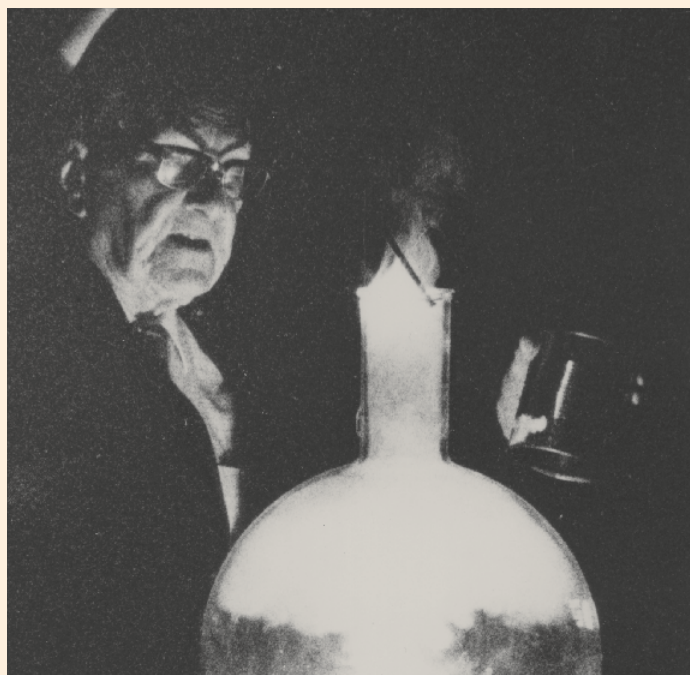
I felt that I had lots of skills from my time at Derry's that would help me in this role. It was something that interested me and I knew that I would enjoy it.

What do you enjoy most about your job?

I really like getting material out from the Portland London Collection because of my conservation background. Some of the material in that collection is quite fragile and needs to be handled carefully. I also like the early deeds in the Middleton Collection because they were written by an individual so long ago and I especially love seeing fingerprints in the wax seals. I've definitely seen at least one seal with a leaf pressed into it. I do feel privileged to be the person who gets these items out for researchers and to be handling something that may not have been read for hundreds of years. In my role I get to see a lot of the collections.

Recent acquisitions

Below: Professor BD Shaw, well known for his 'explosives' lecture. c.1980 UMP/11/3/2



Above: Selection of local views and photograph postcards ACC 3022

New accessions and cataloguing

Manuscripts online catalogue new releases

Since the last newsletter, we have released details of a number of large and important collections onto our Manuscripts Catalogue mss-cat.nottingham.ac.uk. As well as the catalogues released to mark the end of the MRI Project, three other collections are worthy of particular mention.

The Colin Wilson Archive (CWA) contains drafts and proofs of the work of the prolific author and philosopher Colin Wilson (1931-2013), and a large bibliographic collection of works about him. Colin Wilson was born in Leicester in 1931. His first novel, *The Outsider* was published on 26 May 1956, and was an instant success, selling out of its initial print run of 5,000 copies in one day. Wilson's literary output was prodigious but his later works never achieved the same critical acclaim as his debut. He wrote widely on true crime, mysticism and the paranormal, as well as his philosophy of 'new existentialism'. Wilson also contributed numerous articles to magazines, worked on documentaries and film scripts, and contributed forewords and chapters to other authors' works. In addition to drafts and proofs of Wilson's work the Colin Wilson Archive includes an extensive run of correspondence, a small number of publishing files, some copies of reviews and research files, and advertising and audio-visual material.

Our second release is an addition to the Manvers Collection. Thoresby Hall in north Nottinghamshire was the home of members of the Pierrepont family from the 17th century until 1980. The last titled member of the family was Gervase Pierrepont, 6th Earl Manvers. We have received regular accruals to the initial deposit of Manvers Collection papers in 1948, and are now delighted to release details of the latest one (*Ma 9*). This part of the collection focuses on the work of the Estate Office from the 1940s to the early 1970s.

By the mid-twentieth century, subsidence from mine workings underneath the Thoresby estate was threatening the structure of Thoresby Hall. The estate made a claim to the National Coal Board (NCB) for compensation, and sold the Hall outright to the NCB in 1980. One of the highlights of *Ma 9* is a remarkable map showing the creep of mine workings towards the Hall during the 1980s (*Ma 9 P/6*). The colours on the map show the coal seams: High Hazel (highest) in green; Barnsley Hard (middle) in pink; Park Gate (deepest) in blue. At one time, the Thoresby estate used this map on a weekly basis to try to predict mining subsidence.

Also newly catalogued are papers relating to the Lace Industry collected by Norman H. Cuthbert. Cuthbert was a PhD student at the University of Nottingham, under the supervision of Professor FA Wells. In the 1950s he undertook research into the lace industry on behalf of the Amalgamated Society of Operative Lace Makers and Auxiliary Workers, which resulted in the publication: 'The Lace Makers' Society: a Study of Trade Unions in the British lace industry, 1760-1960' (1960). Six boxes of his research papers have now been catalogued (MS 977). They contain 19th century records relating to the business interests of the Fisher family (lace manufacturers of Nottingham and London), and late 19th-early 20th century records of lace industry trade unions, accompanied by Cuthbert's notes and research papers.

Business records

Our recent *Fully Fashioned* exhibition at the Weston Gallery has resulted in generous donations of additional material relating to the textile trade in Nottingham. An album of photographs documents the work of the Wrights & Dobson Ltd factory, dyers and printers of Nottingham (ACC 3011). One of our regular volunteers has donated a lace sample book 'Fancy Laces 3', from MJ & Co. Ltd, presumed to be a Nottingham company. This was bought at the Castle Market auction and donated to us (ACC 3023).

We have also received branding material relating to the textile companies Pasolds and Viyella (ACC 3024). Pasolds was the owner of the Ladybird childrenswear brand, famously sold by Woolworths.

University material

We continue to receive material relating to University societies, which will be of interest to alumni. The Catholic Society from the 1970s to the 1990s is represented in a small collection of newsletters, accounts, marketing and display materials (*UU 21*). The University of Nottingham Men's Hockey Club has added to their archive (*UU 17*) with memorabilia and photographs from the 2018-2019 season.

There have also been notable additions to the University archive relating to former members of staff. The papers of Professor Chris Wrigley of the School of History, and also a local Labour politician, are numbered *MS 612*. A new accrual (*ACC 3012*) contains papers relating to his membership of various societies including the Historical Association, the Nottinghamshire/Derbyshire Labour History Society, the Rushcliffe/West Bridgford branch of the Labour Party and the Arkwright Society. There are also files of correspondence relating to two significant historians: Eric Hobsbawm and AJP Taylor, as well as files relating to the University's History Department.

Finally, we were delighted to receive mp3 copies of two recordings relating to Professor Frederick Challenger (1887-1983) of the Department of Chemistry (ACC 3029). The first takes the form of an interview, in which Challenger and Colonel BD Shaw, also of the Department of Chemistry, recall their experiences of working with Professor FS Kipping (1863-1949) at University College Nottingham. Challenger had worked with him on organosilicon compounds between 1907 and 1910. Shaw worked with him in the 1920s. The interview was recorded in 1970. It is remarkable that a recording received by us nearly 50 years later can take the listener back to

to events which happened more than a century ago. The second recording is of the Jesse Boot Foundation Lecture, given by Professor F. Challenger in 1980 when he was 92 years old.

Records of individuals

Two recent additions to existing collections give us a glimpse into the past lives of ordinary people. The Francis A. Harrison collection (*MS 465*) was originally focused on Frank Harrison himself (d 1988), a student of physics at University College Nottingham, who fought in the First World War, and later became a teacher at Bablake School, Coventry. We have now received the research papers of Harrison's son, which include diaries, photographs, newscuttings, correspondence and other materials telling the story of the wider family (*ACC 3079*).

A collection of postcards addressed to the Holderness sisters has been added to the DH Lawrence Collection (*La Mc 1/6, ACC 3022*). Kitty (Catherine) Holderness was a fellow student at Ilkeston teacher training college alongside DH Lawrence, and Lawrence also came to know her sisters Mabel, Elsie and Nellie (Ellen Mary). The postcards were mostly sent between the sisters, and provide brief details of their lives and travels. The picture sides of the postcards are interesting, many showing local views or photographic portraits.

Finally, a notable addition to the DH Lawrence Collection itself is the uncorrected proof copy of the 1932 edition of Lawrence's letters, edited and introduced by Aldous Huxley (1894 – 1963). The published edition launched by the publishers Heinemann in 1932 contains a number of edits and alterations which differ from the version in Huxley's proof copy. The publishers were careful to purge a number of obscenities and references to persons who potentially could have sued for libel. Only a handful of letters are affected, but in some instances the cuts are significant. This makes the proof copy a highly important reference document that presents Lawrence's language true to the manuscript letters, as well as capturing some of the candid disparagements Lawrence expressed in letters to trusted correspondents. Huxley's manuscript of this edition does not survive, which makes the proof copy the nearest equivalent to the letters themselves.

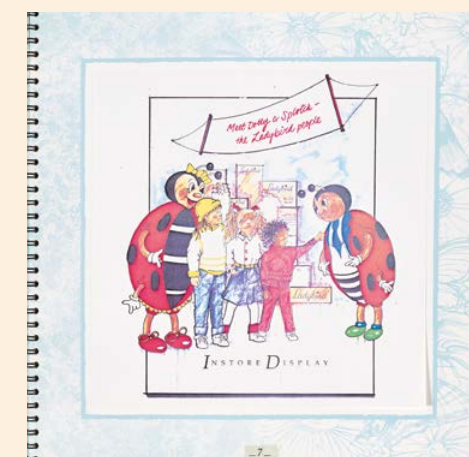


Illustration from Ladybird Corporate Marketing
and Style Forecast, Spring/Summer 1993

Background image: Detail from *Ma 9 P/6*



**University of
Nottingham**

UK | CHINA | MALAYSIA

Contact details

Manuscripts and Special Collections
University of Nottingham
King's Meadow Campus
Lenton Lane
Nottingham NG7 2NR



mss-library@nottingham.ac.uk



+44 (0)115 951 4565



nottingham.ac.uk/manuscriptsandspecialcollections



@mssUniNott



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