

Navigating Archives (and Beyond)

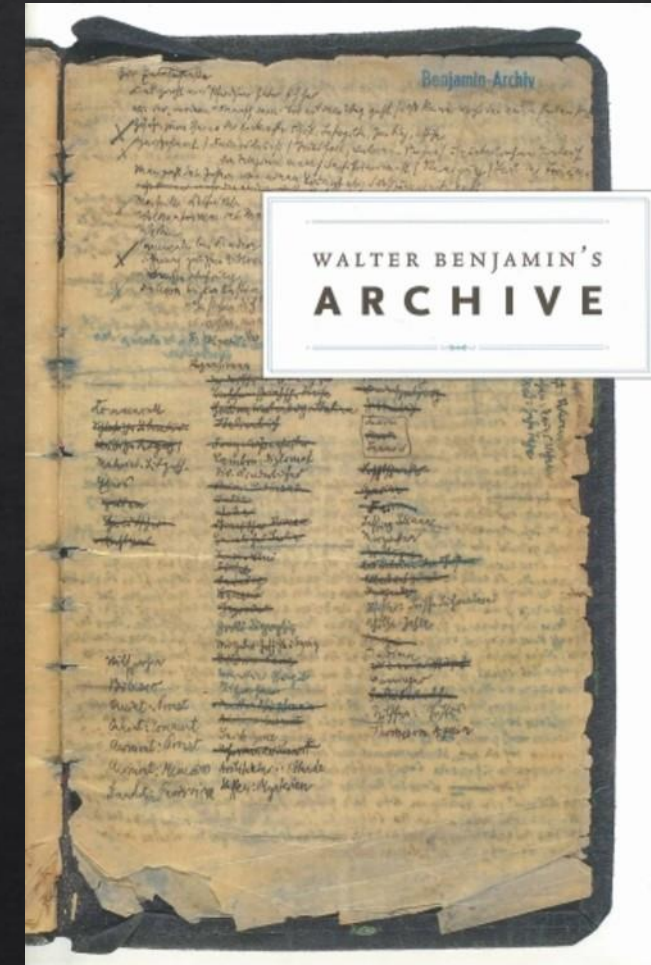
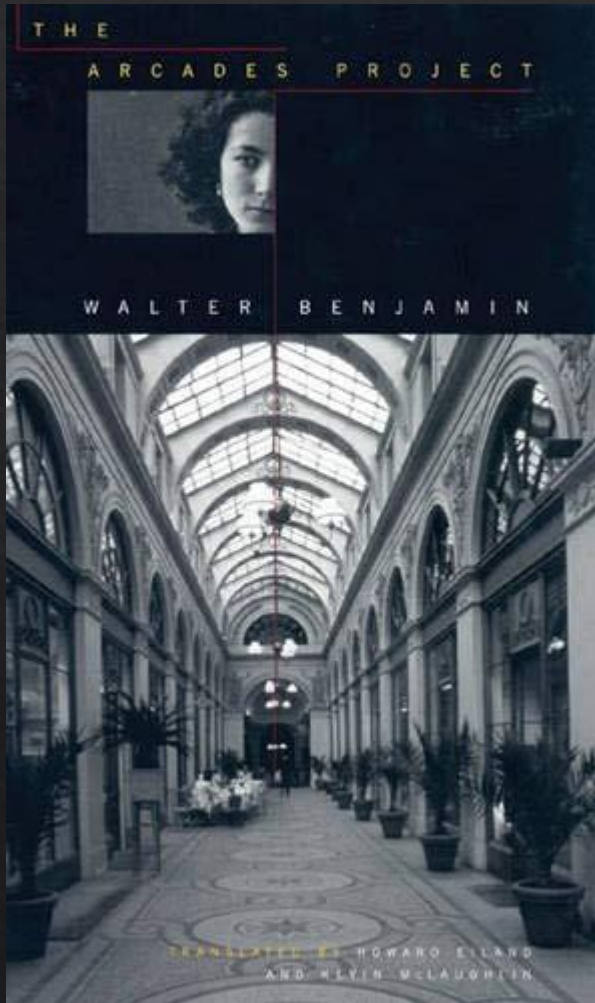


Numéro : 3454	Benjamin Walter	
— 22 12 1940 —		
DÉPARTEMENTS : IMPRIMÉS, MSS., EST.		
Titres : Docteur en Philosophie Citoyen littéraire		
Adresse : Rue Dombasle Paris XV 11 Saures 1940-1941		
Observations : Rec. en 1933 verb. sur le Droit de l'Homme et en 1940, 15 R. Ch. Lato professeur à la Sorbonne.		

The Lure of the Archive

“I am in the
arcades”

- Walter Benjamin (1892 – 1940, pictured on previous slides) letter to Theodor Adorno while conducting archival research at Bibliothèque Nationale, Paris



PART ONE: 'DECONSTRUCTING' RESEARCH PROJECTS

PART TWO: ARCHIVES RECAP

PART THREE: BEYOND THE (PHYSICAL) ARCHIVE

PART FOUR: THINKING CRITICALLY ABOUT ARCHIVES

(possibly next week)

PART ONE:

‘DECONSTRUCTING’ RESEARCH PROJECTS

- ◆ Charles C Rozier, 'Repairing the Loss of the Past: The Use of Written, Oral and Physical Evidence in the Ecclesiastical History of Orderic Vitalis (c.1113–42), *Historical Research*, 92:257 (August 2019): 461–478.
- ◆ Janet E Burton, 'Authority and Conflict at the Cistercian Abbey of Strata Florida,' *Welsh History Review / Cylchgrawn Hanes Cymru*, 29/3 (2019), pp. 377–407.
- ◆ Alexander Scott, '"A Permanent Civilising Effect"? The Impact of Reforming Working-Class Museum Visitors in Liverpool during the 19th Century,' in *Museums and the Working Class*, ed. by Adele Chynoweth (Abingdon: Routledge, 2022): 21–34.
- ◆ Harriett R Webster, 'The Annals of Dunstable Priory: From Living Memory to Written Record in a Thirteenth-Century Textual Community,' *Journal of Medieval Monastic Studies*, 9 (2020), pp. 147—173.

◊ What is historiography
(anyway)?

HISTORIOGRAPHY

‘The history of history’

The ways in which history has been written about and interpreted by historians

The theories, methods and approaches used by historians to research the past

The interpretive, theoretical and methodological debates that historians engage in

HISTORIOGRAPHY

- ◆ Charles C Rozier, 'Repairing the Loss of the Past: The Use of Written, Oral and Physical Evidence in the Ecclesiastical History of Orderic Vitalis (c.1113–42), *Historical Research*, 92:257 (August 2019): 461–478.
- ◆ Harriett R Webster, 'The Annals of Dunstable Priory: From Living Memory to Written Record in a Thirteenth-Century Textual Community,' *Journal of Medieval Monastic Studies*, 9 (2020), pp. 147—173.
- ◆ What do these articles tell us about 'the history of history writing' in the Middle Ages?



'DECONSTRUCTING' RESEARCH PROJECTS

- ◆ What did you make of the articles/chapters?
- ◆ What can you say about them from an historiographical standpoint?
- ◆ What types of historiographical debates do they engage in?
- ◆ What 'types' of history might the articles be examples of?
- ◆ What research methods and approaches may have been used in their composition?

‘DECONSTRUCTING’ RESEARCH PROJECTS

- ◆ What types of primary source which you can identify in the articles/chapters?
- ◆ What archives can you identify as having been used in the composition of the articles/chapters?
- ◆ What online sources can you identify as having been used in the composition of the articles/chapters?
- ◆ Do the authors raise any interpretive issues relating to the types of sources used in the articles/chapters?

‘DECONSTRUCTING’ RESEARCH PROJECTS

- ◆ How do you think the authors actually *did* the research that led to these publications
- ◆ What insights might these articles provide about the research process?
- ◆ Is a research project ever ‘complete’?

Is a research project ever ‘complete’?

“Glimpses of would-be gorillas eventually became commonplace enough for ‘a stuffed gorilla in a naturalist shop’ to be the subject of a painting at a Liverpool fine art exhibition in 1879.²⁴

....²⁴ *Mercury*, 15 May 1879, p. 8. The painting was by Augustus Edwin Mulready. See Nicholas Daly, *The Demographic Imagination and the Nineteenth-Century City: Paris, London, New York* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2015), pp. 132–146.”

(From Scott, ““Missing Link,”” p. 6)



Maritime Spaces, Shows, and the Nineteenth-Century City

Friday 12 April 2019 | University College Cork | Call for Papers

Keynote Speakers: Graeme Milne, Senior Lecturer in Modern History, University of Liverpool, & Clare Pettitt, Professor of Nineteenth Century Literature and Culture, King's College London

In recent decades, circum-Atlantic and global discourses have pushed us as scholars in the humanities to reappraise the place of the maritime, and its effects, in our conception of the nineteenth century. Writers, artists, and audiences were closer to the sea and shipping, both figuratively and literally, than we once thought, leading us to examine how this relationship shaped the thoughts, perceptions, and practices of port citizens across the Atlantic archipelago.

This interdisciplinary one-day conference, which will also feature a staged reading of selected scenes from a nautical melodrama, is envisaged as the first in a series of fora in future years that will provide a space for nineteenth-centuryists in Ireland researching a broad geographical range of literary contexts.

Please submit abstracts (max. 300 words) for standard twenty minute papers, with a brief biography, to joanna.hofer-robinson@ucc.ie by **Friday 1 February 2019**. Possible topics include, but are by no means limited to:

- Themes of (water-based) mobility
- Cities/literature/theatre and the maritime
- Migration and movement of people/goods
- Maritime identities (personal, local, civic)
- Perceptions of dockland spaces
- Social hierarchies of dockland labour
- Trade unionism and the docks

For more information please visit maritimespaces.wordpress.com or contact one of the organisers, Joanna Hofer-Robinson (joanna.hofer-robinson@ucc.ie) or Oskar Cox Jensen (o.c.jensen@qmul.ac.uk)



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Augustus Edwin Mulready

Augustus Edwin Mulready was active/lived in United Kingdom. Augustus Mulready is known for floral still life and figure painting.

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Auction Lot Details for Augustus Edwin Mulready

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A Naturalists Window

Augustus Edwin Mulready

Hammer Price*: \$2,625 (£2,000)

*Does not include auction fee to buyer

Low Estimate: \$656 (£500)

High Estimate: \$1,050 (£800)

Auction Lot: 1532

Auction House: Lawrences - Bletchingley

Auction Date: 12/04/2018 - 12/06/2018

Signed and Dated

23.00" x 18.50" (58.42cm x 46.99cm)

Created: 1878

Oil / Canvas



Art images copyrighted: of artist or assignee

Condition: Cracking to paint in darker areas, also canvas has a join on the left from top to bottom, has been done before the sketch was painted. Needs cleaning and re-framing.

Lot Note(s): signed and dated '78, also signed and dated verso

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us Edwin Mulready



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PART TWO:
ARCHIVES RECAP

DEFINING 'THE' ARCHIVE

◆ What is an archive (anyway)?

DEFINING 'THE' ARCHIVE

Archive, n.

1. A place in which public records or other important historic documents are kept.
2. A historical record or document so preserved.



DEFINING 'THE' ARCHIVE

◆ How many of you have been to a physical archive before? What types of places are archives?

DEFINING 'THE' ARCHIVE

- ◆ What are some of the key distinctions between how professional archivists 'officially' use the term 'archive' and some of the ways in which the phrase is used in everyday parlance?

THE ARCHIVAL PROFESSION

What distinguishes the following:

- ◆ Public Records
- ◆ Official Records
- ◆ Ecclesiastical Records
- ◆ Deposited Records?

THE ARCHIVAL PROFESSION

- ◊ Who decides what public records get kept and why?
- ◊ What closure periods or embargoes exist in relation to public records?

CLOSURE PERIODS

- ◆ 30 years for public and official records
- ◆ 50 years for 'personally sensitive records'
- ◆ 75 years for 'personally sensitive information about persons under 21'
- ◆ 100 years for 'confidential information' e.g. the census returns

PUBLIC RECORDS RELEASES

NO 10 SECRETS OF 1981 REVEALED



By TOM HARRY

Liverpool Echo

MARGARET Thatcher was urged to cut Liverpool adrift and leave it to rot in the aftermath of the 1981 Toxteth riots.

The Tory PM was advised by then Chancellor Geoffrey Howe to abandon the city to a fate of "managed decline".

To move to her warning of the need "not to overcommit scarce resources to Liverpool".

In secret documents revealed by the first time yesterday under the 30-year rule, he said: "I fear that Merseyside is going to be much the hardest nut to crack."

He did not want to find ourselves concentrating all the limited cash that may have to be made available into Liverpool and having nothing left for possibly more promising areas such as the West Midlands or even the North East.

He added: "It would be even more regrettable if some of the brighter ideas for renewing economic activity were to be blown only on relatively stony ground on the banks of the Mersey."

STAGGERING

I cannot help feeling that the option of managed decline is one which we should not forget altogether. We must not regard all our limited resources as trying to make water flow uphill."

Aware of how controversial his remarks would be, Sir Geoffrey said "managed decline" was not a term for general use.

The shocking revelations confirm what many had long suspected about the Thatcher regime's attitude towards Merseyside and the North West in general.

Berkshire, former deputy leader of Liverpool City Council, said last night: "It is quite clear that Thatcher and her government were not to get Liverpool - and now we finally have the proof."

The National Archive papers show the government's

ABANDON LIVERPOOL

- ▶ Howe's call to Thatcher after Toxteth
- ▶ She considered giving guns to riot cops
- ▶ Fears of mob ruining Diana's wedding

the guardian

Thatcher's ministers wanted to abandon Liverpool



Media coverage,
December 30 2011



30 December 2011 Last updated at 16:56

Toxteth riots: Howe proposed 'managed decline' for city

(3 COMMENTS (387))

Margaret Thatcher was urged to abandon Liverpool to "managed decline" by her chancellor, newly-released National Archives files have revealed.

The confidential government documents, made available under the 30-year rule, reveal Cabinet discussions following the July 1981 Toxteth riots.

But then-Chancellor Lord Howe has said his short letter was misunderstood.

The riots, which lasted for eight days, followed the arrest of Leroy Alphonse Cooper on Seelborne Street.

Some 480 police officers were injured during the disturbances, which began on 3 July.

More than 70 buildings were demolished or burnt down as tensions boiled over between the police and the district's African-Caribbean community.

'Stony ground'

While ministers such as the then Secretary of State for the Environment, Michael Heseltine, were arguing for regeneration funding to rebuild the lothly communities, Sir Geoffrey Howe, now Lord Howe, thought it would be a waste of money.

He warned Mrs Thatcher "not to over commit scarce resources to Liverpool".

I fear that Merseyside is going to be much the hardest nut to crack," he said.

We do not want to find ourselves concentrating all the limited cash that may have to be made available into Liverpool and having nothing left for possibly more promising areas such as the West Midlands or even the North East.

It would be even more regrettable if some of the brighter ideas for renewing economic activity were to be blown only on relatively stony ground on the banks of the Mersey.



Sending more money to Liverpool was like making "water flow uphill", the chancellor had said

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News

FRIDAY | 30 DECEMBER 2011 | UK

Thatcher told: leave Liverpool to 'managed decline'

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National Archive papers released today show Margaret Thatcher was advised not to invest in Liverpool after riots in 1981 - as well as proving the Iron Lady's tight grip on her home improvement budget.

Thatcher told 'leave Liverpool to managed decline'



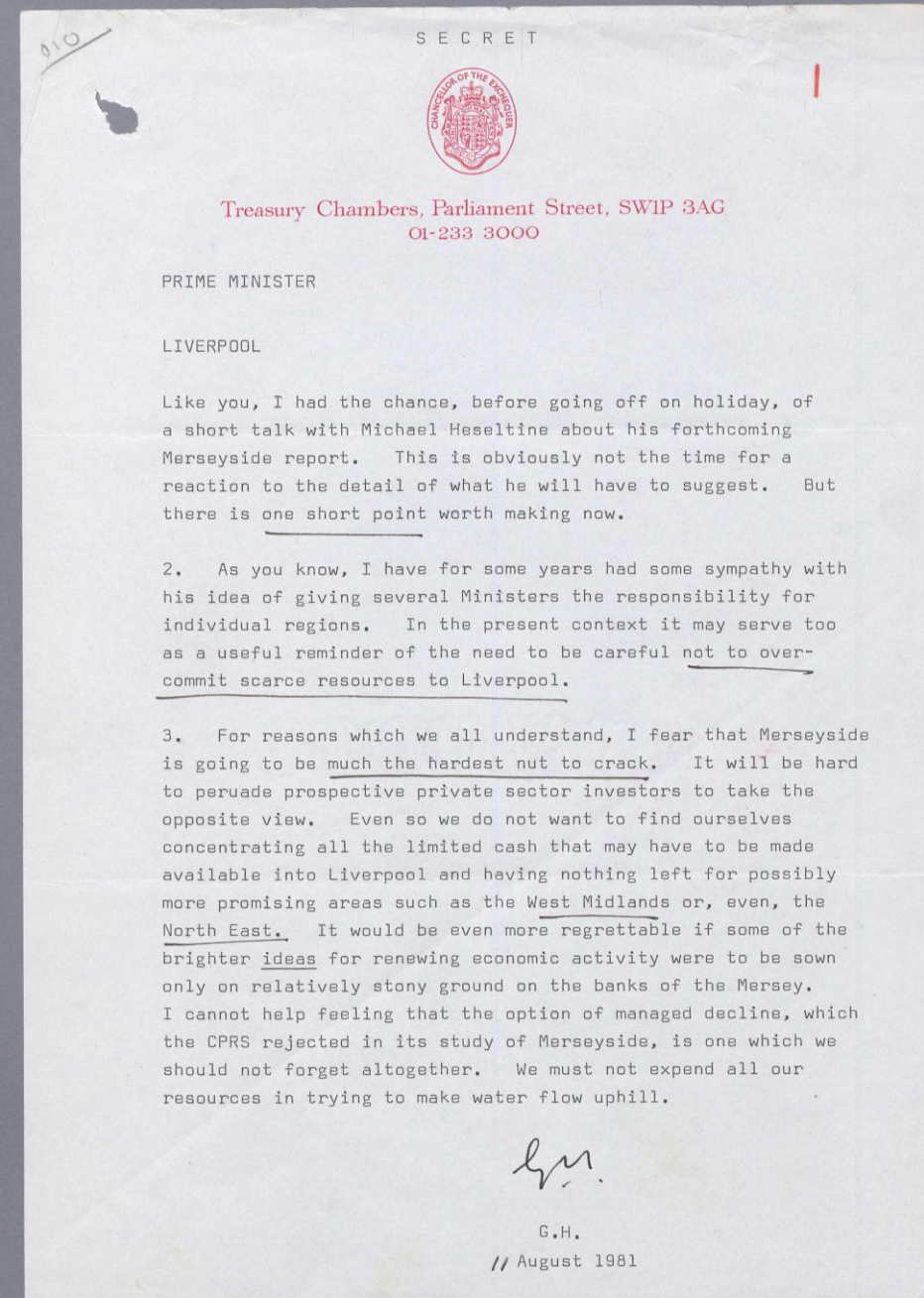
◆ PREM19/578

<https://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/details/r/C11918866>

See also:

Margaret Thatcher Foundation

<https://www.margaretthatcher.org/>



PART THREE: BEYOND THE (PHYSICAL) ARCHIVE

How to do archival
research in Covid
times?

Staying COVID-19 Secure in 2020
We confirm we have complied with the government's guidance on managing the risk of COVID-19

FIVE STEPS TO SAFER WORKING TOGETHER

- ✓ We have carried out a **COVID-19 risk assessment** and shared the results with the people who work here
- ✓ We have **cleaning, handwashing and hygiene procedures** in line with guidance
- ✓ We have taken all reasonable steps to **help people work from home**
- ✓ We have taken all reasonable steps to **maintain a 2m distance** in the workplace
- ✓ Where people cannot be 2m apart, we have done everything practical to **manage transmission risk**

Employer The National Archives Date 25 June 2020


Who to contact: Operations Director
(or the Health and Safety Executive at www.hse.gov.uk or 0300 003 1647)



Beyond the Physical Archive: Newspaper Collections

MOST COMPREHENSIVE (AND USEFUL FOR 20th-CENTURY RESEARCH)

- ◆ <https://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/> (personal subscription required)

USEFUL FOR 19th-CENTURY RESEARCH

- ◆ [British Library Newspapers](#) via UWTSD
- ◆ Welsh Newspapers online via National Library of Wales – [become a member \(online-only option available\)](#)

USEFUL FOR 21st-CENTURY RESEARCH

- ◆ [Newsbank](#) via UWTSD

Also: *New York Times* has an excellent user-friendly archive available to subscribers

National Library of Wales – Digital Collections

View Manuscripts

Go back in time and walk in the footsteps of our ancestors through these digital versions of some of the Library's greatest treasures.

Read through some of the most important and influential manuscripts in Welsh history. From the laws that shaped the Wales of the middle ages, to inspiring magazines created by Welsh prisoners of war during the Second World War.

The manuscripts section is split into four broad periods for ease of use: The Early Ages (–800), The Middle Ages (c. 800–1500), Early Modern Period (c. 1500–1800), Modern Period (c. 1800–)

The Early Age

The Oxyrhynchus Papyri (NLW MS 4738D) 3 ancient Egyptian fragments of papyrus (113 AD-4th cent.)

The Middle Ages

Laws of Hywel Dda, Black Book of Carmarthen, The Battles of Alexander the Great...

Early Modern Period

Elis Gruffudd's Chronicle, History of the Gwydir family, Early tourists...

Modern Period

Register of criminals, Dylan Thomas and the map of Llareggub, Prisoner of war camp magazines...

<https://www.library.wales/visit/before-your-visit/readers-ticket>

National Library of Wales – Manuscripts

<https://www.library.wales/discover/digital-gallery/manuscripts/the-middle-ages>

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De natura rerum

Confirmatio of Henry de Gower

History of the Kings

Roman de la Rose

Laws of Hywel Dda

The Black Book of Carmarthen

Book of Aneirin

Hendregadredd Manuscript

Book of Taliesin

The Great Easton Missal

Sherbrooke Missal

Chronicle of the Princes

A Welsh text of the Laws of Hywel Dda

The Boston Manuscript of the Laws of Hywel Dda

De Consolatione Philosophiae

White Book of Rhydderch

The 'Hengwrt Chaucer'

The Llanbeblig Book of Hours

Dafydd ap Gwilym and the

History of the Kings

Reference: Peniarth MS 23C

Peniarth MS 23 is one of only a handful of medieval Welsh manuscripts to have been illustrated, and is probably the only Welsh-language medieval narrative text accompanied by illustrations. It contains one of the most significant works of the medieval period, translated into Welsh.

Brut y Brenhinedd, [late 15 cent.-early 16 cent.]



ATtribution

Llyfrgell Genedlaethol Cymru – The National Library of Wales

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PLACES



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Latest Digitized Materials









Bodleian Library, University of Oxford

◇ <https://digital.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/>

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Language

- Latin (1723)
- Greek (358)
- English, Middle (1100-1500) (230)
- French, Middle (ca. 1400-1600) (151)
- English (102)
- Italian (70)
- French, Old (842-ca. 1400) (55)

Metadata

ID: 441db95d-cdff-472e-bb2d-b46f043db82d

Shelfmark: Balliol College MS 238A

Title: Fons memorabilium uniuersi (Part I)

Creators: Bandini, Domenico [author]

Contributors: Werken, Theodoricus [scribe]

Date: 1444-1448

Place of origin: [Cologne]

Languages: Latin

Description: An encyclopaedia in Latin, here in a set of five volumes possibly from an original six (lacking Part V Book I). Made for William Gray (d. 1478), later Bishop of Ely, during his travels in Germany and Italy. The various scribes and illuminators, perhaps working largely at Cologne, display an international range of influences: Dutch, Italian, English, even Spanish. Illuminated initials and borders sometimes include Gray's coat of arms. Continued in MSS 238B-E. Decoration: The first line of each chapter in large ornamental letters, often run into the margin with heavy scrollwork, sometimes enlivened with grotesque faces. Red headings, capitals in red and blue. Each book has a handsome initial in gold and colour, with conventional foliage and pink or blue flowers; 1 has a full-page border, and Gray's arms in the initial (the lion reversed). Material: vellum | Hand: Good clear hand, that of MS 238B. | Extent: 136 ff. 14 x 9.75 in. | Layout: 2 cols. of 48 lines. | Provenance: William Gray (d. 1478), later Bishop of Ely. Bequeathed with his library to Balliol College. | Additional Information: Mynors catalogue entry: <http://archives.balliol.ox.ac.uk/Ancient/>

Collections: Western Medieval Manuscripts, Early Manuscripts at Oxford

Balliol College MS 238A | Fons memorabilium uniuersi (Part I)
Bandini, Domenico [author]

Balliol College MS 238B | Fons memorabilium uniuersi (Parts II and III)
Bandini, Domenico [author]

Balliol College MS 238C | Fons memorabilium uniuersi (Part IV, Books...
Bandini, Domenico [author]

Balliol College MS 238D | Fons memorabilium uniuersi (Part IV, Books...
Bandini, Domenico [author]

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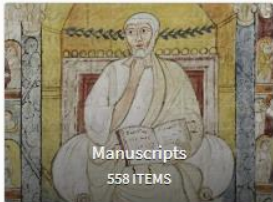
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Corpus Christi College
UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

Corpus Christi College and the Stanford University Libraries welcome you to Parker Library on the Web, a digital exhibit designed to support use and study of the manuscripts in the historic Parker Library at Corpus Christi College, Cambridge. The Parker Library is a treasure trove of rare medieval and Renaissance manuscripts, as well as early printed books. Almost all manuscripts in the Parker Library collection have been fully digitised and are available in this exhibit, along with associated bibliographic references and annotations made by scholars from around the world.

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https://warwick.ac.uk/services/library/mrc/archives_online/

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COLLECTION
10th-16th Century Liturgical Chants

The acquisition of medieval liturgical chant manuscripts that trace the history of music notation as it evolved over half a millennium, became a major collection priority in the Music Division beginning in...

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Aaron Copland Collection

The first release of the online collection contains approximately 1,000 items that yield a total of about 5,000 images. These items date from 1899 to 1981, with most from the 1920s through...

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This collection contains 1,819 photographs in 51 large-format albums date from about 1880 to 1893. They portray the Ottoman Empire during the reign of one of its last sultans, Abdul-Hamid II and...

COLLECTION
Abdul-Hamid II Collection of Books and Serials Gifted to the Library of Congress

In 1884 Sultan Abdul-Hamid II gifted the Library of Congress with a collection of Ottoman Turkish, Persian, Arabic works that he had richly embellished with this...

External Resources

◇ <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/>

◇ www.archive.org

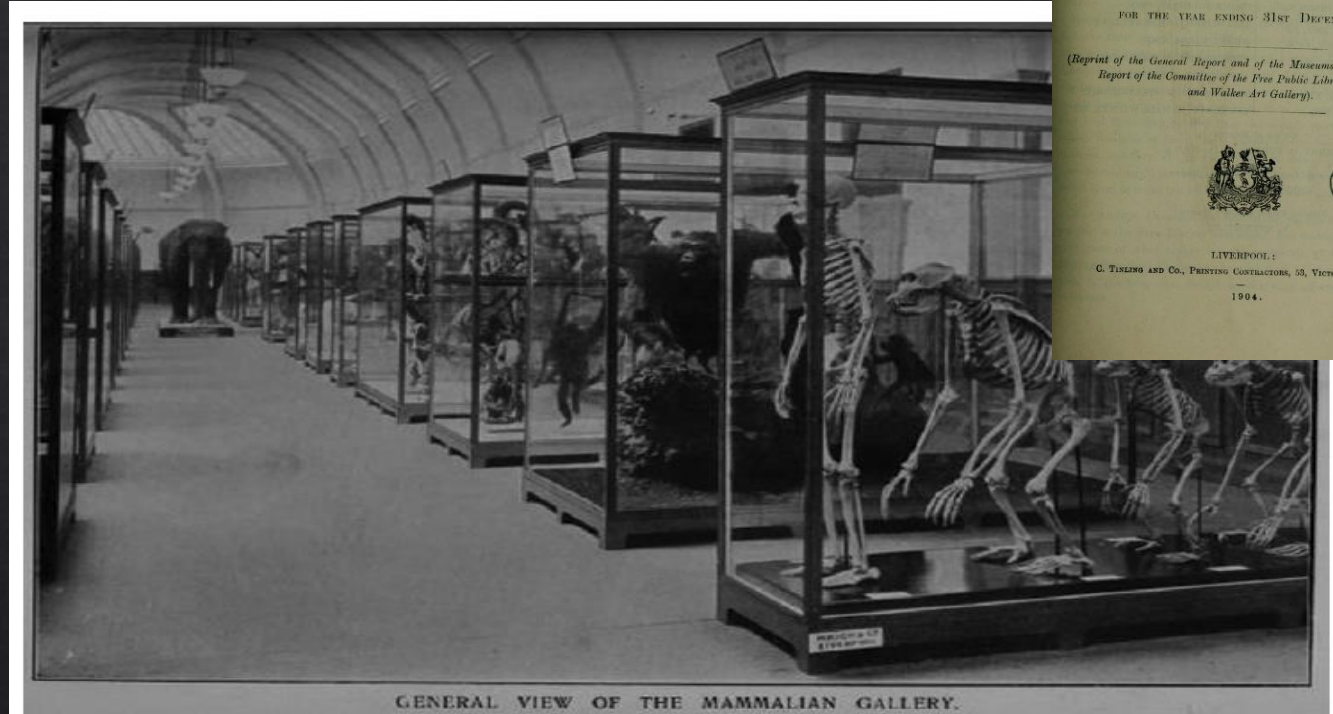
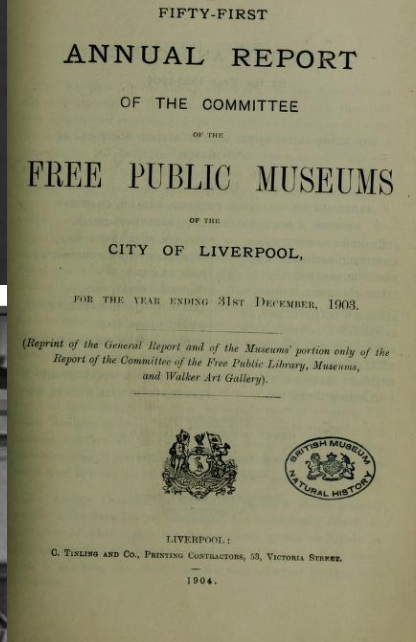


Figure 1. Gorilla and primate specimens in Liverpool Museum Mammalian Gallery, *Fifty-First Annual Report of the Committee of the Free Public Museums of the City of Liverpool* (Liverpool: C. Tinling, 1904). Biodiversity Heritage Library <<https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/bibliography/12565#/summary>> [accessed 5 May 2019].



PART FOUR:
THINKING CRITICALLY ABOUT
ARCHIVES



Jac St John @JacStJohn1 · 9 Dec

Have just been told by the head of security @britishlibrary that I have to remove my @ucu strike sticker if I am going to be in the library. @DrJoGrady is this true?!



17

98

216



BL Press Office
@BLpressoffice

Replying to @JacStJohn1, @britishlibrary and 2 others

Hi Jac - we've looked into this and you should not have been asked to remove the sticker. We try to maintain the Library as a neutral and apolitical space, but in this case we made the wrong call – our apologies for any distress caused.

3:53 pm · 9 Dec 2019 · [Twitter Web Client](#)

21 Retweets 117 Likes



◆ Are libraries and archives ‘neutral, apolitical spaces’?

POLITICS OF ARCHIVES

- ◆ What political issues might be involved in, or related to, archiving and archives?
- ◆ What political, economic or technological issues might impact upon archives and their contemporary status?

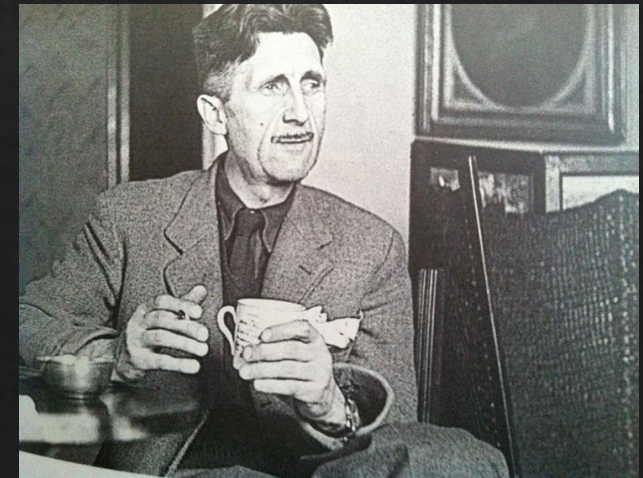
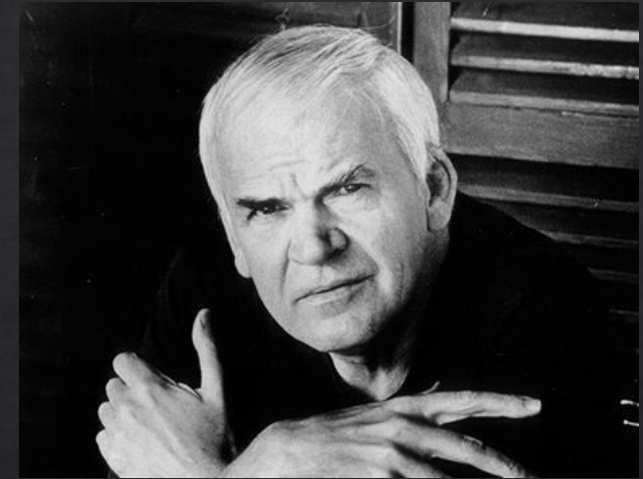
ARCHIVES AND INFORMATION CONTROL

“We fight for access to the labs where we can retouch photos and rewrite biographies and history.”

- Milan Kundera, *The Book of Laughter and Forgetting* (1978)

“Does the past exist concretely, in space? Is there somewhere or other a place, a world of solid objects, where the past is still happening ... We, the Party, control all records, and we control all memories. Then we control the past do we not?”

- George Orwell, *Nineteen Eighty-Four* (1949)



QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

- ◆ Think of an example of an archival source
 - What *limitations* and *potentialities* does it offer?
 - How might you read the source *with* and *against* the grain?

Activity

Have a go at doing preparation work for your first assessment. Think about who/what you would like to write about in your archival exercise. Compile a list of three to five archival sources relating to your chosen topic. Practice the correct referencing style for your chosen sources, and provide a brief commentary about their content and utility.



Archival exercise practice - complete before week 3 lecture

Further Reading

Below are links to useful readings for thinking critically about archives.



Thomas Richards, *The Imperial Archive: Knowledge and the Fantasy of Empire*



Kimberly Mair, *In Search of the Archive without an Address*



Jacques Derrida, 'Archive Fever: A Freudian Impression'