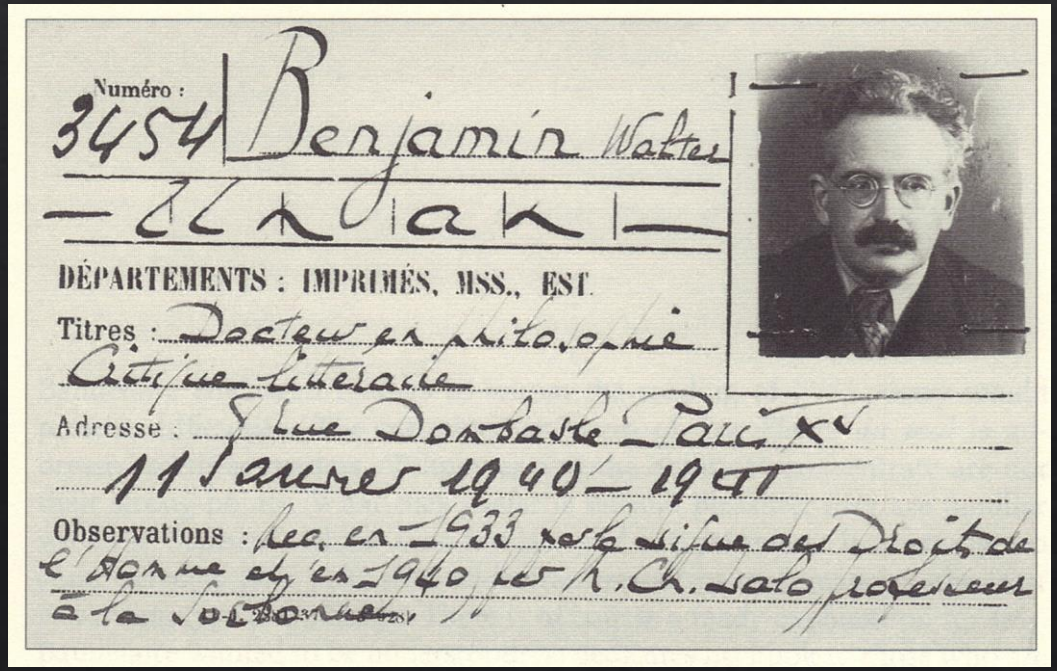
# Navigating Archives *(and Beyond)*





Numéro : 3454 Benjamin Walter

DÉPARTEMENTS : IMPRIMÉS, MSS., EST.

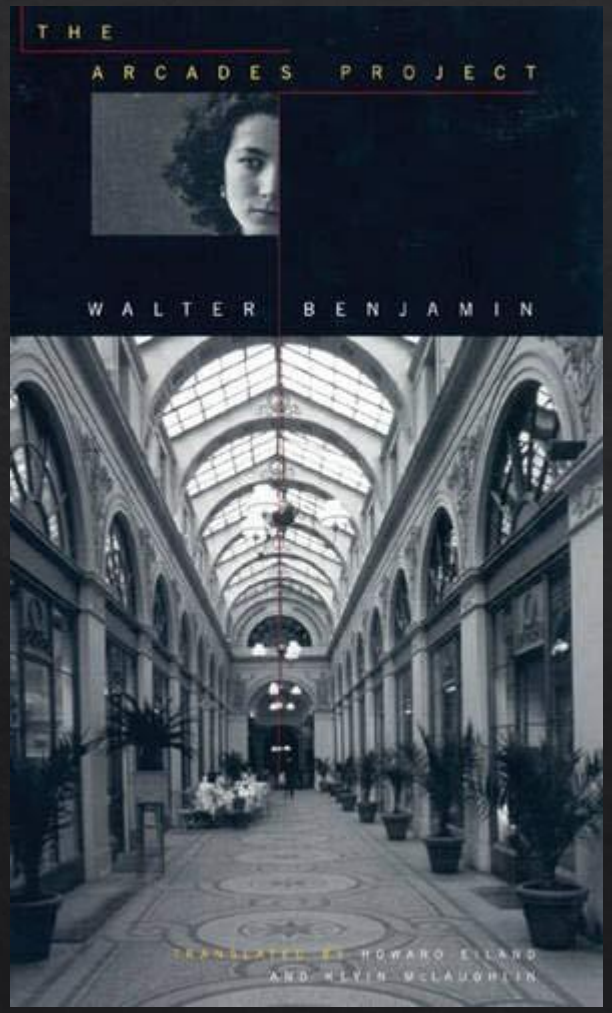
Titres : Docteur en philosophie
Critique littéraire

Adresse : 7 rue Dombasle — Paris XV

1933 1940 — 1941

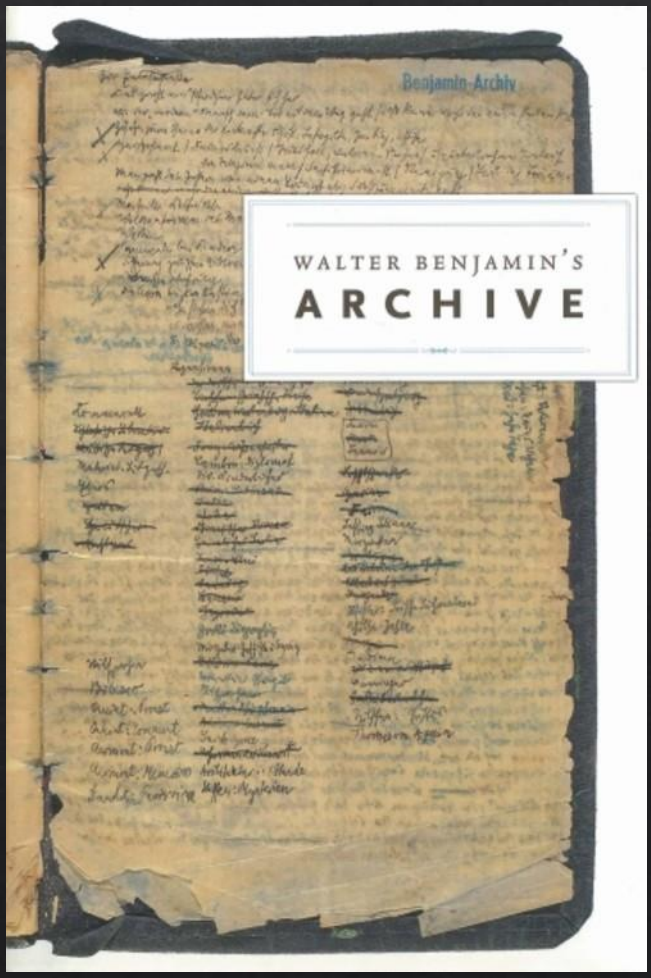
Observations : Rec. en 1933 vers la fin des Droits de l'Homme et en 1940 par M. Ch. Lalo professeur à la Sorbonne.

# *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

- 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, 'The "Missing Link" Between Science and Show Business: Exhibiting Gorillas and Chimpanzees in Victorian Liverpool,' *Journal of Victorian Culture*, 25:1 (January 2020): 1–20.
- 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

# ‘DECONSTRUCTING’ RESEARCH PROJECTS

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, 'The "Missing Link" Between Science and Show Business: Exhibiting Gorillas and Chimpanzees in Victorian Liverpool,' *Journal of Victorian Culture*, 25:1 (January 2020): 1–20.

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 can you say about the articles from an historiographical standpoint?
- What types of historiographical debates do the articles 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

- 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’?

# ‘DECONSTRUCTING’ RESEARCH PROJECTS

- What types of primary source which you can identify in the articles?
- 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?

# 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)



Mail 4G 09:42 67%

Not Secure — askart.com

askART What's my art worth? Auction Records Research Art Buy / Sell Our Services Log out My Account

Enter artist name or use alphabet a b c d e f g h i j k l m n o p q r s t u v w x y z

# Augustus Edwin Mulready (1844 - 1905)

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

| The Artist | Auction Records | Buy / Sell | Resources |
|---|---|---|---|
| Overview | Auction Records (90) | For Sale (0) | Signatures (9) |
| Biography | Upcoming Auctions (0) | Wanted (0) | Selected works (77) |
| Quick Facts | What's my art worth? | Dealers (0) | Publications |
| Get Alerts | Charts / Record Price | Place an Ad | Related Artists |

Auction Lot Details for Augustus Edwin Mulready

< Back to previous page

*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 copyright© of artist or assignee

**Condition:** Crazing 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

< Back to previous page

Mail 4G 09:42 66%

Not Secure — askart.com

us Edwin Mulready



Art images copyright© of artist or assignee

# PART TWO:
# ARCHIVES RECAP

# DEFINING ‘THE’ ARCHIVE

- What is an archive (anyway)?

- 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

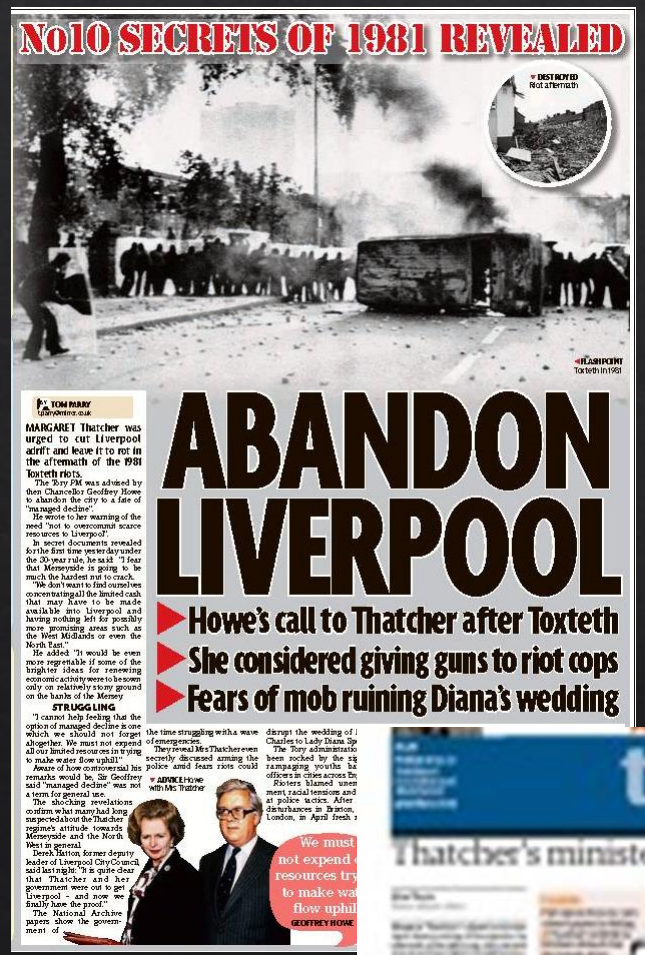
- Who decides what public records get kept and why?
- What closure periods or embargoes exist in relation to public records?

# 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

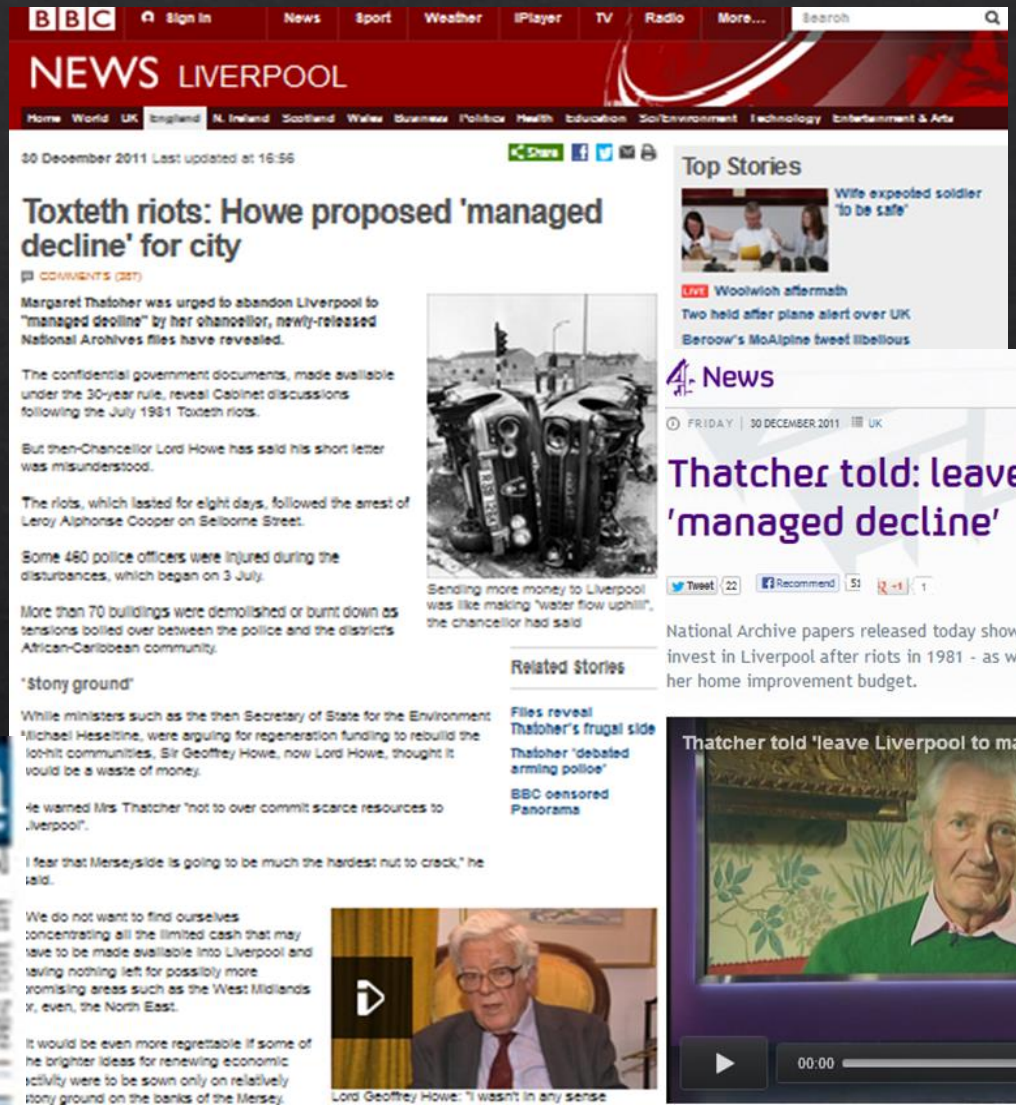
# PUBLIC RECORDS RELEASES

Media coverage,
December 30 2011









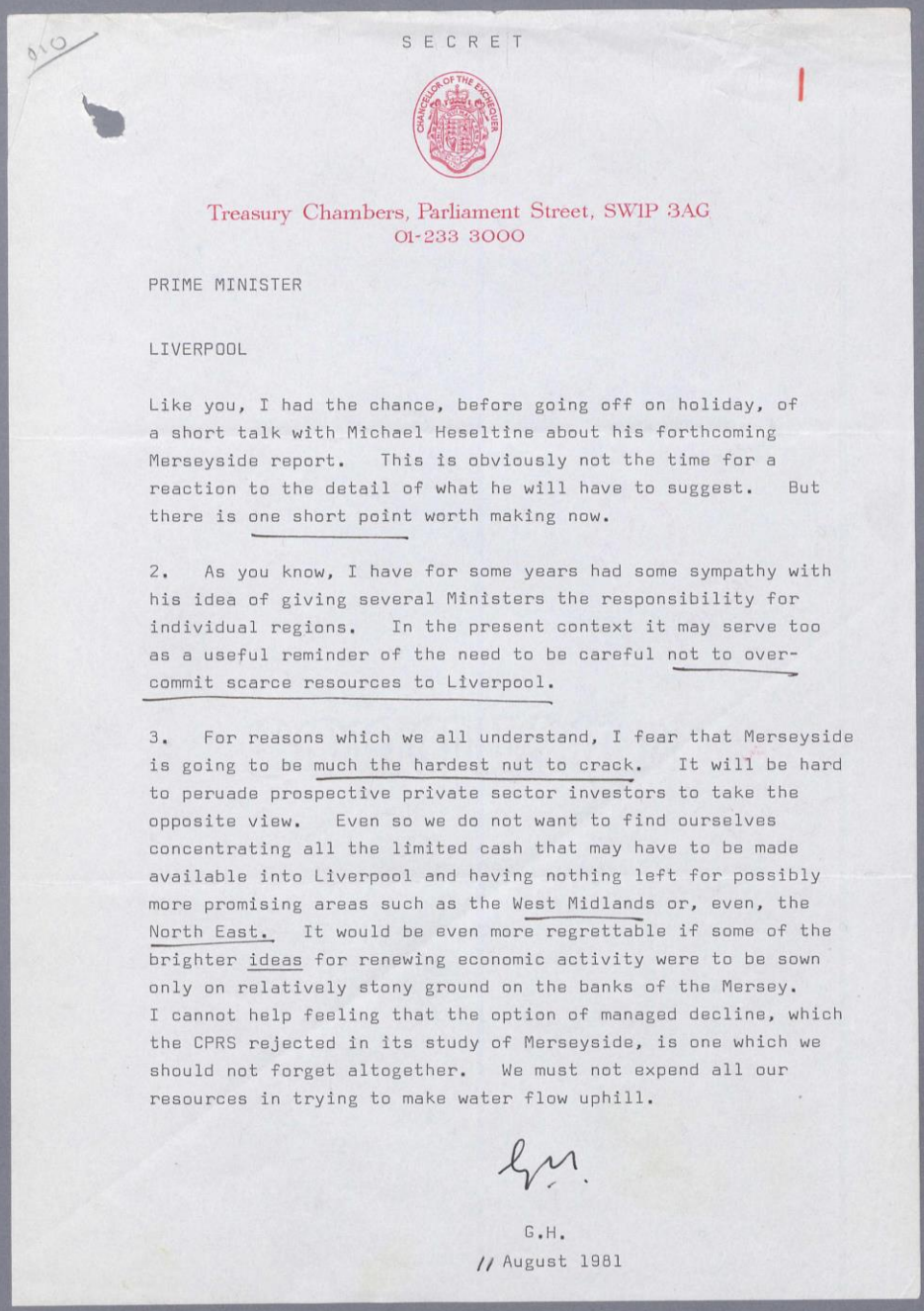
- PREM19/578

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

See also:

Margaret Thatcher Foundation

https://www.margaretthatcher.org/



SECRET

Treasury Chambers, Parliament Street, SW1P 3AG
01-233 3000

PRIME MINISTER

LIVERPOOL

Like you, I had the chance, before going off on holiday, of a short talk with Michael Heseltine about his forthcoming Merseyside report. This is obviously not the time for a reaction to the detail of what he will have to suggest. But there is one short point worth making now.

2. As you know, I have for some years had some sympathy with his idea of giving several Ministers the responsibility for individual regions. In the present context it may serve too as a useful reminder of the need to be careful not to over-commit scarce resources to Liverpool.

3. For reasons which we all understand, I fear that Merseyside is going to be much the hardest nut to crack. It will be hard to peruade prospective private sector investors to take the opposite view. Even so 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 sown only on relatively stony ground on the banks of the Mersey. I cannot help feeling that the option of managed decline, which the CPRS rejected in its study of Merseyside, is one which we should not forget altogether. We must not expend all our resources in trying to make water flow uphill.

G.H.

// August 1981

# 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

J. Jamm

Who to contact: Operations Director

(or the Health and Safety Executive at www.hse.gov.uk or 0300 003 1647)

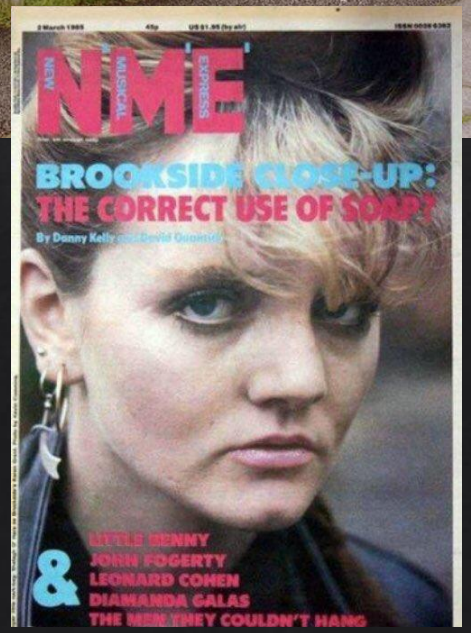

Imagine

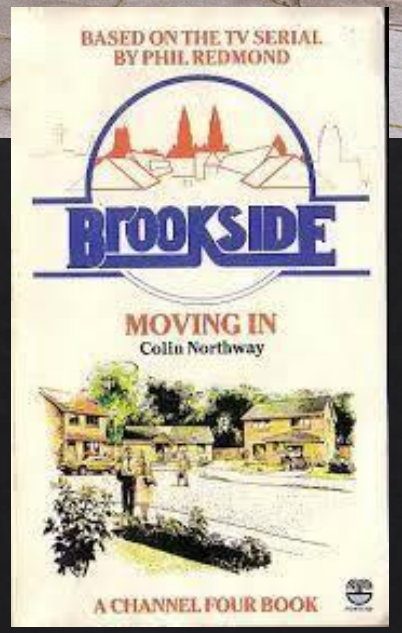



Brookside Soapbox
The Unofficial Brookside Site
BROOKSIDE CLOSE
http://www.btinternet.com/brooksidesoapbox/

YouTube


BROOKSIDE CLOSE


NME
BROOKSIDE CLOSE-UP:
THE CORRECT USE OF SOAP?
LITTLE BENNY
JOHN FOGERTY
LEONARD COHEN
DIAMANDA GALAS
THE MEN THEY COULDN'T HANG


BASED ON THE TV SERIAL
BY PHIL REDMOND
BROOKSIDE
MOVING IN
Colin Northway
A CHANNEL FOUR BOOK

# 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 Oxyrhyncus 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...

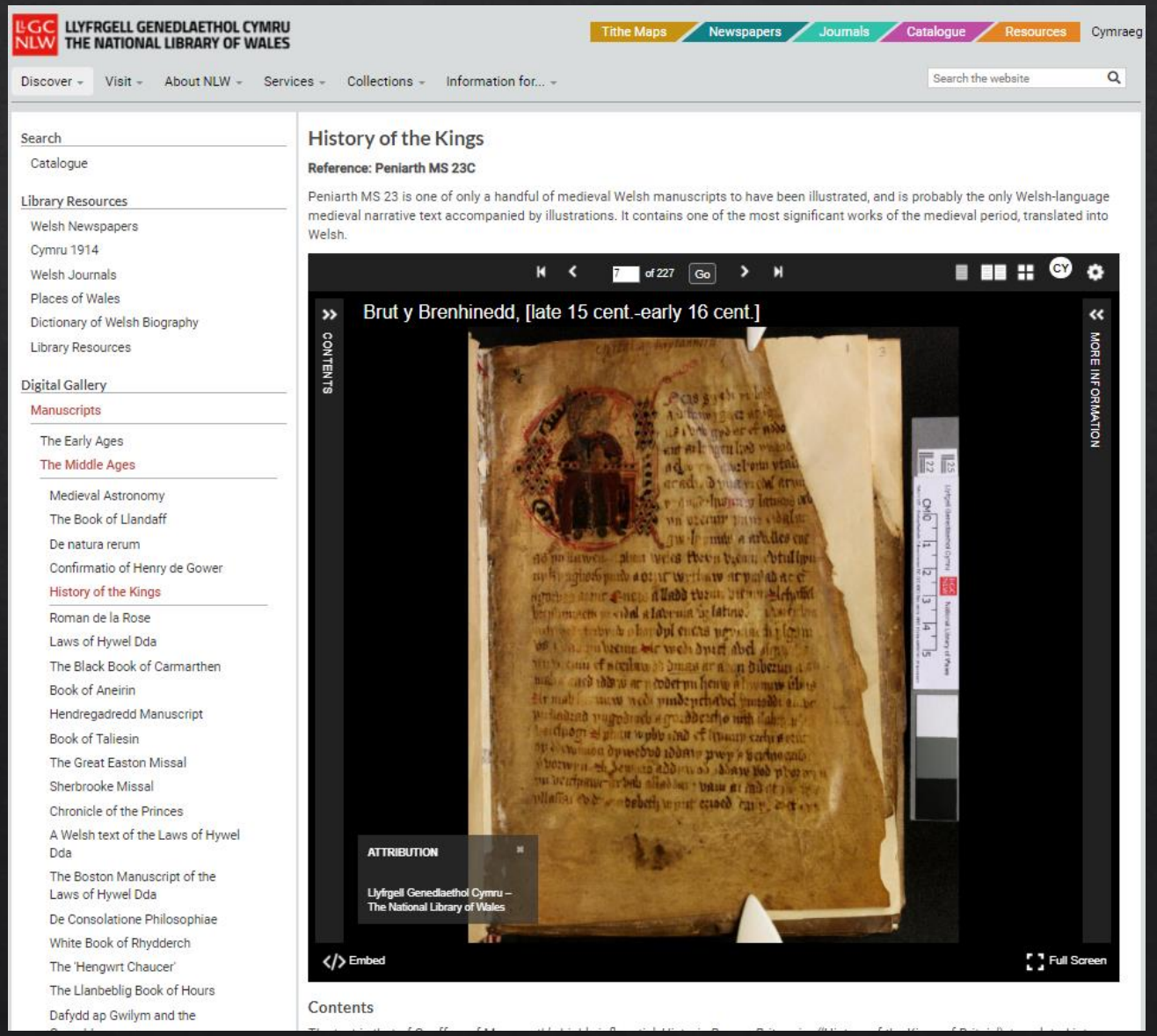
**Modern Period**

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



# Bibliothèque Nationale, Paris




https://manuscrits-france-angleterre.org/polonsky/en/content/accueil-en?mode=desktop

Access the manuscripts via :













Discover the curated site of the project

Discover stunning highlights of illuminated manuscripts set by the British Library in their cultural and historical context.

The France and England Project: Medieval Manuscripts between 700 and 1200

Thanks to the patronage of The Polonsky Foundation, the BnF and the British Library forge a partnership for the very first time in the field of manuscripts.

Find other resources

This site gathers many other resources related to the medieval manuscripts. Show all of them.

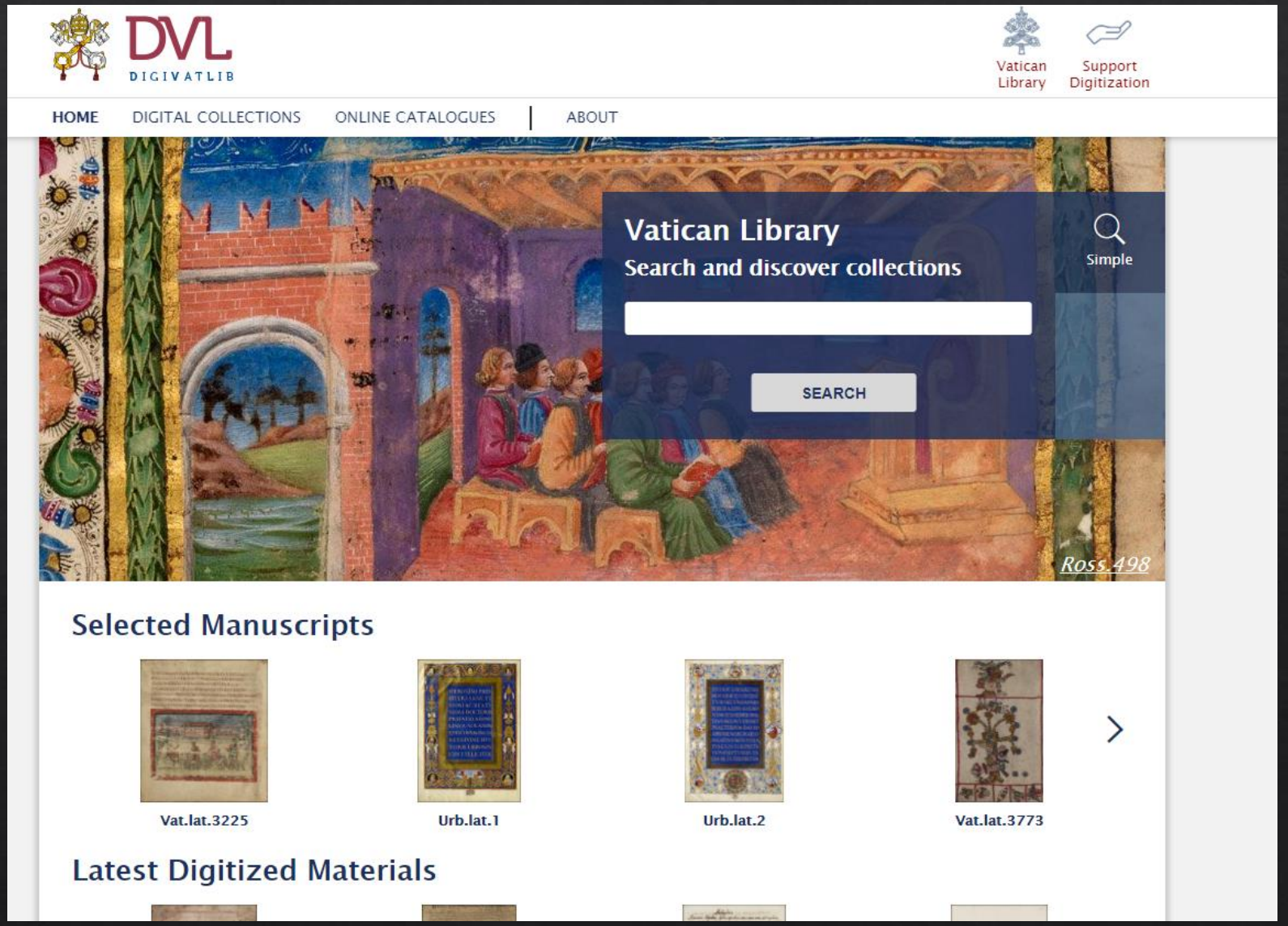
Developed by BnF

In partnership with BRITISH LIBRARY

Supported by The Polonsky Foundation

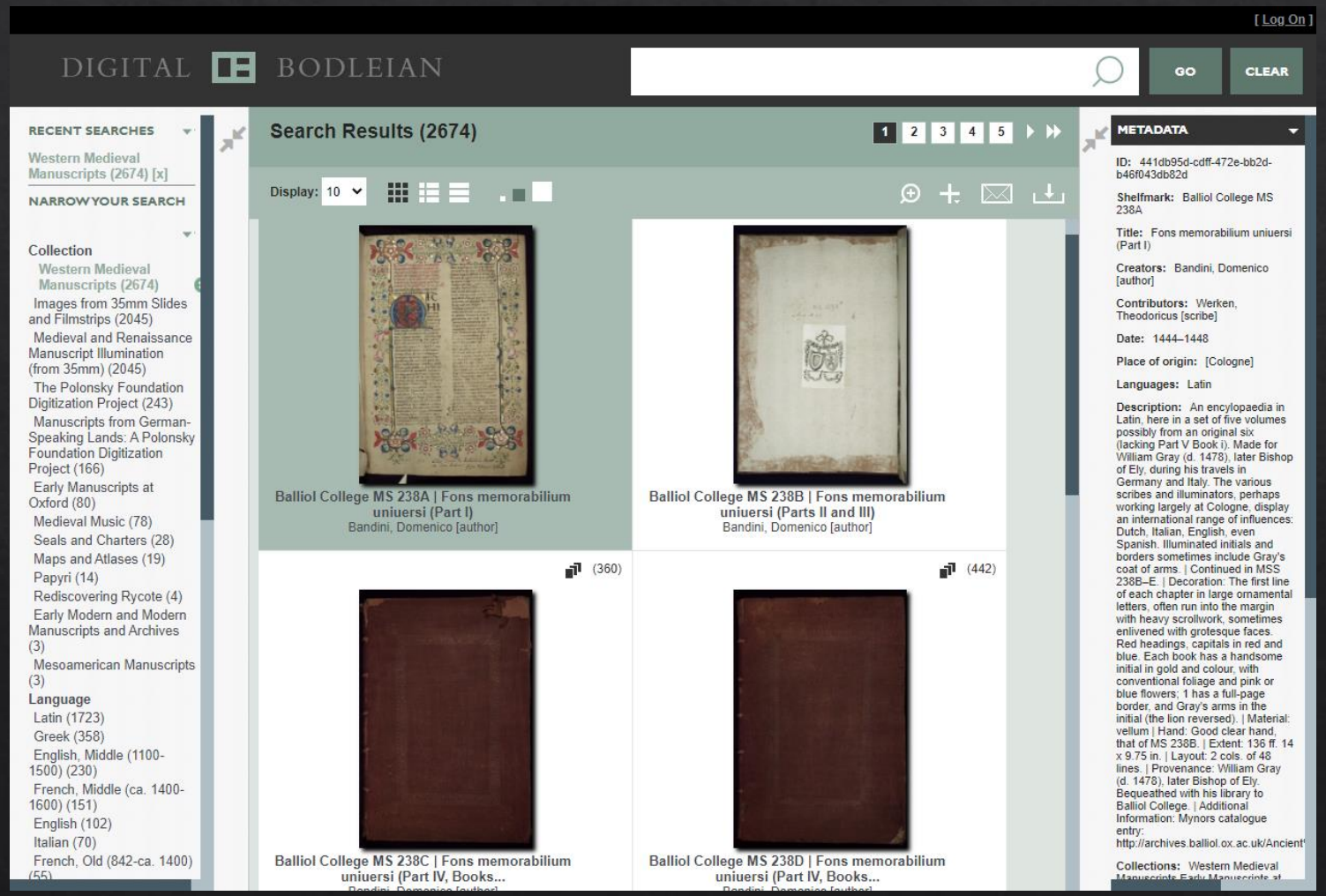
# Vatican

https://digi.vatlib.it/



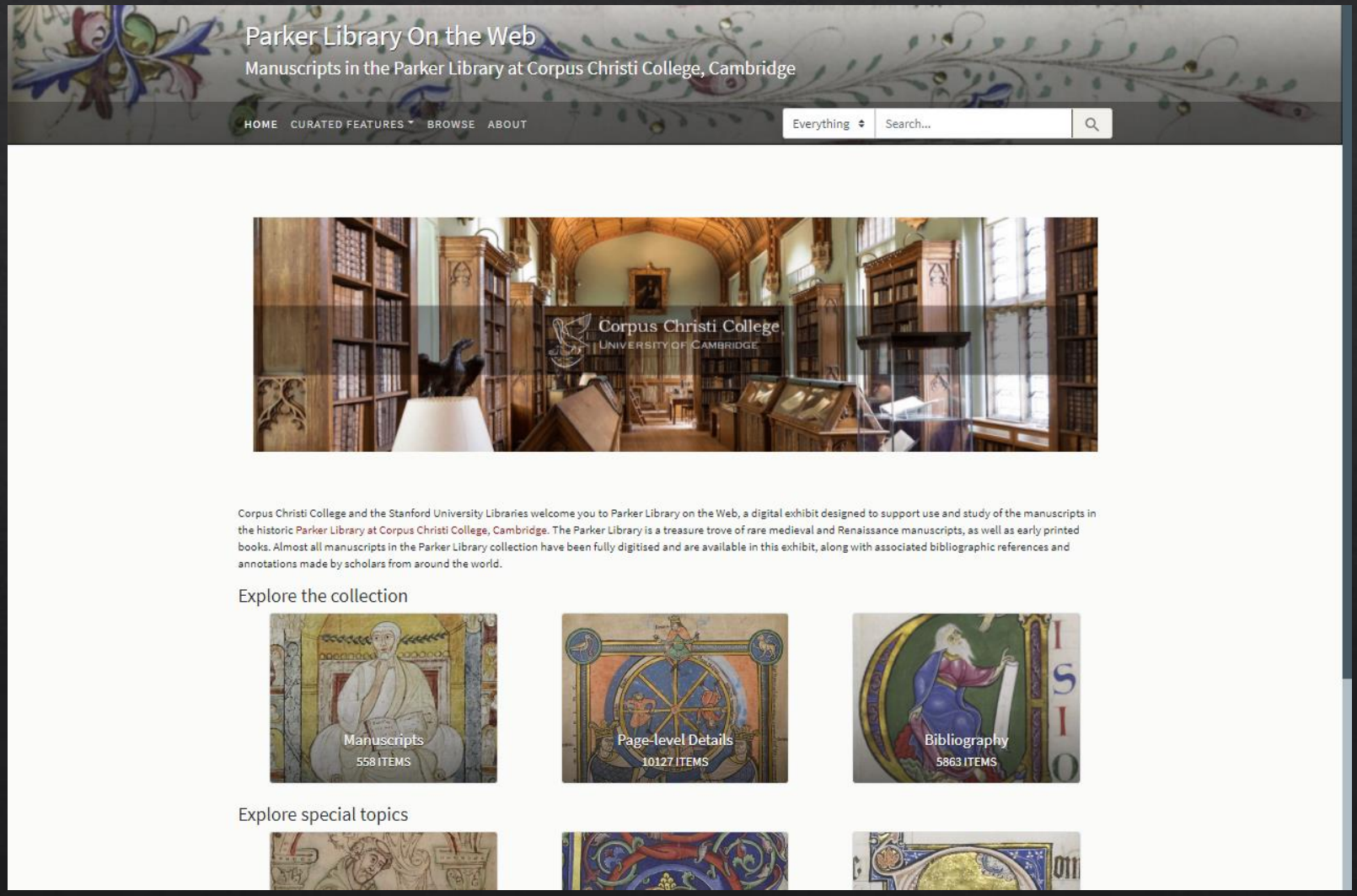
# Bodelian Library, University of Oxford

- https://digital.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/

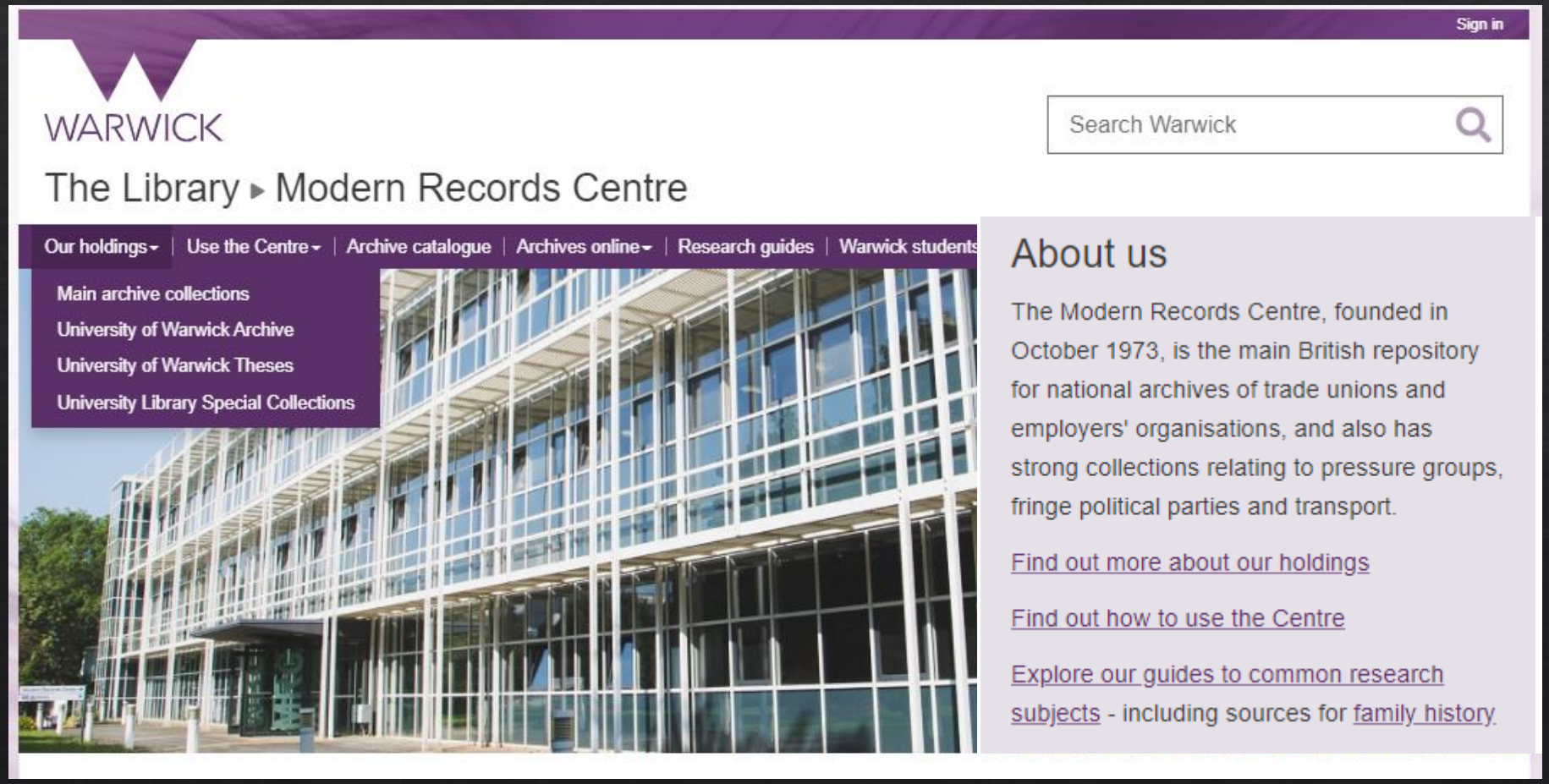


# Parker Library at Corpus Christi College, University of Cambridge

https://parker.stanford.edu/parker/



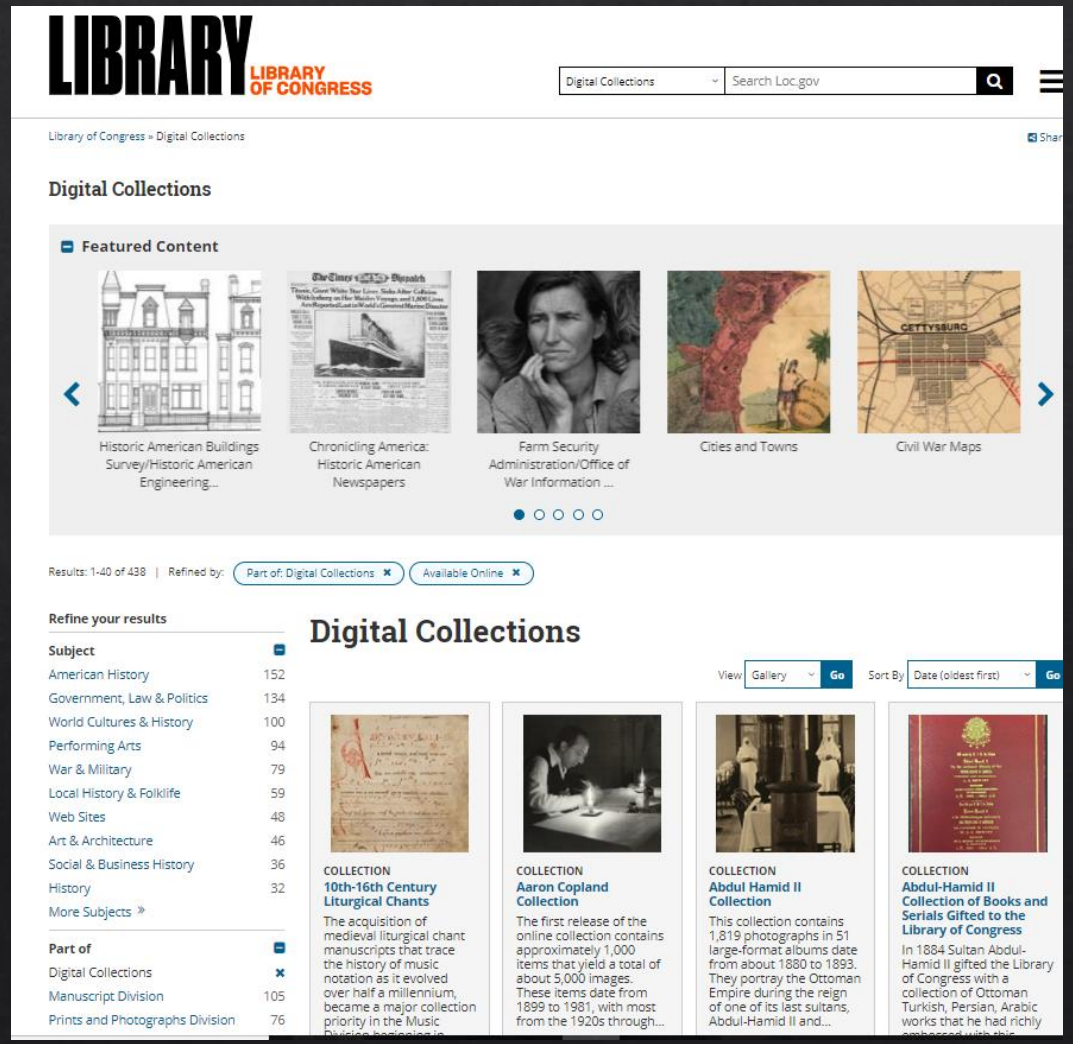
# Modern Record Centre, University of Warwick




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

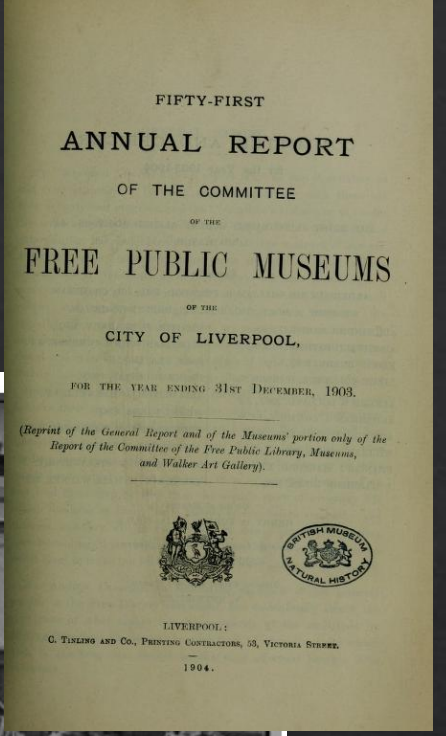
# Library of Congress

- https://www.loc.gov/collections/



# External Resources

- https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/
- www.archive.org


FIFTY-FIRST

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE COMMITTEE

OF THE

FREE PUBLIC MUSEUMS

OF THE

CITY OF LIVERPOOL,

FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER, 1903.

(Reprint of the General Report and of the Museums' portion only of the Report of the Committee of the Free Public Library, Museums, and Walker Art Gallery).

LIVERPOOL:
C. TINLING AND CO., PRINTING CONTRACTORS, 53, VICTORIA STREET.

1904.

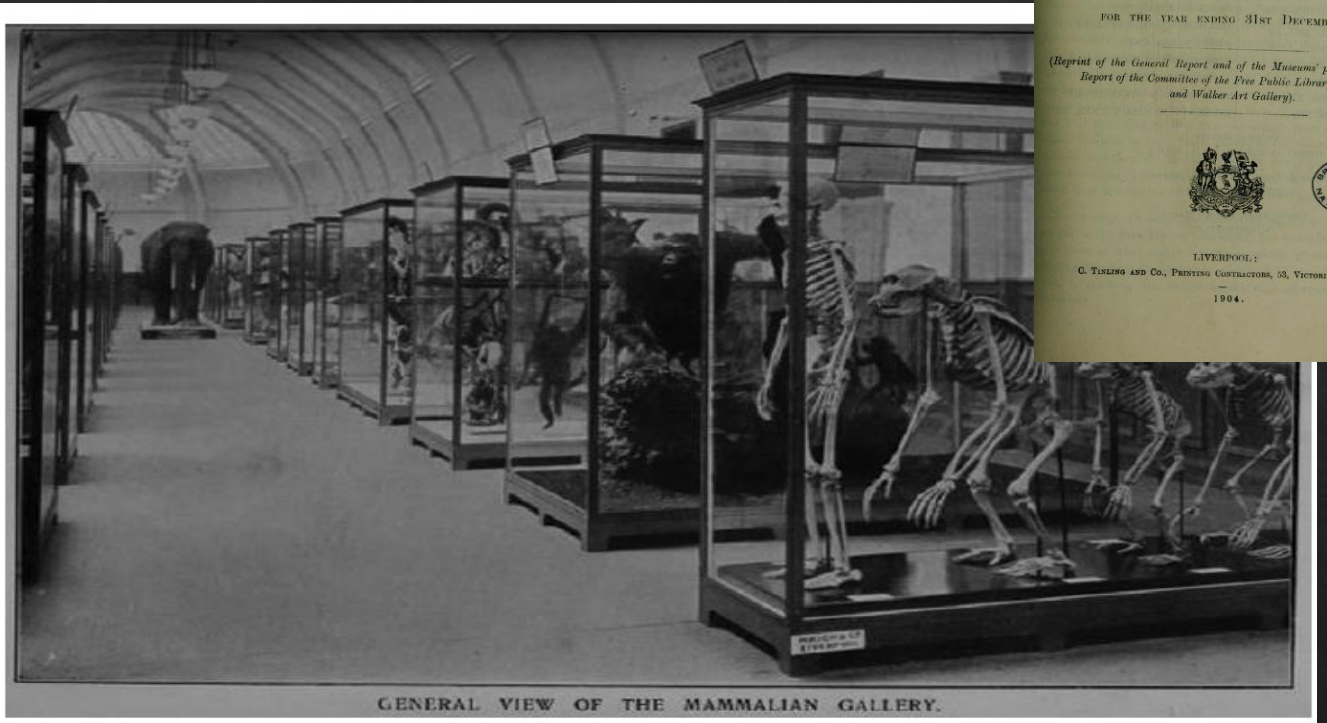

GENERAL VIEW OF THE MAMMALIAN GALLERY.

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




- Are libraries and archives 'neutral, apolitical spaces'??

# POLITICS OF ARCHIVES

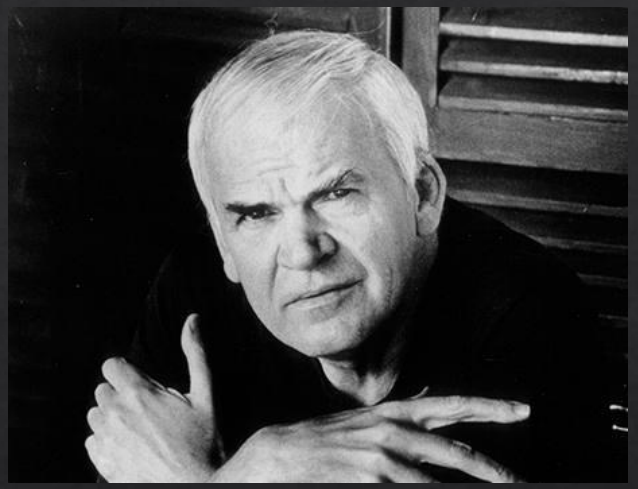
- What political issues might be involved in, or related to, archiving and archives?

- What political, economic or technological issues might impact upon archives and their contemporary status?

# ARCHIVES AND INFORMATION CONTROL

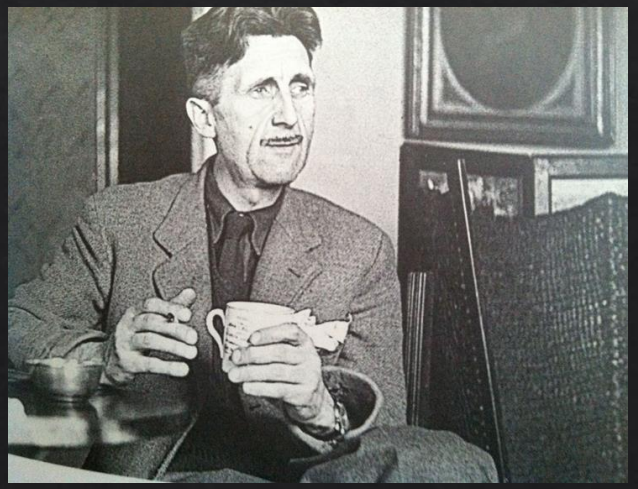
"We fight for access to the labs where we can retouch photos and rewrite biographies and history."

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



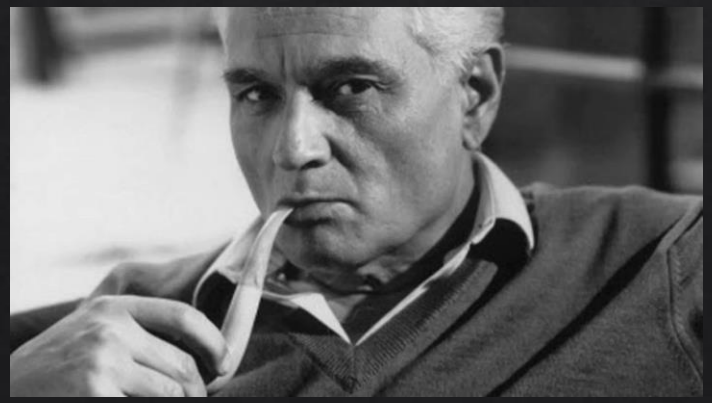
"'Does the past exist concretely, in space? Is there somewhere or other a place, a world of solid objects, where the past is still happening … We, the Party, control all records, and we control all memories. Then we control the past do we not?'"

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



# ARCHIVIZATION

“ … the technical structure of *archiving* … also determines the structure of *archivable content* even in its very coming into existence and in its relationship to the future. The archivization produces as much as it records the event.”



- Jacques Derrida, ‘Archive Fever: A Freudian Impression,’ translated by Eric Prenowitz, *Diacritics* 25:2 (Summer 1995), p. 17

# Archive Fever?

- How might political and technical issues surrounding archives impact upon our understanding of the past?
- Does the archival record itself pose *interpretive challenges* for historians?
- What *limitations* might archives pose for historians?






-Kimberly Mair, 'In Search of the Archive without an Address,' *Journal of Historical Sociology* 24:2 (June 2011), pp. 135—136

"Of particular relevance to the research that I set out to do [*on the Red Army Faction aka Baader–Meinhof Gang*] were the limitations posed by the archive. While archives were crucial to the completion of this work, they frequently refused to deliver the materializations that I had previously hoped and imagined they would contain. This is not to say that the objects for which I was looking did not exist …Rather, the official state archives did not provide direct access to these objects, even if they were somewhat haunted by them. Disproportionately represented amongst the materials were texts over images and explanations over descriptions. Granted the authority to decide by virtue of presence what constitutes an historical source, the archive issues both invitations and refusals.

" … Increasingly, I considered the idea that the city itself must have a capacity to archive something of what I was seeking."

- What invitations and refusals might archives offer researchers?
- What obstacles or barriers might archives pose for historians?
- How might one respond to or circumnavigate some of these obstacles or barriers?
- How might we turn an archival *refusal* into an *invitation* for analysis and research?

"There has never been *a document of culture which is not simultaneously one of barbarism*. And just as it is itself not free from barbarism, neither is it free from the process of transmission, in which it falls from one set of hands into another. The historical materialist [i.e. Marxist historian] thus moves as far away from this as measurably possible. He regards it as his task to brush history against the grain."

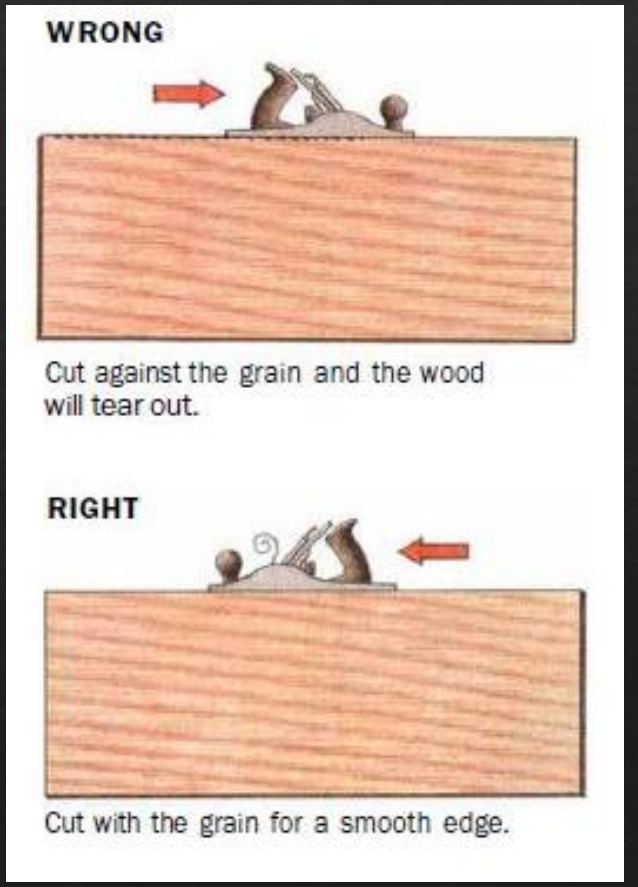
- Walter Benjamin, Thesis VII, 'On the Concept of History' (1940)



# READING ARCHIVES AGAINST THE GRAIN

# READING ARCHIVES AGAINST THE GRAIN



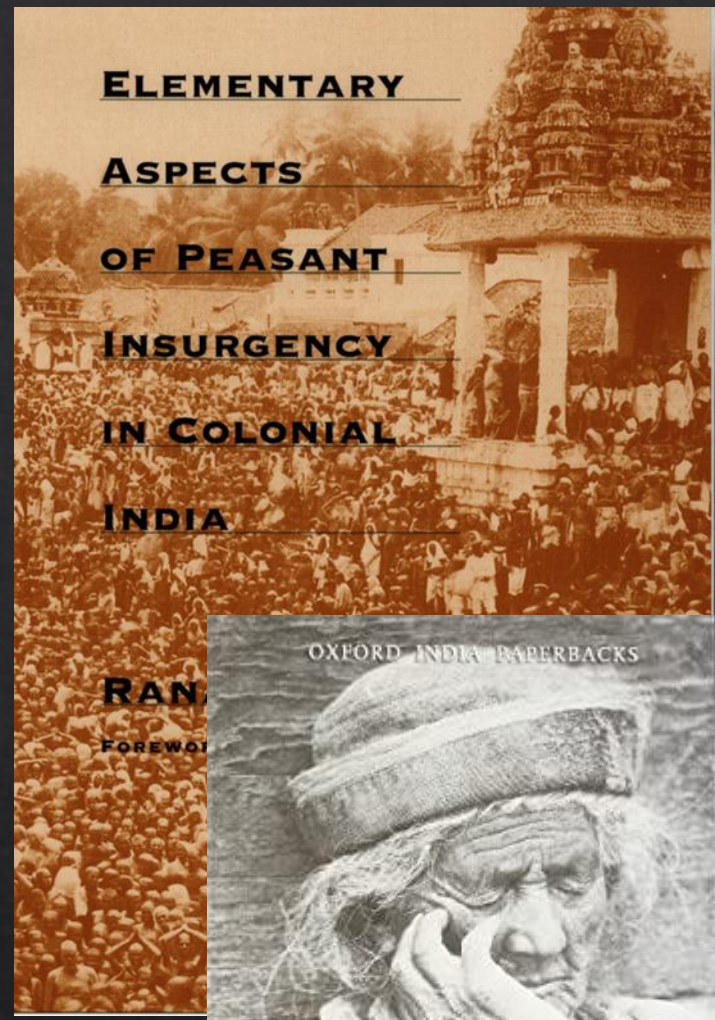


# Ranajit Guha and Subaltern Studies

"Most, though not all, of th[e] evidence [of peasant uprisings against colonial authority] is elitist in origin. This has come down to us in the form of official records of one kind or another — police reports, army despatches, administrative accounts, minutes and resolutions of governmental departments, and so on."

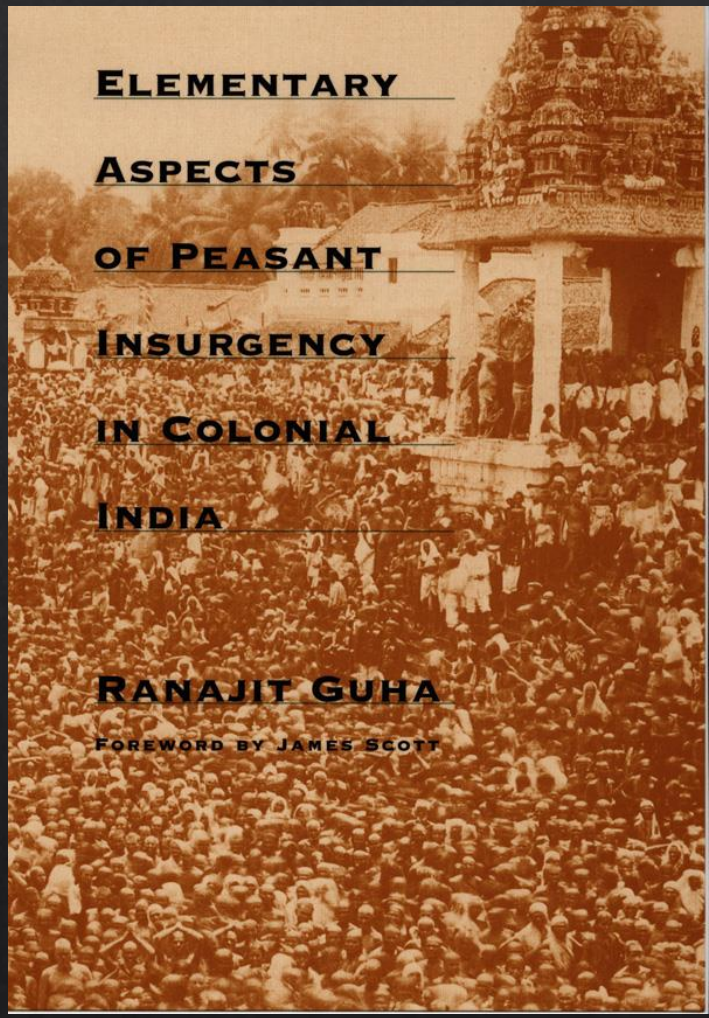
" …. How then are we to get in touch with the consciousness of insurgency when our access to it is barred thus by the discourse of counter-insurgency?"

From Guha, *Elementary Aspects of Peasant Insurgency in Colonial India* (1983)



# Subaltern Studies

" … It is of course true that the reports, despatches, minutes, judgments, laws, letters, etc. in which policemen, soldiers, bureaucrats, landlords, usurers and others hostile to insurgency register their sentiments, amount to a representation of their will. But these documents do not get their content from that will alone, for the latter is predicated on another will — that of the insurgent. It should be possible therefore to *read the presence of a rebel consciousness* as a necessary and pervasive element within that body of evidence."



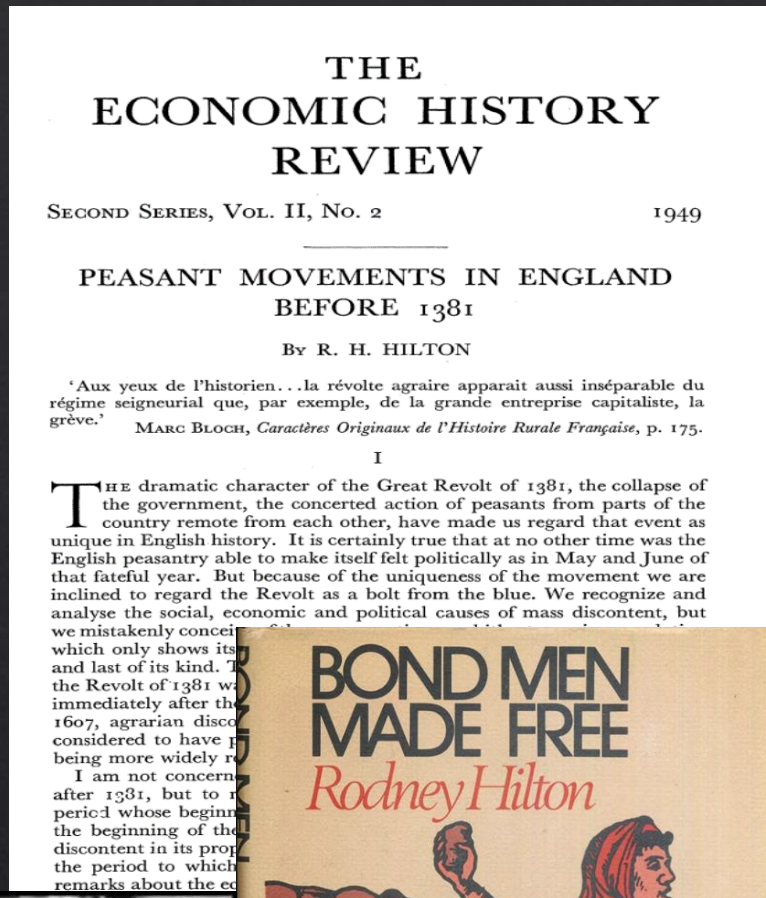
# Subaltern Studies

“ It is possible for the historian to use th[e] impoverished and almost technical language [of archival documents] as a clue to the antonymies [*i.e. opposites*] which speak for a rival consciousness— that of the rebel.”

# Medieval Parallels/Precursors

[p. 124] The earliest signs of [peasant] resistance are to be seen in the records of the royal courts, a resistance at first put up by individuals rather than by groups, though the individuals who faced their lords in the courts may well have represented test cases for their fellow peasants.

**Rodney Hilton**
**(1916–2002)**



THE
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REVIEW

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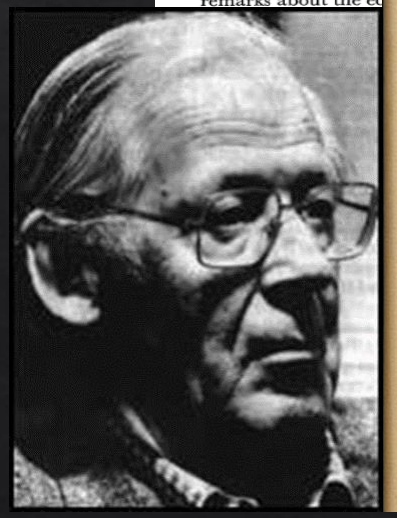
PEASANT MOVEMENTS IN ENGLAND
BEFORE 1381

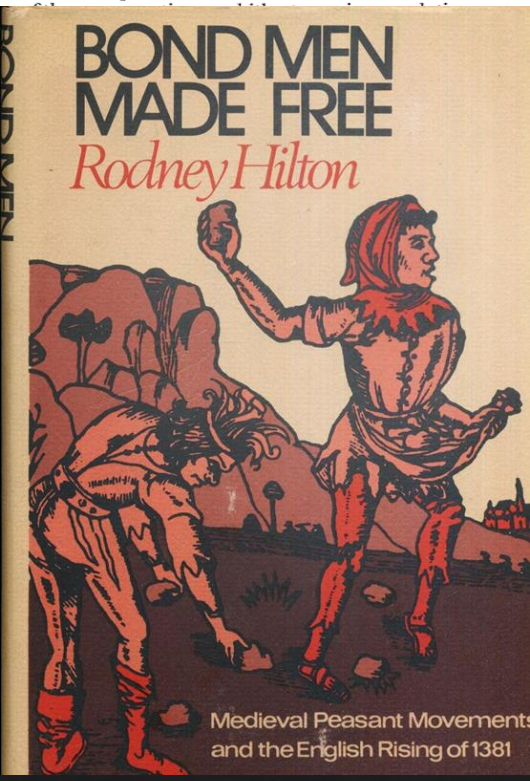
BY R. H. HILTON

'Aux yeux de l'historien...la révolte agraire apparait aussi inséparable du régime seigneurial que, par exemple, de la grande entreprise capitaliste, la grève.' MARC BLOCH, *Caractères Originaux de l'Histoire Rurale Française*, p. 175.

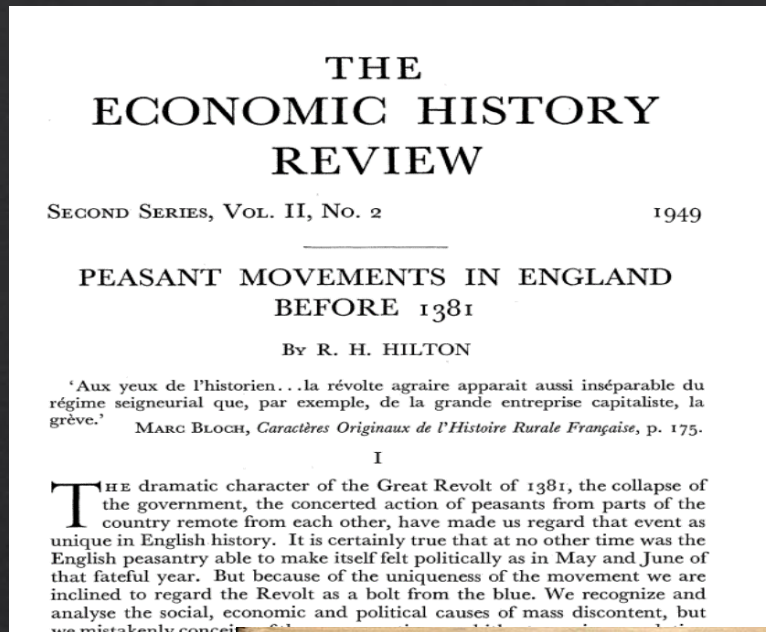
I

THE dramatic character of the Great Revolt of 1381, the collapse of the government, the concerted action of peasants from parts of the country remote from each other, have made us regard that event as unique in English history. It is certainly true that at no other time was the English peasantry able to make itself felt politically as in May and June of that fateful year. But because of the uniqueness of the movement we are inclined to regard the Revolt as a bolt from the blue. We recognize and analyse the social, economic and political causes of mass discontent, but we mistakenly conceiv
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[p. 126–127] Behind this litigation we become conscious of a continuous day-to-day struggle between lord and villein, almost the only evidence of which is to be found in the records of the manorial courts..



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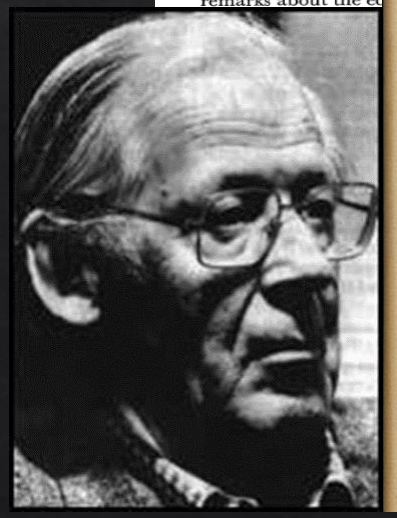
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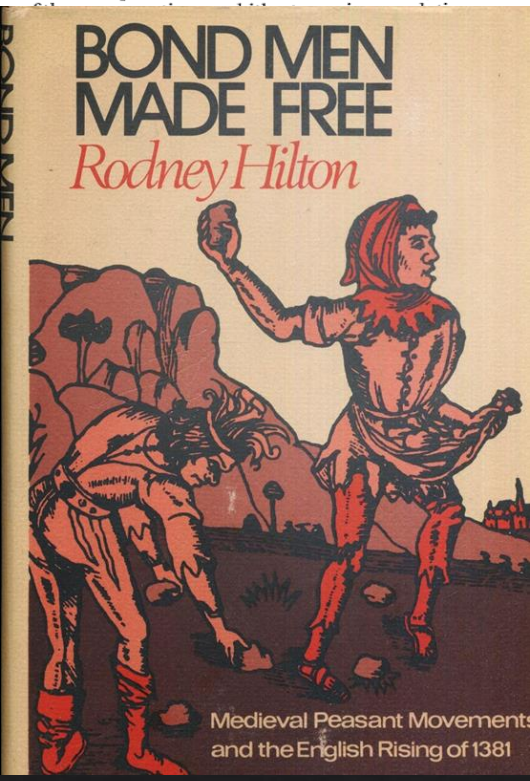
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[pp. 135-136] Every thing that was written about peasants was written by their enemies, but the words attributed by [*14-th/15th-century court historian*] Froissart to John Ball [*English priest and participant in Peasants' Revolt*] were in essence probably authentic: 'For what reason do they hold us in bondage? Are we not all descended from the same parents Adam and Eve? And what can they show or what reason can they give why they should be more masters than ourselves?'




John Ball in c. 1470 manuscript of Jean Froissart's *Chronicles*

# QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

- Think of an example 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'