

NOTES ON THE BIBLIOGRAPHY OF INDUSTRIAL BRISTOL by Anthony P Woolrich

A problem facing all newcomers to industrial archaeology is to discover what reference material is available on the particular topic they wish to study. This material falls into two categories. The first, but not covered in this paper, is the technical literature on how the industry or trade was carried out. The second category deals with the development and history of the industry in the Bristol region, and this paper discusses this type of material and its location.

In researching into the history of the industry of the region, the industrial archaeologist is particularly unfortunate in that the geographical area he is concerned with includes parts of two counties, as well as the cities of Bristol and Bath. This means that archival material relating to a particular industry could be found in any of three record offices, and he will need to become familiar with the stocks of several reference libraries as well.

ARCHIVES

Bristol

The Bristol Archive Office, The Council House, College Green, Bristol 1. Archivist: Miss E. Ralph, M.A., F.S.A. Records held here likely to be of interest to the industrial archaeologist are the deeds of all Corporation-owned property, which would include much of the industrial core of the redeveloped city. The tithe maps of the 1840's for the Bristol diocese give exact details of land ownership for this time. The records of some companies are also deposited here, such as the Great Western Cotton factory at Barton Hill, and many papers relating to the Bristol Coalfield. An evening class is arranged each winter in which practice can be gained in using archives, and the office is open during office hours and Saturday mornings for research. A guide is shortly to be published, but detailed catalogues and indexes are available in the office.

The Bristol Reference Library, Deanery Road, Bristol 1 also has collections of papers of interest to the industrial archaeologist. Among these are the Ellacombe papers relating to Kingswood, Bitton, Mangotsfield and the Sanigar papers relating to Barton Hill and St. George.

Gloucestershire

The County Records Office, The Shire Hall, Gloucester. Records Officer: Brian Smith, M.A. Records similar to those at Bristol are held here, but relating to the county. Many parish records are deposited here, as well as family and business papers. A guide was published in 1958, and details of the more prominent accessions appear in the annual volumes of the Transactions of the Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society.

Other records, including the archives of the Gloucester diocese are held in the Gloucester City Library, Brunswick Road, Gloucester.

Somerset

The Somerset Record Office, Obridge Road, Taunton. County Archivist: I.P.Collis, F.S.A. Records similar to those held in the Bristol and Gloucestershire Record Offices are held here. A guide was published in 1959 and annual additions are published in Proceedings of the Somerset Archaeological and Natural History Society. Other records are held at the Victoria Art Gallery and the municipal libraries, Bath.

London

The Public Record Office, Chancery Lane, W.C.2. The records of the Crown and of central government are kept here. A Guide to the Public Records has been published, Volumes 1 and 2, 1963, and Volume 3, 1969.

The National Register of Archives, Quality House, Quality Court, Chancery Lane, London W.C.2, is a part of the Historical Manuscripts Commission. Since 1964 the Commission has published an annual list of Sources of Business History in the National Register of Archives. This covers the whole country, but a code makes possible the location of local material. It is planned to publish a classified cumulation of the first five lists.

Company Archives

Many companies maintain archives of historical interest which are of value to the industrial archaeologist. However, much was destroyed in the last war, both by bombing and in the scrap drive. It never does any harm to enquire if anything has survived, but many firms of some age are unable to show anything more than a few decades old. There is no index to this material, but it is hoped that BIAS can make it a research project in the not too distant future.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Bristol Matthews, E.R.N., Ed. Bristol Bibliography, 1916 (Continued on cards in the Bristol Reference library)
Gloucestershire Austin, Roland. Ed. Catalogue of the Gloucestershire Collection, 1928. (Continued on cards in Gloucester Reference Library)
Somerset Green, Emanuel, Ed. Bibliotheca Somersetensis 3 Vol., 1902 (Vol. 1 covers Bath)

All these books overlap each other to some extent on Bristol items, and they all suffer from the handicap of being well out of date for the more recent material.

Industrial Archaeology of the Bristol Region

Buchanan, R.A., Industrial Archaeology of the

& Cossons, N. Bristol Region, 1969 (Excellent Bibliography)
Buchanan, R.A., Industrial Archaeology of Bristol, 1967 (Hist. Assn. Pamphlet No.18)
Cossons, N. Bristol Archaeological Research Group Field Guide No.4, Industrial Monuments 1967
Hudson, K. Industrial Archaeology of Southern England, Rev.ed. 1968.

Much information is to be found in various guide books and studies which appeared in the last century, details of which can be found in bibliographies mentioned above. Some firms also published histories, but the coverage of industries is patchy, and the scholarship often doubtful.

Local History Technique

Celoria, C. Teach Yourself Local History, 1958
Hoskins, W.G. Local History in England, 1959
West, J. Village Records, 1962
Tait, W.E. The Parish Chest, 1960

Industrial Archaeology Technique

Pannell, J.P.M. Techniques of Industrial Archaeology, 1966

General History

Little, B. Bristol: A study in Atlantic Civilisation, London, 1954 (New edition 1967) (Excellent Bibliography)
Victoria County History of Somerset, 2 Vol., 1911
Victoria County History of Gloucestershire 2 vol 1909

These three works contain the best general survey of the area, but much information can be gained from histories of the localities within the region. The following list is by no means complete, but is reasonably comprehensive.

Bristol

McGrath, P.V. Ed., Historical Association Pamphlets on local history. Especially the following:
The Merchant Adventurers of Bristol in the Fifteenth Century by E.M. Carus-Wilson, 1961
The Port of Bristol in the Eighteenth Century by W.Minchinton, 1962
The Steamship Great Western by Grahame Farr, 1963
The Chartists in Bristol by John Cannon, 1964
The Steamship Great Britain by Grahame Farr, 1965
The Port of Bristol in the Middle Ages by J.W.Sherborne, 1965
The Industrial Archaeology of Bristol by R.A.Buchanan, 1967

Much material is to be found in local histories of the districts of Bristol.

Barton Hill, St.George, etc.

Sanigar, W.T. St.George's in the East, 1931 Leaves from a Barton Hill Notebook, 1954

Jennings, H. Societies in the Making, 1962 (Sociological Survey of the people of modern Barton Hill, with a chapter on the history and growth of the area.

Kingswood, Downend, Bitton, etc.

Ellacombe, H.T. History of the parish of Bitton, 2 Vol. 1881-3 (Useful for the maps of C18 coal mines)

Braine, A. History of Kingswood Forest 1891 (rep. 1969) (Useful for a description of the area at the end of the last century)

Jones, E.A. Our Parish (Mangotsfield and Downend) 1899 (Useful for a description of the mills of the Frome valley).

Gloucestershire

Much material in Ellacombe (see above)

Sodbury

Fox, F. History of the parishes of Old Sodbury, Little Sodbury and the town of Chipping Sodbury 1907.

Somerset

Kilmersdon

Hylton, Lord Notes on the history of the parish of Kilmersdon, 1910 (Chapter on Coal)

Portishead

Wiggins, E. Portishead Parish History, 1932

Nailsea

Greenhill, B.J. Old Nailsea, Somerset, 1954

Mendips

Atthill, R. Old Mendip, 1964

Coysh, A.W. Mason, E.J., Waite, V. The Mendips, 1954.

Gough, J.W. The Mines of Mendip, 1930 (2nd ed. 1967)

In addition to these books and pamphlets, papers on specific localities and industries are to be found in the annual proceedings of the County Archaeological Societies, both of which have published index volumes. The main reference libraries and many of the small county libraries, such as Keynsham, hold complete sets of these, very often on open access. Another valuable source is the publications of the neighbouring industrial archaeological societies.

These Local societies are :

Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society

Secretary: Miss E. Ralph, M.A., F.S.A.,
The Bristol Record Office,
The Council House,
Bristol BS1

Somerset Archaeological and Natural History Society

Secretary: C.A. Cookson, O.B.E.,
Taunton Castle,
Taunton,
Somerset.

Gloucestershire Society for Industrial Archaeology

Secretary: Dr. T.E. Edwards,
c/o ICI Fibres Ltd.,
Ermin Street,
Brockworth,
Gloucester,
Gloucestershire.

Salisbury and South Wiltshire Industrial Archaeology Society

Secretary: D.A.E. Cross,
'Wyndhams'
High Street,
Shewton,
Salisbury,
Wiltshire.

Bath and Camerton Archaeological Society

Secretary: P.J. Greening,
61 Pulteney Street,
Bath,
Somerset.

South-East Wales Industrial Archaeological Society

Secretary: W.G. Hughes,
96, Wenallt Road, Rhiwbina, Cardiff,
Glamorgan.

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