



# Welcome to the Special Collections Newsletter for 2015

The Special Collections continues to add to its holdings, with notable additions to the Anglo-Jewish Archives and of Wellington related material. The archive of the poet and professor of English at Southampton, Frank Templeton Prince — which became available for the first time in 2012, the centenary of Prince's birth — has been the focus of a number of research and outreach activities in 2013-14 and has attracted related collections to the University. The continued investment in acquiring and curating this material is considerable. In conjunction with the regular programme of curatorial work, the Special Collections has been fortunate over the years to secure funding for cataloguing and conservation projects. Most recently it has undertaken a project to catalogue material from the Jewish Board of Guardians and a separate project to conserve badly damaged papers for 1832 in the Wellington archive. Building on previous projects to provide digital copies of material within Special Collections, there is a current project to digitise items from the Perkins Agricultural Library.

Perhaps the most significant change that occurred in 2013 was one of personnel. Professor Chris Woolgar, who had been in charge of the archive collections since 1983, moved to the School of Humanities to become Professor of History and Archival Studies. Professor Woolgar continues to maintain a connection with the Special Collections and in this edition he gives his personal reflection on archives and teaching, a particular consideration in his new role in Humanities. Embedding the use of archives into the teaching and research within the University has always been a priority. The newsletter contains two articles by Professors David Brown and Terry Langford talking about two very different research and teaching projects based on collections at Southampton.

2014 marked the golden jubilee of the arrival of the Parkes Library at the University of Southampton. A series of events for 2014/15, organised by the Parkes Institute, will culminate in a major conference on 7-9 September 2015. Special Collections will have an exhibition on James Parkes and his Library to coincide with this. The Sixth Wellington Congress, 10-12 April 2015, was the first in a number of events organised by the Special Collections to mark the bicentenary of the battle of Waterloo. Others included an exhibition 'Wellington and Waterloo: the tale is in every Englishman's mouth', April to July 2015, and a Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) looking at Wellington and the battle of Waterloo led by Chris Woolgar and Karen Robson that ran for three weeks from 8 June 2015.

We continue to be grateful to the support that we receive for the work of the Special Collections. We look forward to welcoming researchers and visitors to our reading rooms and to our exhibitions and events in the year to come.

**Karen Robson**, Senior Archivist



Cover image: Nautilus shell with engraving of the Duke of Wellington  
Back page image: Nautilus shell showing St George

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# Projects

## Jewish Board of Guardians

From May 2013 until May 2014, as part of an externally funded cataloguing project, archivist John Rooney was responsible for cataloguing and indexing the letter books of the secretary of the Jewish Board of Guardians. These catalogue descriptions make available for the first time information about the correspondence and related papers contained in these large, difficult to use volumes, providing an invaluable resource on the workings of the Board.

The Board was established in 1859 by representatives of the three main London synagogues—the Great Synagogue, the Hambro' Synagogue, and the New Synagogue. They were charged to constitute a Board of Guardians for relief of poor Jewish immigrants, referred to as the 'strange poor', living in London. However, immediately after its formation the Board began to extend both its scope and revenues, and soon became the chief source of support for poor Jews in the city. The Board helped to keep Jews away from the English poor law, with the burden of maintaining their poor falling almost entirely on the Jewish community. The Board's capacity to both raise and disburse funds grew rapidly, particularly in response to the large influx of Russian and Eastern European Jews escaping persecution from the 1880s.

The letter books of the secretary consist of eight volumes containing correspondence, reports, press cuttings, financial statements, and other papers relating to the activities of the Board from the 1880s to the 1940s. These materials reflect the transformative nature of the Board, which continually adapted its activities to meet changing conditions and needs. The Board achieved this through the establishment of various committees, with key activities including the provision of relief, allowances, and financial assistance for emigration; the distribution of grants to other charities and institutions; conducting sanitary inspections and health visits; running workrooms; training apprentices; and the administration of almshouses and convalescent homes.

The project has involved providing item level descriptions for over 10,000 items. Index terms have also been provided in accordance with the NCA Rules, with UKAT and AIM25 used for the provision of standardised subject terms. Both cataloguing and indexing at an item level was essential due to the physical nature

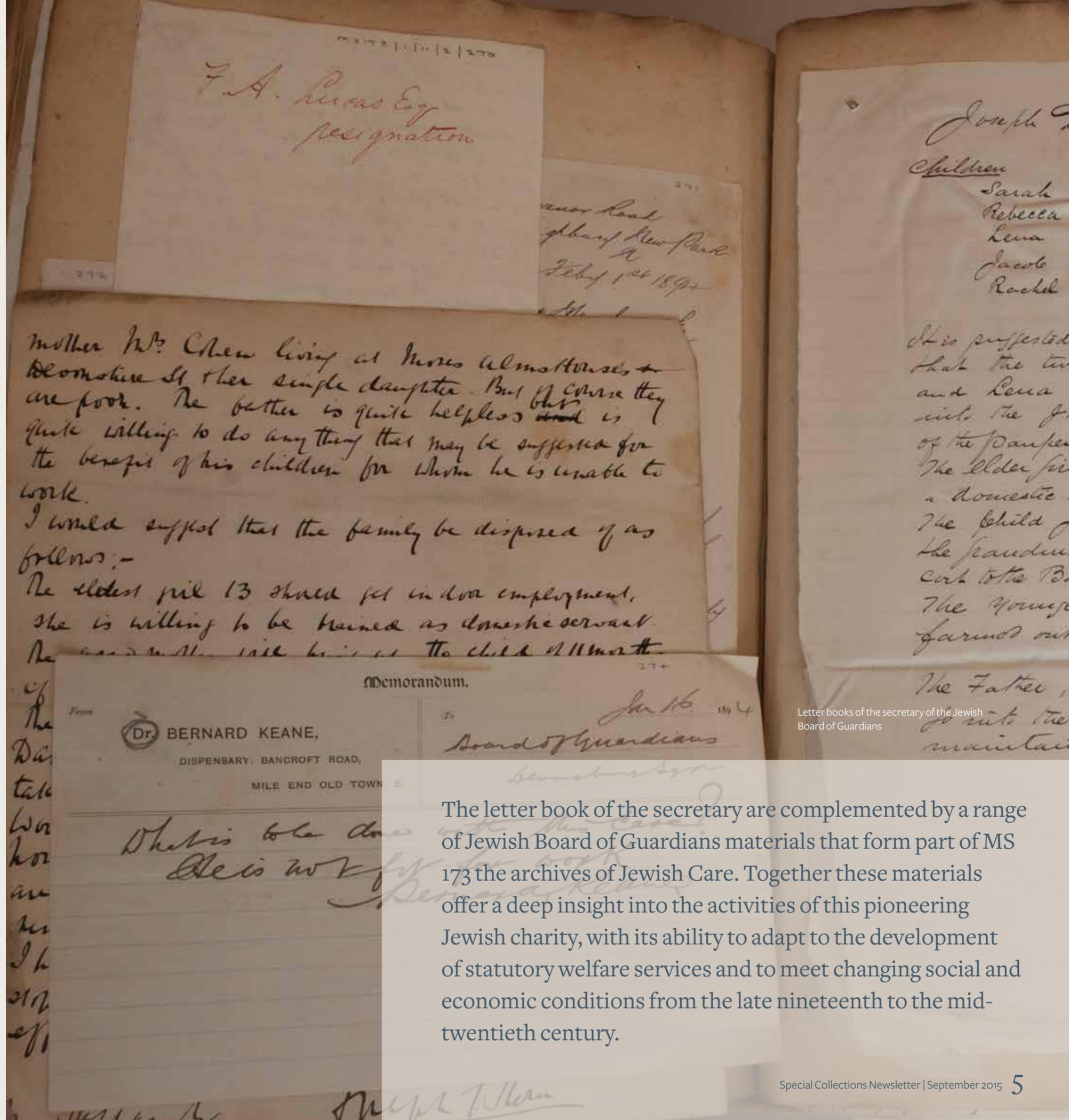
of the collection. Each of the eight volumes contains approximately one hundred pages, with a large number of items attached to each page in a series of folded bundles. While the items are arranged in a general chronological order, the volumes do not contain any form of index, which has resulted in the content of the collection remaining largely obscured.

The Board was a philanthropic endeavour and was both established and run by prominent members of the Jewish community. There is a significant number of materials relating to the individuals responsible for the running of the Board, including correspondence dealing with the appointment (and resignation) of both members of the Board and representatives of the Board on other public bodies. Funding of the Board was also dependent on the generosity of members of the Jewish community with a significant portion of the materials in the collection relating to the provision of donations and contributions, particularly in the form of legacy bequests.

The collection also includes a number of case materials. The majority of these date from the 1880s to the early 1900s and primarily relate to cases of abandoned children being removed from workhouses and placed in the care of Jewish families or Jewish institutions, in particular the Jews' Hospital and Orphan Asylum in Norwood. Other significant materials relate to the Board's provision of financial assistance for emigration. This resulted in tensions with authorities in the United States and is reflected in correspondence with the United Hebrew Charities in New York in the early 1900s. Likewise, tensions regarding the arrival of Jewish refugees into Britain are particularly evident in materials relating to Board's efforts to facilitate refugees arriving in Southampton, en route for Europe, during the Boer War.



Letter books of the secretary of the Jewish Board of Guardians



Letter books of the secretary of the Jewish Board of Guardians

The letter book of the secretary are complemented by a range of Jewish Board of Guardians materials that form part of MS 173 the archives of Jewish Care. Together these materials offer a deep insight into the activities of this pioneering Jewish charity, with its ability to adapt to the development of statutory welfare services and to meet changing social and economic conditions from the late nineteenth to the mid-twentieth century.

# Wellington Archive Conservation

**The Wellington Papers came to Southampton with a major challenge of conservation: some ten percent of the collection was so badly damaged it was unfit to handle and 10,000 documents were in a parlous condition. The University has made good progress: about seventy percent has been conserved and is now available for research, including papers for 1822 (for the Congress of Verona), for Wellington as Prime Minister in 1829 (the year of Catholic emancipation), and for some of the Peninsular War.**

A campaign to raise funds for the conservation of the Wellington Papers was launched in October 2010. Grants from the National Manuscripts Conservation Trust, the J. Paul Getty Jr Charitable Trust and the Rothschild Foundation as well as modest funding from alumni have supported the conservation of the badly degraded and mould-damaged papers from 1832.

The conservation project has focused on the treatment of the mould-damaged bundles from 1832. The conservators began by working with the less severely damaged materials so that they were able to build up expertise in conserving this type of exceedingly fragile material before tackling the most fragmentary bundles.

Documents were separated manually and collated. Separation, particularly of the most severely damaged bundles, is a painstaking and time-consuming task. In some instances papers have fused together due to compression whilst damp and great

care is necessary to prevent disintegration of the paper.

Surface cleaning was undertaken where possible and where necessary individual items were given aqueous treatments, including washing supported on non-woven polyester on silk screens in cold and warm water to remove discolouration and soluble degradation products, calcium phytate treatment to stabilise iron gall ink corrosion and deacidification with calcium hydrogen carbonate. Fragments were washed alongside documents either loose or within non-woven polyester pockets. These were then realigned with the original which was lined to hold all fragments in place during the repair procedure.

The documents were repaired by leafcasting similarly toned paper pulp consisting of a blend of cotton and hemp fibres. The conservators have created a reference tool of differently toned papers that match the papers within the collection. Griffin Mill Papermakers produced a special making of handmade paper to our specification.

After humidification, pressing and resizing where necessary, documents were refolded and stored in custom made four flap folders and acid free boxes. Any fragments that could not be identified were noted, housed in melinex pockets and stored with the documents. Photographic documentation was made of all the processes.

During this period the conservators have enhanced their skills gaining expertise in working with such fragile fragmented materials. They have researched and

developed the treatments undertaken within the project as it has evolved, contributing to the collective knowledge of the department. They have also demonstrated their work to other members of the library, students and visitors to the Special Collections

To date 13 bundles of 577 documents have been conserved using leaf casting and paper pulp repair. The expertise gained by the conservators has enabled them to concentrate on the most fragile items with work underway on the separation and stabilisation of a further 6 bundles of 407 documents. These present some of the most severe conservation challenges as the separation of fragmented material can take several months to complete before any treatment is possible.

Many of the fragmented bundles for 1832 are now accessible for the first time since the 1940s. This is historically very significant material as it includes the first Duke of Wellington's papers relating to the first Reform Act. As Wellington was the leader of the Tories in the House of Lords during the progress of the Act, by enabling archivists to access and catalogue the material, the whole picture of the debate now will be available. The catalogue descriptions produced, which will be detailed item level descriptions of each paper, will be added to the online resources of the Special Collections. The papers themselves will be made available to researchers in a number of different ways. The original material can be consulted in the Archives and Rare Books Reading room. To cater for the widest possible constituency, digital copies of material are being created to populate the Special Collections virtual reading room, enabling researchers to access items from anywhere in the world. Digital copies also are used as part of the Special Collections online exhibitions and as part of teaching resources for the University.



Bundle of badly damaged document before conservation

Damaged Wellington letters separated from each other to enable conservation work to be undertaken

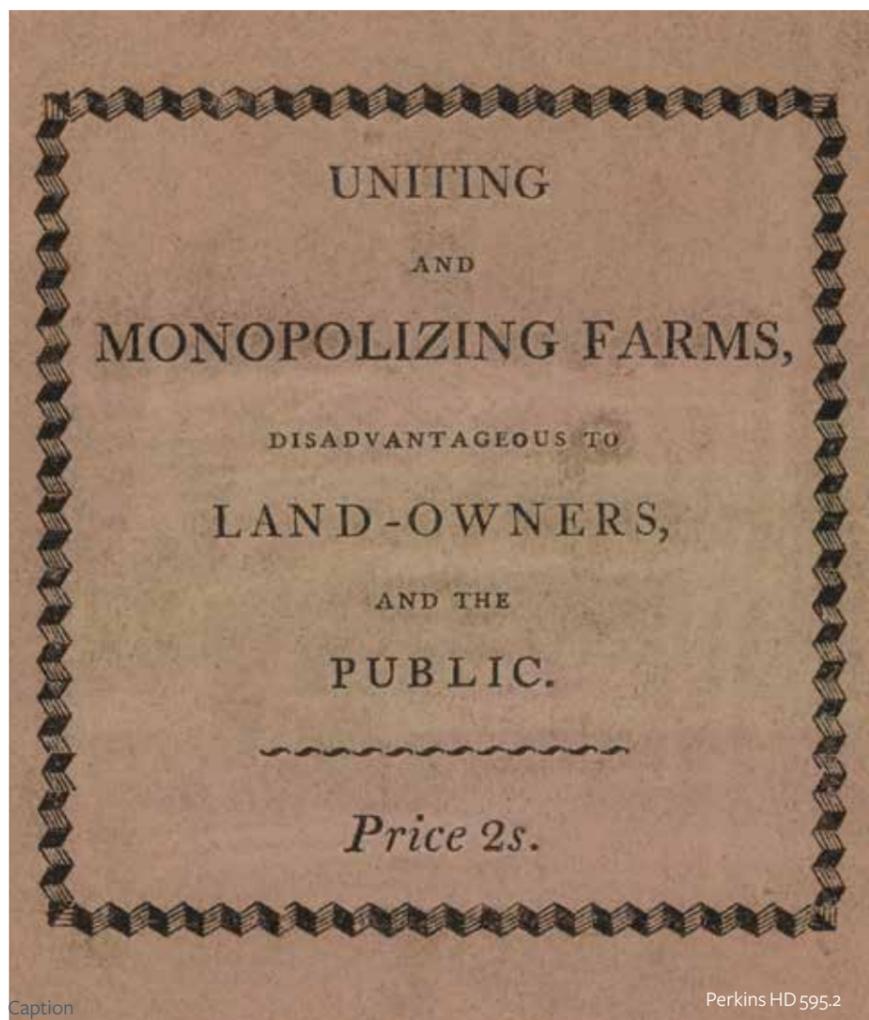
# Perkins Agricultural Library Digitisation Project

Although well-known in agricultural history circles, the Perkins Agricultural Library remains something of a hidden treasure amongst the University Library's Special Collections. To alert more people to its existence and to make its contents more easily accessible, a retrospective cataloguing project is being undertaken which will see catalogue records for all the books added to the Library's WebCat. At the same time, links will be added to freely available digital copies and where none can be found, the Perkins books will be considered for digitisation by the Library Digitisation Unit. Digital copies created locally will be made available through both WebCat and the Internet Archive's Biodiversity Heritage Library.

The collection, which consists of over 2,000 books on agriculture, was presented to the University College of Southampton in 1946 by Walter Frank Perkins, who had been the Honorary Treasurer of the College and an M.P. for the New Forest. Perkins collected a wide range of material including practical handbooks, textbooks, encyclopaedias, reports on developments in agricultural chemistry and studies of individual crops and breeds of livestock. The books range in date from the seventeenth century to the early twentieth century and initially the digitisation project will focus on the nineteenth-century publications, earlier titles already being available online through the subscription services Early English Books Online and Eighteenth Century Collections Online.

Subject areas to be targeted have been identified with the help of Dr Malcolm Hudson and Dr Nazmul Haq from the Faculty of Engineering and the Environment. These include pamphlets on the economic aspects of farming and the books on crop husbandry. The latter reveal the varieties of crops favoured at that time, often giving detailed descriptions of growing conditions and yields. A number of the books on pasture grasses still contain dried specimens, some of them over two hundred years old.

Other areas of interest are the nineteenth-century publications on livestock which show contemporary views on the value of different breeds of cattle, sheep, etc., whilst the handbooks on agriculture help to provide a picture of contemporary agricultural practices and rural life. The series of county surveys sponsored by the Board of Agriculture between 1793 and 1817 (many of

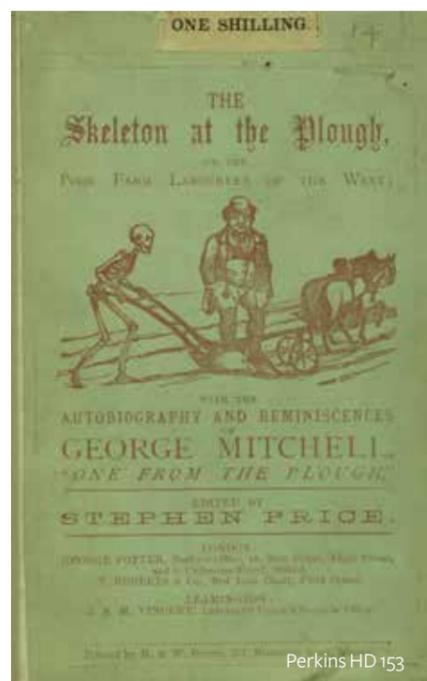


Caption

Perkins HD 595.2

which are already digitised) are especially important in this respect, providing detailed descriptions of the rural and political economy of each county.

There is more information about the collection and how to access it on the Library website (<http://library.soton.ac.uk/perkins>) whilst the progress of the digitisation project can be followed by searching for 'Perkins Southampton' on Internet Archive ([archive.org](http://archive.org)).



Perkins HD 153



Page with a specimen of a plant from *The British farmer's plant portfolio*: Perkins f.SB 193

# Collections

## New accessions

The Special Collections has continued to acquire a range of new manuscript collections that complement the existing holdings and provide new resources for teaching and research.

Papers of Anglo-Jewish interest include those of Edith “Edie” Noble, née Davidson or Davidovitz (1910–2005), whose papers relate the work of Jewish women’s organisations, most notably the League of Jewish Women, for over half a century (MS 381) and material relating to the Salomons family at Broomhill in Kent. Revd Dr James Parkes was the author of a booklet relating the story of the three David Salomons at Broomhill. Given this connection, it is fitting that the Special Collections has acquired two large volumes of papers relating to Salomons family members, most notably the banker Sir David Salomons, first Baronet (1797–1873), Lord Mayor of London and MP for Greenwich, and his nephew and heir, Sir David Lionel Goldsmid-Stern-Salomons (1851–1925). The papers, which date from 1810 to 1924, provide a fascinating glimpse into Sir David

Salomons’ public career and to Sir David Lionel Goldsmid-Stern-Salomons’ scientific research, including relating to electricity, motor vehicles and the improvement of the construction of fire proof buildings.

Some items from a new collection of Wellington related material form part of the Special Collections exhibition to mark the bicentenary of Waterloo. As well as an intriguing letter from Wellington to Major Dickson of the Royal Artillery from 1812, there is a fine series of nineteenth-century military illustrations (several of Wellington and the Battle of Waterloo), Cruikshank cartoons and a contemporary map of the Battle of Waterloo. The most unusual item is a nautilus shell, engraved by C.H.Wood, depicting the Duke of Wellington on one side and St George slaying a dragon on the other. C.H.Wood was a specialist in this nineteenth-century art form

and shells by him were exhibited at the Great Exhibition of 1851. A shell produced by Wood to commemorate Lord Nelson is held at the National Maritime Museum in London.

The University also has recently acquired a small collection of correspondence, 1832–52, between Wellington and Deputy Commissary General William Booth. Booth joined the commissary service in 1808 and then Wellington’s headquarters shortly before the battle of Talavera in 1809. He was to remain on Wellington’s staff until the end of the Peninsular War in 1814 and was in charge of the commissary accounts with the army of occupation in France between 1815 and 1818. Booth was appointed Principal Clerk to the Survey of Ordnance at Dublin in 1824 by the Duke of Wellington who was at that time the Master General of the Ordnance.



Frank Templeton Prince

## Frank Templeton Prince: a literary legacy

**Born in Kimberley, South Africa, Frank Templeton Prince (1912–2003) was the son of a Jewish diamond expert and a Scottish Presbyterian. Prince was educated at the Christian Brothers’ College, Kimberley, and at Balliol College, Oxford, where he read English. From 1940 until 1946, he served in the Army Intelligence Corps. In 1946 Prince joined the English Department at the University of Southampton, becoming one of its first professors in 1957. He remained at Southampton until 1974, subsequently teaching at the University of the West Indies, in the United States and in North Yemen. He delivered the Clark Lectures at Cambridge University in 1972–3.**

Prince is probably best remembered for his collection *Soldiers Bathing* (1954), the title poem of which ‘Soldiers Bathing’ was heralded by Stephen Spender as the most important work to emerge from the Second World War and is one of the most anthologised poems of the war. Written in 1942, it presents soldiers relaxing by a river and culminates in a powerful evocation of the naked Christ on the cross. Initially championed by T.S.Eliot, and praised by W.H.Auden and E.M.Forster, Prince’s poetry was to quickly fall out of fashion. He was admired by and influenced the New York school, a group of writers that flourished in the 1960s, and was regarded by John Ashbery, the group’s most famous poet, as one of the most significant poets of the twentieth century. Due to its timescale, Prince’s poetic

career did not fall in with a particular group or school. His work draws on an extensive variety of influences and forms, reviving, for instance, Milton’s strambotti for a collection of poems from *The Doors of Stone* (1963).

Available for the first time in 2012, the centenary of his birth, the Prince archive makes a significant contribution to the understanding of twentieth-century poetry and Prince’s influence on its development. The archive contains an important collection of Prince’s poetry and prose writings, as well as a range of correspondence with many literary figures, including W.H.Auden, Stephen Spender, C.S.Lewis, E.M.Forster and T.S.Eliot who, as editor at Faber and Faber, was a supporter of Prince’s poetry.

Two recent acquisitions to the Special

Collections are two collections of papers that complement the Prince archive: papers of Professor Jacques Berthoud (1935–2001), a friend and former colleague of Frank Prince at the University of Southampton, and correspondence and papers of the poet W.G. (Bill) Shepherd (1935–2012). The correspondence between Prince and Shepherd relates to poetry and provides a fascinating insight into the genesis of poems by Prince.

Two new pamphlets of F.T. Prince’s poetry — *Memoirs of Caravaggio* (edited by Peter Robinson) and *In Keats Country* (edited by Will May) — based on the Prince archive at Southampton, have recently been published by Perdika Press.

Purification V.M. Candlemas

Parliamentary Dinner

Lo James Stewart	Mr H. Herbert
Lo Ernest Bruce	Mr Brand
Lo Durston	Mr Mafsey
Lo G. Grey	Mr Lowe
Lo Chas Wood	Mr Wm Grey
Sir G. Lewis	Mr C Clifford
Mr Labouchere	Mr M Milnes
Lo Bengt Hall	Mr Beaumont
Sir Chas Napier	Mr T. Haskey
Sir R. B. ...	

Meeting at my House at 12  
Greenwich Clarendon Row  
Chas Wood Stanley of Alderley  
to consider Success Speech

Parliament met  
address made by Trefusis second  
by Mr. Speech long and  
very ill written - I spoke after  
second, then Disraeli and then  
John Russell House up by 8  
o'clock

Diary entries for Henry John Temple, third Viscount Palmerston, 2-3 February 1859

# Supporting teaching and research

## The use of the Broadlands archive and the digitised Palmerston Papers in teaching: David Brown, Professor of Modern History

The archive and special collection holdings of the Hartley Library, and particularly the Broadlands archive which has recently been secured by the University, are an undoubted boon not only to research but also to teaching within the University.

Many advanced undergraduate and postgraduate modules make particular use of the collections, introducing students first-hand to the raw materials of historical research. For modern historians we are extraordinarily fortunate to have the papers of three Victorian prime ministers (the Duke of Wellington, and Lords Melbourne and Palmerston) as well as those of the noted Victorian philanthropist, the seventh Earl of Shaftesbury. For the twentieth century the papers of Lord Mountbatten offer an extremely important perspective on many aspects of British history, notably the end of Empire. While students are encouraged to engage with the archives from an early stage in their careers, it is in the third year, as they move on to study detailed special subjects and write dissertations, that this material becomes particularly important to history teaching. In my own teaching of a Special Subject on 'Palmerston's World', which uses Palmerston's life and career as a prism through which to examine nineteenth century

politics and society, access to the private papers of our chief subject is invaluable. With some special training in using the papers built into the module students are able to pursue their research from an early stage in the archive in preparing seminar presentations and essays. In this way students are genuinely able to work 'at the cutting edge' of historical research and challenge historians' ideas with direct access to some of the most important, and often under-studied, documents relevant to the period. For many students this has presented unexpected challenges, not least that of reading often very poor handwriting. The digitised samples taken from the collections are therefore particularly valuable as students are able to work on the papers, effectively in their original form, at a more leisurely pace. Access to the papers in both paper and electronic form makes the process of studying but also teaching the module far more stimulating than simply working from published sources. Many students choose

to write their dissertations on topics that allow them to draw heavily on the archive collections and in recent work covering topics as diverse as the public role of the monarchy, political networks within a prominent aristocratic family, the government of Empire, British efforts to suppress the slave trade, and absentee landlordism and the famine in Ireland, access to the Broadlands papers has underpinned some innovative, original and stimulating research that would otherwise not have been possible. It is always interesting to ask questions in a seminar on Victorian politics such as: 'what influence did the monarchy have on this issue?', or 'why was that decision taken then?'. To be able to walk into the archive and find the answers in the original papers brings a fresh and exciting dimension to the teaching experience. Much insightful work has already been done by students utilising these papers, but there remains much still to uncover...

## Archives and teaching: Chris Woolgar, Professor of History and Archival Studies

**This reflection parallels a shift in career I have recently made: having spent 30 years looking after the archives and special collections at Southampton, I have transferred to the Faculty of Humanities.**

**Part of my new role is to encourage work on the great range of materials in the collections that Southampton holds. Beyond their importance for research, they are an obvious resource for teaching — and my colleagues already make use of them. Working with primary sources in the original manuscript, however, is not something that students will necessarily find straightforward.**

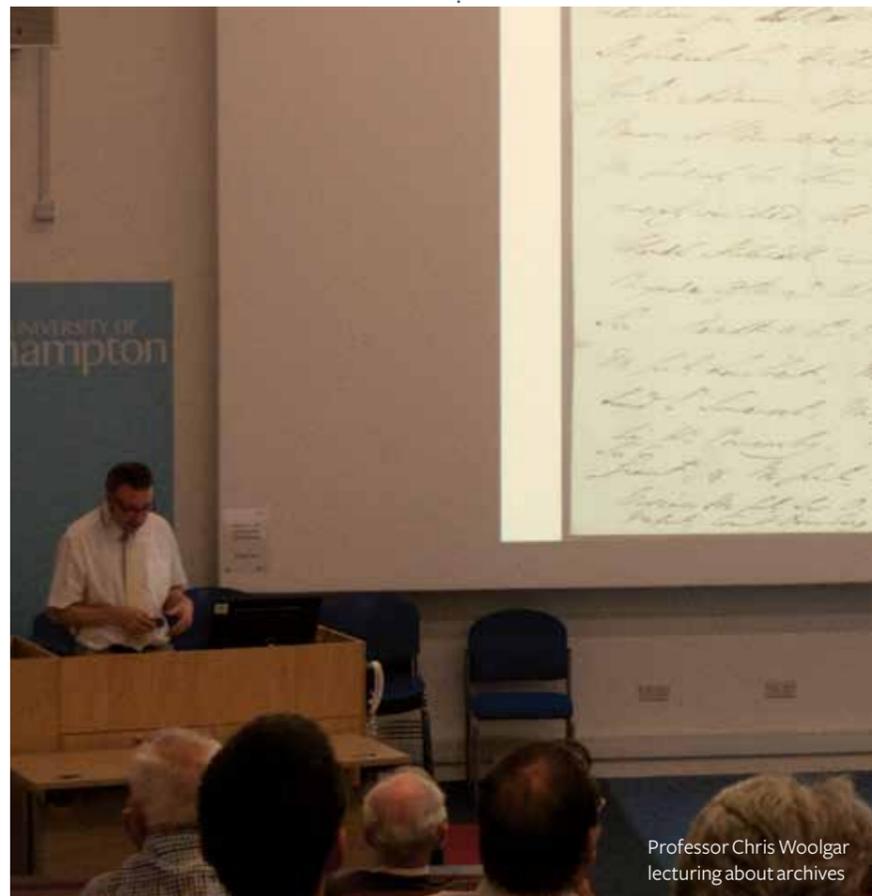
In shaping teaching and research projects — such as the group project that forms an important component of the second year of the History degree at Southampton, or dissertation work — there are three prerequisites: understanding archival context, equipping students with the technical skills that enable them to make full use of the collections, and, third, ensuring that the exercise fits into the pattern of teaching, to recognise that students need to come to the archive with a focus, to complete a specific piece of work, to answer questions — this is an exercise in interpreting primary sources of all kinds, and bringing them to bear on historical argument.

Context is critical for understanding what an archive is and how it works. The student needs to know what it is exactly that he or she is looking at. This is both a question of provenance (from where does this material derive?) and of proportion: the scale of archives is frequently not understood — have you come to look at just a part of the papers of the first Duke of Wellington, or all 1200 boxes? Understanding the function of the original documentation — and developing a sense of source criticism — are also important. While any researcher will need to know how the record fits into the overall historical record as we now have it, it is essential to appreciate what that record did in its original context. Is what I am looking at a draft, a final version, a fair copy or a later copy — and why was it made, when, where and by whom?

These contextual questions overlap to a degree with the technical skills and knowledge for fully engaging with archives. These are best achieved by gaining a familiarity with original materials. To this end, we make arrangements to introduce students to collections, and to offer training sessions run for those interested in work with archives for their projects and dissertations. The ability to read older handwriting and the language of the text is crucial.

The third element is to fit archive work into the pattern of teaching. History courses encourage engagement with primary sources, illuminating the work of historians, and also as a base for original research work. Southampton's students have a range of

opportunities for this, at different levels — I will be offering our second year students a new course on Wellington and the war against Napoleon that will introduce them to some of the source material, and this may well form the basis for individual research for a third year dissertation. Others engage students with third year special subject work, giving them a chance to work with the original documentation for the independence of India and Pakistan, or Palmerston and the politics of the nineteenth century, or with our Jewish collections, for studies of refugees or the Holocaust. Students find working directly with archives a rewarding experience: it leads to exceptional work and they have found the process an important part of their studies.



## Treasures of ecological history... the Southampton Historical River Data Archive:

Terry Langford, Visiting Professor, Faculty of Engineering and the Environment.



**On the day the photograph was taken in 2010, the river water was clear, showing waving water weeds on a clean gravel bed. Large numbers of brilliant blue Beautiful Demoiselle damselflies (*Calopteryx splendens*) were flitting over the water and landing on the marginal vegetation prior to mating. An impressive sight for any conservationist or ecologist. Standing on exactly the same spot almost 50 years previously I had seen a flow of black, foetid, fishless water with a layer of foam up to 1m thick in places. A hand-net sample of the river bed produced nothing but a Gordian knot of writhing bright red sludgeworms, the product of millions of gallons of poorly treated sewage and untreated industrial effluents from Birmingham, the Black Country and Stoke on Trent all many miles upstream. Biological diversity is virtually nil.**

The change over 50 years was almost unbelievable, but how had it come about and what were the processes involved? Although there were a few scientific papers from the 1950s and 60s, the processes of change had not been well described, mainly because there appeared to be no access to early data. However, as a result of some personal enquiries, a treasure trove of raw data was located, in the shed of one of the biologists who had worked on the rivers at

that time. The hoard consisted of over 22,000 individual records of biological surveys in the River Trent Catchment all carefully organised in date order, plus reports and contemporaneous field notes. The material was retrieved very rapidly by staff in the Centre for Environmental Sciences.

Thanks to their foresight and the willing and enthusiastic assistance of the staff at the University of Southampton Archives and Manuscripts, these raw data from biological and chemical surveys, which were about to be ditched by the Agencies, were saved from destruction and the individual records, the products of thousands of man-hours work, are now safely stored and catalogued for academic analysis, future management planning and future work by students. In addition, similar data for eastern rivers were sent to the archive by the Environment Agency in East Anglia, again some dating back to the late 1950s and early 1960s. These data form the longest run of raw river ecology data in the England and perhaps in Europe. Added to this are reports and grey literature that augment the story of the cleaning up of rivers in the English east and west midlands.

The records kept so carefully catalogued and preserved in the Archives and Manuscripts based in the Hartley Library have so far formed the basis of two book chapters, one academic paper, eight MSc projects with a ninth in progress. Most of the work has been done with close collaboration and help by staff of the Environment Agency. As a regular user of the archive, I have found everyone there so helpful and professional both with me and the students. We in CES, intend to develop more work with the Archives and exploit, we hope, their contacts with other archives in Britain and perhaps in Europe. The work on the recovery of British rivers will, we hope, be of great assistance to countries such as China and India who have severe river pollution problems at the present time, mostly caused by exactly

the same economic, technical and socio-political history as those of 1950s industrial Britain. There are other archive data round the country that could be linked with the Southampton Archives including those from the Environment Agency and local library archives. For example, much of the peripheral data for our studies came from the Birmingham archives, recently rehoused in the city and from the Lincoln City Archives. The work on rivers is based on the old adage that "those who ignore history are condemned to repeat it". The return to the black, foetid fishless river in Britain cannot be contemplated. "From there to here" will be a pattern, we hope, for all the newer industrialised countries.

# Groups

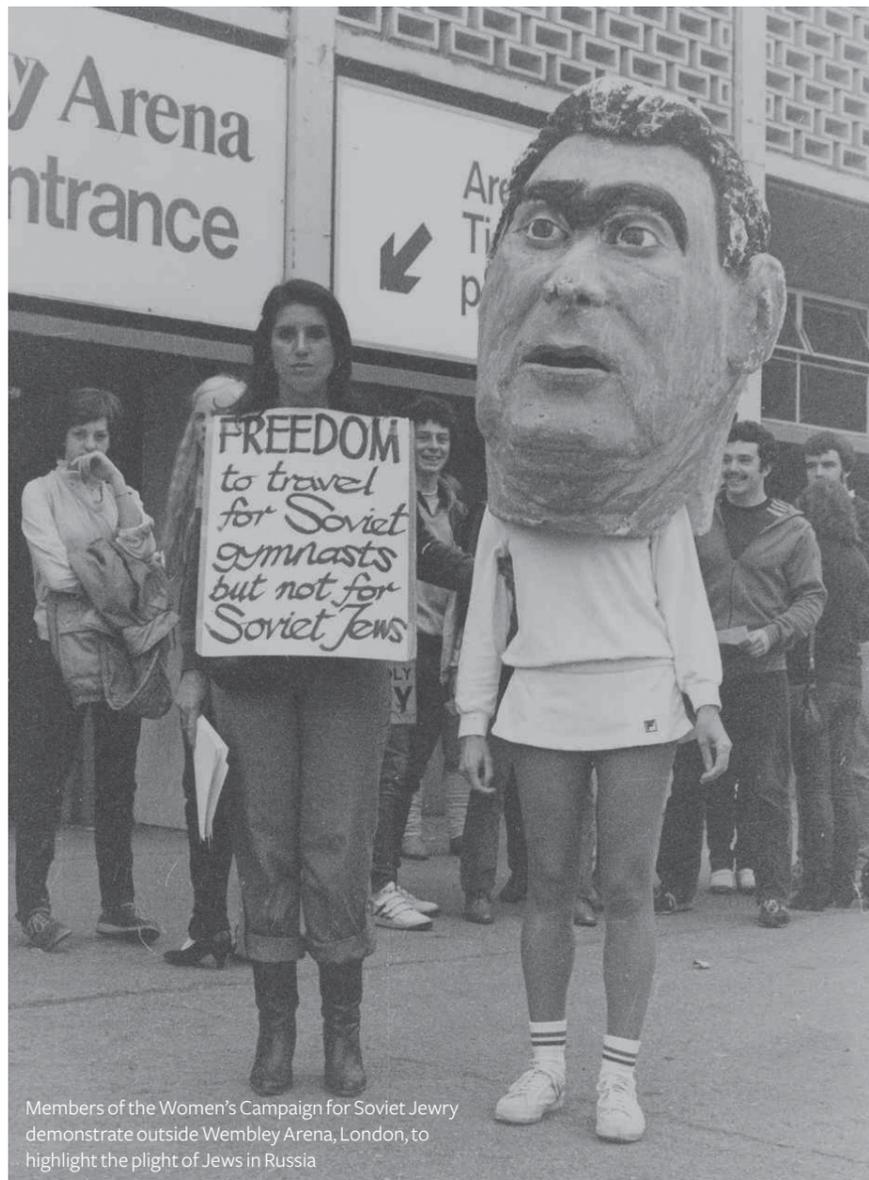
An important element of the second year History undergraduate work at Southampton is the 'group project'. This provides a valuable opportunity for the students to carry out a piece of historical research based on a rich array of primary resources and to present their findings as a public outcome.

In previous years these public outcomes have taken the form of web sites, exhibitions, films, talks to schools or special interest groups. The holdings of Special Collections have been the focus of a considerable number of these group projects. In the 2013-14 academic year, projects that used the Special Collections included postal reform; valentines; Wellington and the battle of Toulouse; the Women's Campaign for Soviet Jewry pressure group; Southampton postcards; Southampton castle; student politics; Broadlands; and the Jewish East End.

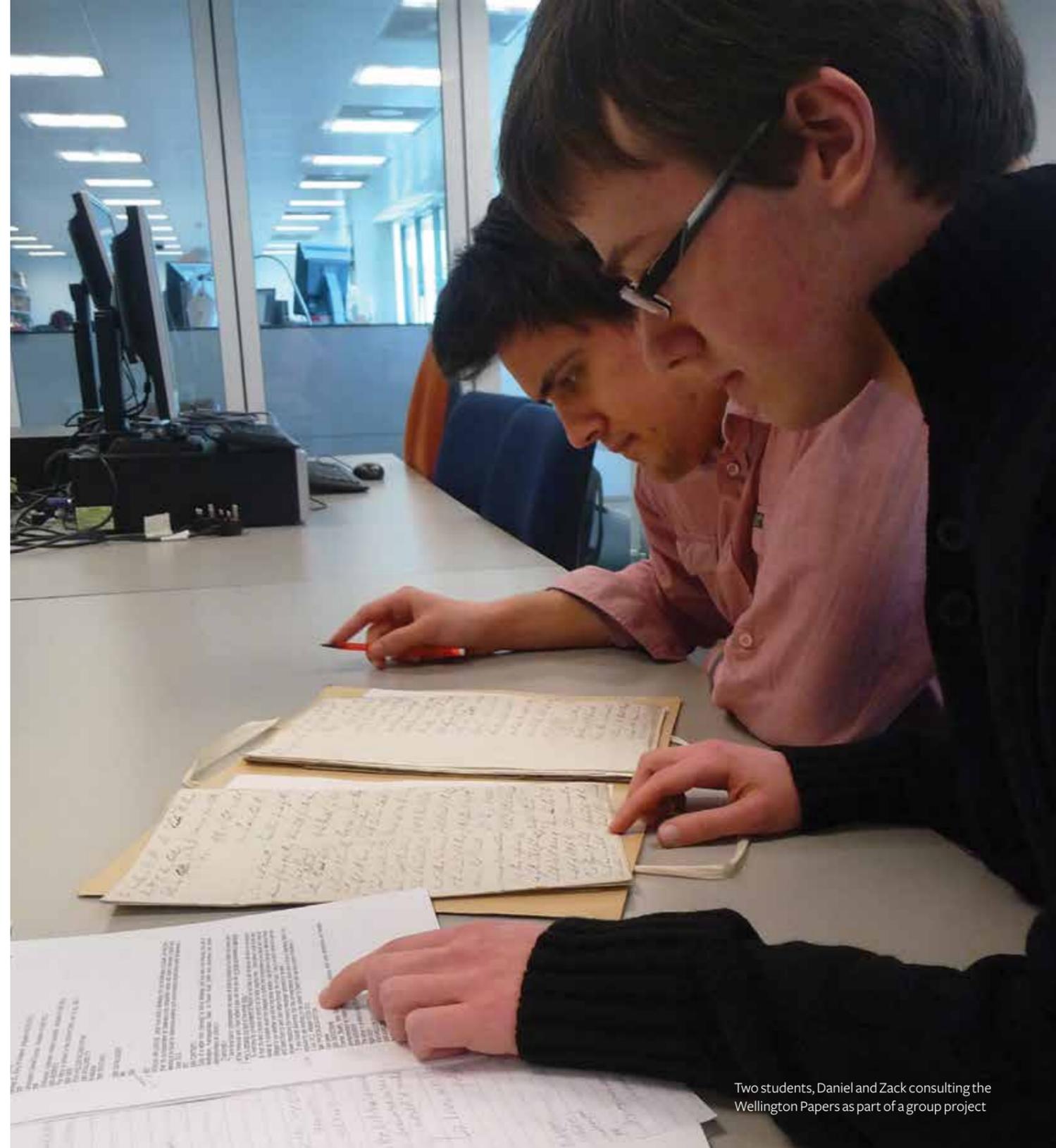
For 2014-15, projects using Special Collections ranged widely from the nuns of Romsey Abbey in the middle ages to Southampton and post-war youth culture. Other topics included the Jewish Board of Guardians; Countess Mountbatten of Burma; the Battle of Waterloo; World War I and universities; Lord Shaftesbury and philanthropy; the travels of second Viscount Palmerston; and Earl Mountbatten of Burma in retirement.



Lady Mountbatten on a visit to Singapore, 8 February 1954



Members of the Women's Campaign for Soviet Jewry demonstrate outside Wembley Arena, London, to highlight the plight of Jews in Russia



Two students, Daniel and Zack consulting the Wellington Papers as part of a group project

As well as the opportunity to engage with the Special Collections resources, the group projects support the development of relevant skills for the third year dissertation or other research work.

# News and events

## 1964-2014: the Parkes Library

2014 marked the fiftieth anniversary of the transfer of the private library of Revd Dr James Parkes to Southampton University Library. Parkes began collecting books whilst working for the International Student Service in Europe during the 1930s. On his return to Britain in 1935, following an attempt on his life by the Nazis, he made the collection available to other scholars at his home in Barley near Cambridge. By the time it arrived at Southampton, the library consisted of over 4,000 books, 2,000 pamphlets and 140 journals. In the intervening half century it has grown to 28,000 books and periodicals.



The official opening of the Parkes Library, 23 June 1965

Parkes devoted his life to combating anti-Semitism, something that he first encountered in European universities while working for the International Student Service. He helped rescue Jewish refugees during the 1930s and campaigned for the Jews of Europe during the Holocaust. He was a founder member of the Council of Christians and Jews and worked throughout his career in promoting religious tolerance and mutual respect.

The Parkes Library is now one of the largest Jewish documentation centres in Europe and the only one in the world devoted to Jewish/non-Jewish relations. It has led to the development of the Parkes Institute, which provides teaching at undergraduate level and postgraduate level, as well as having a thriving doctoral programme.

The Parkes Institute has organised a range of events in 2014/15 to mark the golden jubilee of the Parkes Library. These have included conferences, lectures and study days. A Special Collections exhibition on Parkes and the Parkes Library *Creating a legacy: the Parkes Library* will be held in the Special Collections Gallery, Hartley Library, from 7 September to 6 November 2015.

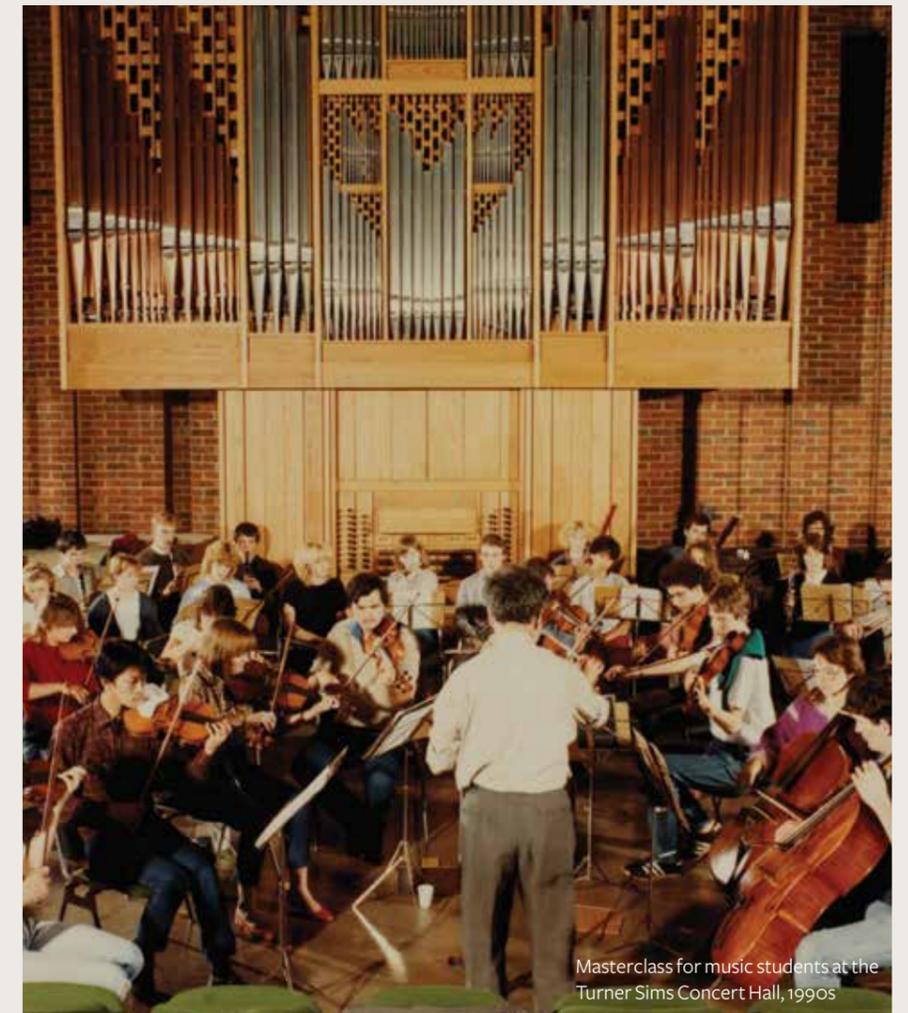
For details see the events page on the Special Collections website: <http://www.southampton.ac.uk/archives/exhibitions/>  
For further information on Parkes Institute events contact the Parkes Institute on [parkes@southampton.ac.uk](mailto:parkes@southampton.ac.uk)

## Special Collections exhibitions:

Part of the series of events organised at the University of Southampton to mark the centenary of the start of the First World War, the autumn 2014 exhibition *When 'the days of conquest are passed': reflections on war and warfare* drew on material from a range of Special Collections to offer differing insights into war and warfare. The exhibition focused on themes of patriotism and duty, material from the war and home fronts, literary comments on war and commemoration and remembrance. Whilst it included items drawn from the range of military archives at the University, covering a period from the late eighteenth century to the mid-twentieth century, there was a strong First World War strand. The exhibition formed part of a University study day on the First World War held in November 2014.

*'Music hath charms': the musical life of the university*, the first exhibition of 2015, highlighted some of the music collections in Special Collections, as well as showing the diversity of musical activities — particularly in terms of social events and performances — that have been a regular fixture of University life.

Since the inception of the Hartley Institution in 1862, the Special Collections has acquired a select range of collections relating to music that support research activities: the most significant manuscript collection probably being that of the conducting scores of Gustav Mahler. Groups such as the Southampton Operatic Society and the Choral and Orchestral Society have performed shows at the University for decades, while the Student Union has been the hub of musical entertainment and social events. The construction of the Turner Sims Concert Hall on campus in the 1970s added a further dimension to the musical life of the University, providing a purpose built performance space for professional concerts as well as for teaching. The exhibition included a series of photographs by John Garfield, who photographed performers at the Turner Sims Concert Hall, Southampton, between 1996 and 2009.



Masterclass for music students at the Turner Sims Concert Hall, 1990s



# Waterloo bicentenary events 2015

## Sixth Wellington Congress

The University hosted the Sixth Wellington Congress, Friday 10 April – Sunday 12 April 2015. Delegates travelled from all over the UK as well as from as far afield as America and Australia.

Visitors to the *Wellington and Waterloo: 'the tale is in every Englishman's mouth'* exhibition, Special Collections Exhibition Gallery

Proceedings were opened on Friday afternoon by His Grace the Duke of Wellington. On the Friday evening local group *The Maddening Crowd* performed music specially selected for the bicentenary as well as a display of square and Morris dancing at the Turner Sims Concert Hall. On Saturday lunchtime, five current and graduate Southampton History students entertained and educated us with their *BBC Battles, Waterloo 200* presentation. Delegates had the opportunity to visit the Special Collections exhibition *Wellington and Waterloo: 'the tale is in every Englishman's mouth'* on the Saturday evening before the Congress dinner. The exhibition draws extensively from the Wellington Archive at the University to capture the final act of two decades of war

from the perspective of one individual, Arthur Wellesley, first Duke of Wellington.

The Congress papers, which included four key note lectures, ranged widely, covering Wellington's military career and the battle of Waterloo, as well as political, social and literary topics. Will Hay from Mississippi State University, the first key note lecturer, kicked off proceedings on Friday with his paper on 'Architects of victory: the partnership of Wellington, Castlereagh and Liverpool in winning Britain's first great war' which discussed this unappreciated partnership between the military commanders and their political masters. 'Strategy, seapower and supplies: the British government's resources in

support of Wellington and the European allies, 1808-1815' was the topic addressed by Roger Knight of the Institute of Historical Research, London, the author of a recent book on this subject. Rory Muir, whose second volume of his biography of Wellington was published in June, spoke about 'The Vicissitudes of Fame: Wellington's Posthumous Reputation, 1852-2015' and how and why Wellington's reputation as a military leader and politician has evolved in the years since his death. The Congress closed on Sunday lunchtime with a paper from Professor Woolgar who gave an in-depth analysis of the Waterloo dispatch.

## Waterloo Day event

The Special Collections played host to around 150 visitors, on the afternoon of 18 June in a special event to mark the Battle of Waterloo. The programme began with a guided tour of the Special Collections exhibition, followed by a lecture and a special tea and cake. A number of students who are following the MOOC were able to attend the day.

## Special Collections blog launched

In March 2014, the Special Collections launched its blog. The blog includes features on collections, news and reviews of events and articles by researchers on their research projects.

To follow the blog go to <http://specialcollectionsuniversityofsouthampton.wordpress.com>



The Duke of Wellington at the Battle of Waterloo

## Battle of Waterloo MOOC

The University has produced a MOOC (Massive open online course) on Wellington and the Battle of Waterloo which ran for three weeks commencing 8 June 2015. Led by Karen Robson and Professor Chris Woolgar, the course drew extensively on the archive resources at the University of Southampton to explore the social and political context of the battle.



Specially commissioned Duke of Wellington cake for the Waterloo Day event



Visitors to the 'Wellington and Waterloo: the tale is in every Englishman's mouth' exhibition, Level 4 Gallery



Visitors to the 'Wellington and Waterloo: the tale is in every Englishman's mouth' exhibition, Level 4 Gallery



[www.southampton.ac.uk/archives](http://www.southampton.ac.uk/archives)

[archives@southampton.ac.uk](mailto:archives@southampton.ac.uk)

+44 (0)23 8059 2721