

**ADM 13 Admiralty, Passing Certificates for Engineers (ADM 13/200-205)**

This project involved the creation of items from a digitised additional finding aid for the six pieces ADM 13/200-205, and has generated 3765 items. Information provided covers personal names, ranks, awards of certificates, and some other personal details in support of those awards.

**CO 904 Ireland: Dublin Castle Records, and WO 35 War Office: Army of Ireland: Administrative and Easter Rising Records**

WO 35/206–207 War Office Army of Ireland: Irish Rebellion: Sinn Fein personalities 1922.

CO 904/193-216 Dublin Castle Papers: Personalities files.

CO 904/42-44 Murder trials. All files are now catalogued by name.

WO 35/94-120/1 and WO 35/121-131/1 Prosecutions of civilians files.

These catalogue entries now include name; charge; date, place and/or county; verdict, sentence and/or other outcome.

WO 35/146A/2-160 Inquiry in lieu of inquest files.

These files are now catalogued by name, date and place and/or county.

**C 11 Court of Chancery: Six Clerks Office: Pleadings 1714 to 1758**

From 2008/09 TNA has been improving the existing catalogue descriptions for C 11, Chancery proceedings 1714-1758, using manuscript finding aids that contained extra data. This major staff and volunteer project has now been completed: 115,000 improved descriptions have been added to the catalogue, giving access to a million extra names.

We started by augmenting the existing description (plaintiff v defendant) by adding the document type (Bill and answer; answer only; schedule, depositions etc). After that we added extra data giving full names, residences and occupations of the parties. Some of the entries also have relationships, son, daughter, aunt, nephew etc or, if a will or estate was in dispute, an indication of the testator.

**C 14 Court of Chancery: Clerks of Records and Writs Office: Pleadings 1842-1852**

C 14 contains nearly 22,000 pleadings started in the Court of Chancery between Michaelmas 1842 and 1852. The catalogue entries for C 14 have now been brought up to the standard of the very popular C 16 (similar pleadings, started 1861-1875). Instead of just giving short title, the descriptions have been expanded to include the

names of plaintiffs and defendants as recorded in the Cause Books in C 32. As with C 16, we have added searchable codes to indicate female plaintiffs (SFP for one, JFP for more than one) for those researchers interested in studying Victorian women. The solicitors are named in the C 32: most are based in London, and these have not been included. We have indicated where they were not Londoners, in order to give some idea of potential location of the parties.

### **WORK architectural drawings (WORK 29 x 44, excluding WORK 39)**

Completed in June 2013 to enhance descriptions of Ministry of Works architectural drawings: c18,200 pieces across 15 series, some containing multiple items.

Buildings shown on the drawings are of national importance and/or wide interest, ranging in date from the 17th century to the 1930s.

Data was input over a number of years by non-specialist staff as an opportunity to learn about architectural drawings, from an original Ministry of Works card index formerly in the custody of English Heritage, to enhance existing fairly minimal descriptions. The upload to Discovery enables searching by architects' names, contract drawing numbers, and phases of building construction and alteration. Exact dating is now given in many cases. This project has allowed removal of a series of old, partial, and not very legible finding aids from the Map and Large Document Reading Room. It has made these drawings much more accessible both from the point of view of general interest, and also for architectural historians and those responsible for custody and conservation of the buildings.

### **C5 Chancery Pleadings, Bridges Division, 1613-1714**

C 5 now has 60,000 detailed descriptions searchable in Discovery, thanks to Friends of The National Archives, who ran a major offsite volunteer project to input the data from 4 closely-printed volumes. The Friends also funded the work of an expert editor to add further details from an 18th century list which had been renumbered in the 19th century.

C 5 includes nearly 6,000 cases brought by women alone (identifiable by the codes SFP and JFP – sole female plaintiff and joint female plaintiffs), and there are also over 300 references to inns, called the usual range of Swans, Bears, Bulls, Angels, Crowns etc – but also the less likely Three Herrings. We added [inn] if these were just described as The Bell, to make them more easily found, but some may well be taverns or brew-houses.

### **SP 20 Parliamentary Sequestration Committee: Books and Papers**

SP 20/10-13 General and case papers, covering the years 1643-1651, are now complete and live on Discovery, described with the manuscript folio range and the item range from a Calendar.

### **WO 69 Ordnance Office, Military Branch, and War Office: Royal Artillery Records of Service and Papers, 1755-1917**

These records of non-commissioned officers and men include description books; records of service, including original attestation papers; registers of marriages and baptisms; registers of deceased soldiers; some records of transfer of men to the Army Reserve; pension registers; description book of the Royal Irish Artillery, 1756 to 1774; and miscellaneous correspondence. The series has an overall date range from 1755 to 1917. The project, completed by the Friends of the National Archives, has provided a total of over 176,000 entries relating to individual service.

### **MH 47 Central Military Service Tribunal and Middlesex Appeal Tribunal: Minutes and Papers, 1915-1922**

The project to digitise MH 47, the papers of the Middlesex Appeal Tribunal, is now complete, with the digital images launched via Discovery on 22 January. The funding provided by the Friends of TNA and the Federation of Family History Societies has allowed this collection to be made available as free downloads for a 10 year period. The records comprise case papers for over 8,000 individuals seeking exemption from conscription into the army in Middlesex during the First World War.

As part of the project, a series of catalogue amendments were required. Firstly this was envisaged to only require additional catalogue work on the non-case paper pieces – MH 47/1-6, 118-134, 142-162. However, as the project progressed, it became apparent that the case papers pieces would also require amending. Firstly this was because the actual physical pieces had been sub-divided into two boxes following the volunteer pre-scanning preparation work. Then, as the project came towards its conclusion, a series of added amendments were required so to ensure that the non-case papers pieces had the same item structure to support the file downloads.

### **BT 100 Registry of Shipping and Seamen: Transcripts and Transactions, Series IV, Closed Registries, 1890-1998**

All 2,189 pieces now described with ships names and official numbers, when built and date of closure of ship's registry. MMAT, together with colleagues from the Family History Team and across the office along with a number of volunteers have completed the BT 110 cataloguing project. These records consist from 1890 to 1998 of merchant navy ship transcripts and transactions basically recording the registration and ownership of a ship. Just under 100,000 items (individual ships' registries) in BT 110 can now be searched on Discovery by ship's name, official number (useful for searches of other BT record series), date of building and date of closure of the ship's registry.

### **E 179 Hearth Tax (Too Poor to Pay) Surrey**

The Surrey Hearth Tax exemption certificates are now available on Discovery. There are 339 items comprising 315 certificates under the reference E 179/346.

### **E 179 Hearth Tax (Too Poor to Pay) Dorset**

The Dorset Hearth Tax exemption certificates (E 179/105/352) are now available on Discovery, representing another 488 certificates.

### **E 179 Hearth Tax (Too Poor to Pay) Anglesey**

The hearth tax exemption certificates for Anglesey are now available on Discovery under the reference E 179/351/1.

### **DEFE 4 Chiefs of Staff Minutes, DEFE 5 Chief of Staff Papers, DEFE 6 Joint Planning Staff Papers**

This project involved the detailed cataloguing of a total of 545 pieces for the Ministry of Defence: Chiefs of Staff (COS) Committee. The records comprised DEFE 4, COS Committee, Minutes 1947-1970; DEFE 5, COS Committee, Memoranda 1947-1970; and DEFE 6, COS Committee, Reports of the Joint Planning Staff and successors 1947-1968. The contents of the pieces in these sequences are now listed in detail, e.g. the subjects discussed at each Chief of Staff Committee meeting and the date of that meeting, or the title of each individual memorandum discussed by the COS committee and its date.

### **MEPO Metropolitan Police Officers**

MEPO 4 Miscellaneous Books and Papers (includes Metropolitan Police Service Records, pieces 333–452).

Supplementary Finding Aids in MEPO 2 and MEPO 7 were incorporated into MEPO 4 to enhance the descriptions of some pieces and items within the service records. MEPO 2 SFA related mainly to officers serving in the Metropolitan Police and has enriched descriptions in the MEPO 4 service records by adding some 39,326 items. These includes items within MEPO 4/333–338 Alphabetical Registers of Joiners, MEPO 4/339–351 Registers of Leavers, MEPO 4/352–358 Attestation Ledgers, and MEPO 4/361–477 Certificate of Service Records. MEPO 7 SFA added some 10,956 items to MEPO 4/335 Alphabetical Register of Joiners between 1880 and 1889. Many items are now searchable by name of police officer and warrant number and record date of joining and in many cases date of leaving.

## **Recently Approved Cataloguing Projects**

### **ADM 158 – Royal Marine Description Books**

A project to conserve, digitise and transcribe the Records from the Royal Marine Description books covering all RM Divisions and for the period c.1750 -1940.

### **ADM 116/171 - Records of Service Ratings with Russian Armoured Cars**

Covering 600 records, a name rich project to supplement the content already available to download via Discovery.

### **AIR 2/9040 - World War 2 Decorations, Medals, Honours and Awards**

Letters indicating recommendations for the George Cross/Medal and British Empire Medal.

### **C 101 - Chancery Masters' Account Books**

The Accounts in C 101 provide a valuable overview of the property litigated in Chancery between c1650-1875. Any property that was 'in Chancery' had annual accounts submitted to make sure that no potential beneficiary was defrauded. This means they will provide an excellent source of data for the running of farms, mines, factories, railways, canals, shipping, businesses and estates of lands and houses, considerably enhancing current poor catalogue descriptions.

### **Chancery Pleadings: retrospective conversion of the manuscript catalogues of C 8**

This project will provide descriptions for 78,190 currently blank and undated references. The series covers pleadings in English brought before the court of Chancery by litigants from all classes of society, and covers a wide variety of disputes over inheritance, businesses, debts, common rights, charities, marriage settlements, apprenticeship, trusts, etc, mostly from England and Wales but some from the West Indian and American colonies.

### **Medieval Education Web Resource – Magna Carta and the Development of Parliament**

This is the first part of a two year investment bid project that will develop a new online resource to support the teaching of Medieval History at Key Stage 3, 4 and 5. It will meet the requirements of the new National Curriculum for History and for the GCSE and A level exam syllabuses.

### **Unknown Treasures – providing descriptions for records of the Kings Bench, Exchequer, and Court of Common Pleas**

Identification and accessioning of 21,000 files of TNA's unsorted records, currently unavailable on Discovery. These files will be referenced and listed with basic descriptions and dates following an initial conservation assessment. They will then be made searchable and orderable in Discovery.

### **ZSPC 11 - The WE Hayward collection of railway postcards, photographs and ephemera, phase 2**

Continuation of an existing project that has already provided item level descriptions for 48% of this unique collection of railway records. The pieces selected for the next phase cover the material of railway companies that became the 'Big Four': Great Central Railway; Great Eastern Railway; London, Brighton & South Coast Railway; London Chatham & Dover Railway; London & North Western Railway; South Eastern Railway; London Midland & Scottish Railway; Southern Railway, plus Underground railways and Irish Railways.