

UAG Cataloguing project update December 2014

H 250 Civil Defence Gallantry Awards

The last 5 pieces of HO 250's enriched catalogue descriptions (HO 250/106-110) have now been added to Discovery. We have now created over 4,300 items relating to evidence submitted to the Inter-departmental Committee on Civil Defence Gallantry Awards concerning the recommendation of awards, during the period 1940 and 1949. This will be of enormous help to family and public historians.

This project was a Friends of The National Archives project and utilised enhanced descriptions that had already been created by an FTNA member richly improving the description of this valuable resource by providing the Case Number, details of the Individual (name, age, occupation) and a Brief Summary of the Ground for Recommendation.

CO 633 Colonial Office: Union of South Africa Sessional Papers

The cataloguing of CO 633 (Union of South Africa Sessional papers 1910-1926) has resulted in 2,174 item descriptions being added to Discovery. Individual papers are described and can be identified. The cataloguing indicates the typical subject matter of sessional papers for other colonies.

WO 339 War Office: Officers' Services, First World War, Long Number Papers (numerical)

This series contains records and correspondence for Regular Army and Emergency Reserve officers who served in the First World War. The content of the files varies enormously, from a note supplying date of death, to a file of several parts containing attestation papers, record of service, personal correspondence and various other information. Prior to re-cataloguing, each of the 139,912 descriptions recorded the last name of each officer with often only the initial letter of the first name. For common names, this produced multiple hits, e.g. there were 512 J Smiths. Post re-cataloguing records the surname together with all forenames, as well as the last regiment served in and the Officer rank.

RAIL 23 Barry Railway Company

The final volume of the Barry Railway Staff Records in RAIL 23 is now available on Discovery. There were 6 volumes in all (RAIL 23/46-51), and through cataloguing them we have added the details of 2127 railway staff to Discovery.

C 79 Chancery: Six Clerks Office: Supplementary Decree Rolls

C 79 is a series of Chancery decrees which were written up for enrolment, but not actually added to one of the rolls at the time. They were later sewn together to form rolls, and were given a brief index. The index was used to create a list for the series, giving the suit title and date for each entry. This series was previously unlisted and unorderable.

HO 40 Home Office: Disturbances Correspondence

This section of the HO 40 series (a total of 56 bound volumes) has been catalogued to item level. The catalogue entries for these include a transcription of the original schedules of papers in the volumes themselves (where present), or summary descriptions of the contents, listing place names and subjects included therein.

This section of the HO 40 series has already been digitised and is available on the TNA website for download as a single document. The item level descriptions created in this cataloguing project will allow for increased access to this series. Researchers will be able to carry out keyword searches through Discovery to determine whether material of geographical or subject relevance is contained in a volume.

PWLB 11 West India Relief Commissioners: Mortgage Indentures (1767-1845)

Following extensive conservation work by The National Archives' Collection Care Department, colleagues in Advice and Records Knowledge and Information Management Policy have completed the accession of PWLB 11, West India Relief Commissioners: Mortgage Indentures. Each document is now described on Discovery.

The documents in PWLB 11 were submitted to the West Indian Relief Commission as evidence of ownership to support applications for loans and mortgages following the Great Barbados Hurricane in 1831. They include mortgage indentures and related documents relating to some 120 plantations in Jamaica, Barbados, St Lucia, St Vincent, Trinidad, British Guyana and Dominica from the 1760s onwards. Visually impressive, many of the mortgages include inventories and lists of slaves.

This series is an important source on the financing of plantations in the Caribbean. They complement the slave registers in series T 71, which have been used extensively by UCL's current Legacies of British Slave Ownership project and other financial records in Treasury series. Please see the West Indian Relief Commission page on the UK Government Web Archive for details of related records.

Seals Index Digitised seals card index – QFA

The 30,000 index cards describing seals held in The National Archives have now been digitised and catalogued under QFA 1. Each card (or set of cards) gives the name of the seal owner, the date of the document to which the seal is attached, and the colour, shape, size, subject of design, and legend of each seal with a cross reference to further (poorer) impressions in The National Archives and to examples described in the 'British Museum [Library] Catalogue of Seals' (1886-1900). Green cards give bibliographical information. A team of volunteers ensured that unsorted cards were placed in appropriate drawers and that information on the back of cards was either transferred to a new card (immediately following) or on to the front of the existing card. This did not include the transferring of stamped mould numbers as this number can be found in Collection Care and because moulds are now very rarely made.

SP 41 State Papers Naval, SP 42 State Papers Military

As part of efforts to improve access to TNA's eighteenth century collections, and in preparation for the commemorations of the Jacobite risings, the Early Modern Team have catalogued 15 pieces of State Papers Naval (SP 41/3-6, 11-18, 34, 41, 48) and 14 pieces of State Papers Military (SP 42/6-8, 14-17, 27, 29-31, 67-68, 111). The material in these series details the government response to the risings of 1715 and 1745 as well as to the failed invasions, and includes intelligence on global Jacobite activity. Some 5,120 new catalogue descriptions have been created, allowing historians and researchers vastly improved access to these important yet under-used collections.