

**Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to
Animals (RSPCA) Archive**

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HISTORICAL MANUSCRIPTS COMMISSION NATIONAL REGISTER OF ARCHIVES

REPORT (THIRD STAGE): LIST OF DOCUMENTS

HISTORICAL MSS.
0523
COMMISSION

Short Title of MSS† R.S.P.C.A. Parish or Borough† WESTMINSTER

Name and Address Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals,
of Owner 105 Jermyn Street, London, S.W.1.

Name and Address _____ County† LONDON
of Custodian _____

Type of Accumulation§ Charitable Society Class§ VARIOUS

How and where kept Strongroom in Basement and Offices upstairs

Condition of Documents Fair-Good (a few slightly affected by damp)

Facilities for Students _____

Serial No.	Date	Description	Places named (in capitals)†	
			NAME	COUNTY
		<u>MINUTES</u>		
	1824,	Minute-Books of the Society		
(1)	1832-	(the numbered series begins		
	date	with the 1832 volume, & is		
		complete from there)		
	1870-	Minutes of Ladies' Committee		
(2)	1913	(founded 1870) (2 vols.)		
	from	Minutes of Finance Committee		
(3)	1895	(volumes)		
	from	Minutes of Pensions Sub-		
(4)	c.1906	Committee (volumes)		
	from	Minutes of Law Sub-Committee		
(5)	c.1906	(volumes)		
	20th	Minutes of R.S.P.C.A. Officers'		
(6)	cent.	Provident Fund (volumes)		
	1933-	Minutes of Animals in India		INDIA
(7)	1939	Welfare Association (founded		
		1933, wound up 1939)		
		(1 volume)		

Serial No.	Date	Description	Places named (in capitals) [¶]		
			NAME		COUNTY
		<u>ANNUAL REPORTS</u>			
(8)	1828- date	Printed Annual Reports of Society (not seen but understood to be a complete series)			
(9)	1880- date	Printed Annual Branch Reports (filed in cardboard folders)			
		<u>STAFF DOSSIERS</u>			
(10)	1862- 1906	Inspectors' Record Books (giving physical descriptions, details of career, etc.) (2 volumes)			
(11)	20th cent.	Inspectors' Records (files containing documents on their qualifications, character, pay, etc.)			
		<u>MISCELLANEOUS</u>			
(12)	from 1907	2 bundles of Minutes, Accounts and other records of London Committee of Naples Society for Protection of Animals (Deposited with R.S.P.C.A. for safekeeping)	NAPLES		ITALY

Lists and Publications

NOTES

- * For explanation of the headings see the pamphlet *Notes on Reporting*
- † When the distinctive short title of the MSS differs from that of the present owner
- ‡ Where the MSS are *physically* located
- § For details of Classes see the relevant *List of Classes*
- ¶ Use one or more lines for each place-name adding any description such as *Hundr(ed), P'sh, Rect(ory), Vill, Manor, etc.*, after the name and inserting a contracted form of the county in the right hand sub-column, thus:

MARHAM

MANOR

NORF

Signature of Reporter

Date

HISTORICAL MANUSCRIPTS COMMISSION
NATIONAL REGISTER OF ARCHIVES

REPORT (THIRD STAGE): CONTINUATION SHEET

Short Title of MSS R.S.P.C.A. Parish or Borough WESTMINSTER
Name of Owner R.S. for Prevention of Cruelty to County LONDON
Animals
Type of Accumulation Charitable Society Class VARIOUS

Serial No.	Date	Description	Places named (in capitals)		
			NAME		COUNTY
		<u>ACCOUNTS</u>			
(13)	20th cent.	Accounts of Society, its Branches, Inspectors, Clinics, etc. (files, bundles & volumes)			
(14)	1900-date	Legacy Books (that beginning in 1900 is numbered 1, but includes particulars of some legacies from 1867 onwards)			
(15)	c.1903	Legacy Papers (these are bundles of extracts from Wills, Legal Papers, Accounts, Correspondence, etc. concerning legacies to the Society)			
		<u>MINIMENTS OF TITLE</u>			
(16)	1868 27th Mar.	Conveyance of 105 Jermyn Street by Edward Beverley of Revesby, Linc., farmer, & Frederick Avant Syndircombe of 105 Jermyn Street, gent., to George Wood, esq.	ST. JAMES	PAR.	LOND (for. MIDDX)
(17)	1869 July 29th	Conveyance of the same by George Wood, esq., to trustees of R.S.P.C.A.	do.	do.	do.

Serial No.	Date	Description	Places named (in capitals)	
			NAME	COUNTY
		<u>CORRESPONDENCE</u>		
(18)	1929- date	Correspondence of Sir Robert Gower, Chairman of R.S.P.C.A. Council (in boxes)		
(19)	1945- date	General Correspondence & Correspondence with Society's branches (in boxes, arranged alphabetically)		
		<u>RECORDS OF PROSECUTIONS & CONVICTIONS</u>		
(20)	1919- date	Registers of Convictions (numbered series - the earliest preserved, for 1919, is numbered 146)		
(21)	1920- date	Index-Books to above		
(22)	1926- date	Registers of Prosecution Expenses		
		<u>PUBLICATIONS (PRINTED)</u>		
(23)	1869- date	"The Animal World" (complete series)		
		<u>PRESS - EXTRACTS:</u>		
		c.20 t/s vols. of extracts from press, Hansard, etc., re cruelty to animals. (ex inf Mr B. Harrison, 4.2.1966)		

Through the kindness of Mr. A. Joiner of the R.S.P.C.A., I was enabled to spend a morning examining the Society's records at its offices at 105 Jermyn Street on 8 May, 1951. Time did not permit a detailed list, but the present report covers all the principal classes of documents.

ACCOMODATION

The records are kept in a strongroom in the basement of the Society's offices, which is fitted for the purpose with wooden racks. There has been some trouble recently with damp, but at present the room seems dry and sufficiently ventilated, though some additional ventilation should perhaps be considered. The chief defect is that the room is too small — this has a direct bearing on the present state of the Society's archives.

CONTENTS AND ARRANGEMENT

The Society was founded in 1824. Mr. Joiner however warned me before I came that there were many gaps in its records, and this proved only too true. Except for the Minutes, and the printed Annual Reports of the Society (these are kept upstairs, though the Branch reports are in the strongroom), hardly any of the 19th century records have been preserved. The Registers of Convictions survive only from 1919, but the series must have begun early in the Society's history as the first surviving volume is numbered 146. Again, the records of Legacies to the Society only begin in 1900; but the first Legacy Book, now numbered 1, contains particulars of some legacies from 1867 onwards (payment of which for one reason or another had been delayed) which must have been copied from older records now lost. The destruction of all but the most modern Correspondence is particularly unfortunate: all that is now left is the Chairman's Correspondence from 1929, and the Society's general Correspondence from 1945.

A quantity of Correspondence, and probably other papers, was sent for "salvage" during the War, but it seems evident that a systematic policy has long been pursued of destroying records as soon as they ceased to be useful for reference. A principal cause of this is undoubtedly the lack of space for storage. The Correspondence of the last six years alone takes up fully a quarter of the space in the strongroom. This congestion seems likely to become acute in a few years and might well lead to further "weeding-out" of the older records if additional accommodation is not provided. At present it is not easy to find an item required, especially among the accounts, as "new" records have had to be fitted in wherever space is available, and this frustrates any orderly arrangement.

CONDITION

This is generally good. Recent damp has caused some damage to bindings, but steps are being taken to repair this.

CONCLUSION

It is a pleasure to record the interest taken by the present staff of the R.S.P.C.A. in the proper preservation of its records, and their appreciation of the value of these for the history of a Society whose foundation marks an important stage in the growth of 19th cent. humanitarianism. It is therefore the more regrettable that so large a part of the early records has been irretrievably lost. If this is not to happen again some expansion of the present storage space is essential. There is a room adjoining the strongroom, at present used for storing miscellaneous lumber, which might be fitted up with shelves to take the overflow of records, and space could perhaps be found upstairs for the printed branch reports, which occupy a good deal of space in the strongroom.

Finally, I should like to express my warmest thanks to Mr. Joiner and the other members of the Society's staff who so readily provided information about the records and allowed me the free run of the strongroom on my visit.

10 May, 1951

(Sgd) A.E.B. Owen