

Society of Genealogists

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Society of Genealogists' Archives

This collection comprises the surviving internal papers created by the Society of Genealogists since its foundation in 1911.

The idea of the creation of a Society of Genealogists was proposed in a letter to Notes & queries by the Hertfordshire antiquarian William Blyth Gerish. He, Charles Bernau, and two professional genealogists, George Sherwood and Richard Holworthy, formed the nucleus of the Society which was incorporated with fifty members in 1911. Those early members saw the aim of the Society as a major resource for genealogists, to transcribe and index original records, and to campaign to make original documents more accessible. These are still the aims of the Society. It was partly due to them that the 1841 & 1851 census returns were released to the public in 1912.

Over the years the gifts of materials donated to the Society have outgrown a number of different premises but membership was still less than 1,000 just after the second World War. The mid fifties, however, saw the beginning of the modern surge of interest in the subject & the publication of Willis's Genealogy for beginners - the first of the modern "how-to-do-it" books. By the time the Society moved to its present building in Charterhouse Buildings during 1984, membership had grown to about 8500. By the end of the twentieth century it was over 14,000.

Material less than thirty years old is not available for public access.

Simon Fowler,
Archivist,
December 1999

Date	Description
	<u>Annual reports</u>
1927-1998	
	<u>Research Department Correspondence</u>
1938-1949	
1945-1949	
1950s	
1960-1981	Aa-King
1960-1981	Kingman-Ti
1960-1981	To-Z
1970s	
1980-1996	Mainly correspondence with Anthony Camp
1982-1997	
1996-7	
Undated	Card index to research
1957-1966	Research lists and book
Undated	Research: eight individuals
	<u>Administration of the Society</u>
1970-1990	Executive and General Purposes Committee: miscellaneous papers
1970-1990	Computer Committee: miscellaneous papers
1970-1990	Lecture Committee: miscellaneous papers
1970-1990	Library Committee: miscellaneous papers
1970-1990	Publications Committee: miscellaneous papers
1970-1990	Registers and Records Committee: miscellaneous papers
Undated	37 Harrington Gardens: purchase, appeals, etc
Undated	Ditto: correspondence, plans, tenants etc
1933-1952	Administrative files
1991-1992	Adoption
Undated	AGRA: correspondence, minutes etc
1955-1980	Annual General Meetings
1987-1993	Ditto
c1911-1975	Articles of association

1940s-1960s	Col Percy Smith and Mrs Blomfield papers
1940s-1960s	Committee for microfilming parish registers
1933-1989	Company returns
1916-1920	Correspondence
c1924-1983	Correspondence with Queen Mary and Lord Mountbatten
1973-1990	Council for British Archaeology
1946-1949	Covenanted subscriptions correspondence
1911-1913	Early committee papers <u>loose</u>
1964-1965	European graves in Africa
1974-c1987	Federation of Family History Societies
1991-1996	Ditto
1957-1959	Genealogist's Magazine
1963-1978	General Synod: correspondence, parochial records and registers measure, fees order
1970-1993	General Register Office/Office of Population Censuses and Surveys: correspondence
Undated	Heritage Computer Program
1981-1990	Human Fertilisation and Embryos Bill
1964-1991	Institute of Heraldic and Genealogical Studies
1946-1959	Lectures, visits etc correspondence
1911-1913	Letterbook: copies of letters sent
1950s	Library correspondence
1982	Ditto
Pre-1947	Magazine subscriptions correspondence
1962-1963	Parish registers
c1960-1990	Philimore & Co
1978-1979	Project Group
c1975-1988	Public Record Office: correspondence
1935-1939	Publications correspondence
1960-1980	Record Users Group
1975-1990	Staff matters
c1979	Standing Conference on Local History: Blake Committee
	<u>Administration of events</u>

1991	Beginners classes
1974-1985	Booking book
1987-1990	Bookstalls at conferences
1980	Chester
1986-1990	Computer conferences
1986	Conference organisation
1975-1985	Day conferences
1987-1989	Day conferences
1991	Day conference
1986	English Genealogical Congress: papers
1988-1990	Extra-mural classes
1982	Hereford weekend
1974	Heritage day
1976	International conference
1975	Jubilee Dinner
1981-1982	Lecture tours of America
1974	Monumental Inscriptions Half Day
1976-1986	National Pedigrees Index
1989	Nottingham weekend
1986	Open day
1978	York weekend
	<u>Register of members</u> (arranged by membership number)
Aug 1911-Apr 1933	Nos 1-1326
May 1931-Apr 1954	Nos 1327-3052
Apr 1954-July 1969	nos 3053-6921
Oct 1969-Apr 1973	Nos 6928-8728
May 1973-Nov 1975	nos 8729-10206
1911-1924	Fellows and members: record of subscriptions paid
1926-1979	Fellows' Book: nomination of fellows
1913-c1930	Ledger of members' research interests
Jun 1911-Jul 1928	Lists of associate and corresponding members: record of subscriptions paid
1910-1915	Members' subscription book
1910-1920	Subscriptions: associates

1910-1920	Subscriptions: paid by fellows and members
	<u>Accessions registers</u>
1911-1920	Nos 1-3815
Jan 1921-Sept 1931	Nos 3816-8494 (with index of donors)
Oct 1931- Aug 1937	Nos 8495-12057
Aug 1945-Jul 1946	Nos 16916-17477
1948 Feb- July	Nos 18852-19646 (book also includes accounts 1929-1930)
May-Nov 1949	Nos 20526-20883
Nov 1949- Jan 1951	Nos 20884-22112
Jan 1951- Oct 1952	Nos 22113-23497
Oct 1952	Nos 23498-24250
[Oct 1952- Jan 1954]	Nos 24251-25493
1911-1937	Manuscript catalogue <u>Unfit for production</u>
Aug 1947-Mar 195-	Manuscript accessions register
	<u>Registers of items given to Society</u>
Jan 1955-Oct 1968	
Jan 1967-Dec 1977	Manuscripts
Nov 1968-Feb 1972	
Mar-Dec 1972	
Dec 1974-Jan 1974	
Sep 1935-Nov 1948	Register of review copies [books]received by Society
Jan 1956-Nov 1967	Ditto
Jan 1952-?	Register of books on loan to Society
Undated	List of books and authors [purpose unclear]
Apr 1947-Apr 1948	Index to holdings of library [purpose unclear]
1911-1938	Register of slips received: Consolidated Index <u>needs rebinding</u>
c1914-1920	Register of slips received: parish registers
	<u>Committee minute books</u>
	<u>Executive Committee</u>
May 1911-Nov 1919	With fellows' meetings
Jan 1920 - Oct 1932	
Jan 1933-[Oct] 1946	Includes AGMs
Apr 1956-June 1961	

Jul 1962-Dec 1964	<u>loose needs binding</u>
Jun 1955-Nov 1976	Agenda book
	<u>Committees and sub-committees</u>
Nov 1911- Mar 1914	Cataloguing Pedigrees Sub-Committee
Aug 1911-Oct 1938	Consolidated [Card] Index Sub-Committee
Oct 1960-Jun 1961	Document and Card Index Sub-Committee
Apr 1939-July 1957	Finance Committee
Jun 1959-May 1973	Ditto
Oct 1913-Jul 1931	Finance Committee, July 1925; Heraldry Committee, Oct 1913-July 1931 (with loose notes)
Nov 1960-Jun 1962	[Golden] Jubilee Sub-Committee
Feb 1963-May 1979	Lectures Sub-Committee
Jan 1976-Jan 1978	Liaison Committee [between SoG and FFHS]
Nov 1913- May 1969	Library Committee <u>Needs rebinding</u>
Nov 1911-May 1916	Library Documents Sub-Committee
Oct 1924- Apr 1925	Magazine or Journal Sub-Committee
Mar 1929-May 1942	Magazine Committee
Jan 1951-Mar 1952	Microfilm Committee: list of copies of parish registers sold
Mar 1912-Oct 1916	Monumental Inscriptions Sub-Committee
Dec 1956-Sep 1967	Parish Registers Sub-Committee (with loose enclosures)
Jun 1911-Mar 1914	Parish Registers and Marriage Licences Sub-Committee
May 1984-Feb 1986	Publicity Committee <u>loose</u>
Dec 1967-Jun 1978	Public Relations Committee <u>loose</u>
Nov 1978-Jul 1986	Registers and Records Committee <u>loose</u>
Feb 1986-Dec 1986	Seventh-fifth Anniversary Congress Committee <u>loose</u>
May-Jun 1975	Special Organisation Sub-Committee <u>loose</u>
	<u>Committee attendance books</u>
Jun 1915-Feb 1928	
Mar 1928-Jun 1939	
Jul 1939-Oct 1954	
Feb 1955-Jan 1971	
Jun 1971- Feb 1977	
c1928-1948	Membership of committees book

c1935-1952	List of attendees: AGMs and lectures
1953-1964	Ditto
	<u>Miscellaneous items</u>
[1924-1961]	Printing plates: seal (old and new version), cover of 1937 exhibition catalogue, photograph of 37 Harrington Gardens, artwork for 1961 magazine, 'we are all omnibusses' artwork
1984	Programme for English Genealogical Congress
1986	Programme for English Genealogical Congress
c1976-1982	Miscellaneous notices
1928-1949	Library suggestions book
1990-1992	Suggestions book