

AR

Frauen im Archiv

Pioneering Women Archivists in early 20th Century England: a progress report

Frauen an der Spitze von nordrhein-westfälischen Kommunalarchiven

Viele Wege ins Archiv. Die Ausbildung von Frauen (und Männern)

Frauen als Führungskräfte in staatlichen Archiven. Eine Zwischenbilanz

Feminismus im Archiv. Ein Blick auf die Archive der Frauen- und Lesbenbewegung in Deutschland

Stichwort „Frauen“ ungelöst. Frauen- und Geschlechterforschung in und mit Archiven u.a.

CH

Zeitschrift für Archivwesen

WAR

INHALT

EDITORIAL	113
FRAUEN IM ARCHIV	
Kathrin Pilger: Frauen im Archiv	114
Elizabeth Shepherd: Pioneering Women Archivists in early 20th Century England: a progress report	117
Antje Diener-Staeckling: Frauen an der Spitze von nordrhein-westfälischen Kommunalarchiven	121
Mechthild Black-Veldtrup: Viele Wege ins Archiv. Die Ausbildung von Frauen (und Männern)	123
Interview mit Elsbeth Andre, Sabine Graf, Andrea Hänger, Ulrike Höroldt, Margit Ksoll-Marcon und Andrea Wettmann, geführt von Elisabeth Heigl und Sabine Schneider: Frauen als Führungskräfte in staatlichen Archiven. Eine Zwischenbilanz	127
Barbara Günther/Silke Mehrwald: Feminismus im Archiv. Ein Blick auf die Archive der Frauen- und Lesbenbewegung in Deutschland	136
Julia Paulus: Stichwort „Frauen“ ungelöst. Frauen- und Geschlechterforschung in und mit Archiven	144
Izabela A. Dahl: From victim to survivor of Nazi persecution. Gendering the collection of the Polish Research Institute (PI) in Lund	146
Annette Hennigs/Julia Kathke: Frauen- oder Übernahmequote? Der Faktor Geschlecht in der Überlieferungsbildung	151
Barbara Limberg: Enthält u. a.: „Frauen“. Reflexionen zur Überlieferungsbildung und Erschließung im Bundesarchiv	156
Max Plassmann: Mittelalter ohne Frauen? Von einer Leerstelle in archivischen Findmitteln	164
ARCHIVTHEORIE UND PRAXIS	167
Zeit zu Handeln. Zur Bedeutung von Bewertungs- und Aussonderungskonzepten und einer aktiven Übernahmesteuerung von analogen Unterlagen in Zeiten der Digitalisierung (G. Schneider) • Digitale Zugänge zu Archivgut schaffen. Das OFP-Projekt – Provenienzforschung an Akten des Oberfinanzpräsidenten Berlin-Brandenburg im Brandenburgischen Landeshauptarchiv (J. Moldenhawer/T. Gurok)	
TAGUNGSBERICHTE	177
Aspekte der Zusammenarbeit zwischen Archiven und Verfassungsschutzämtern. Zum Abschluss der KLA-AG „Umgang mit Unterlagen der Verfassungsschutzämter“ (U. Zuber) • 10. Tag der Bestandserhaltung. Klima – Wandel und Herausforderungen (K. Jahn) • Internationale Konferenz „Originalerhalt in Perspektive“ der Koordinierungsstelle für die Erhaltung des schriftlichen Kulturguts (KEK) (T. Wille)	
LITERATURBERICHTE	183
MITTEILUNGEN UND BEITRÄGE DES LANDESARCHIVS NRW	184
Anderthalb Fuß in der Tür ... Landesarchiv Nordrhein-Westfalen unterrichtet elektronische Schriftgutverwaltung für Neueinsteigende in die Landesverwaltung NRW (M. Schlemmer)	
MITTEILUNGEN UND BEITRÄGE DES VdA	185
Aktuelles: Nachwahl in der Fachgruppe 7 • Kurz nachgefragt: Neue Mitglieder im Gesamtvorstand • Konstituierende Sitzung des neuen Gesamtvorstands (Amtszeit 2022-2025) • Berichte aus dem Verband	
PERSONALNACHRICHTEN	195
NACHRUFE	197
Jürgen Stenzel (K. H. Lütcke), Dr. Fritz Wolff (A. Hedwig/J. Kistenich-Zerfaß)	
VORSCHAU	199

EDITORIAL

Liebe Leserinnen und Leser, liebe Kolleginnen und Kollegen,

heutzutage, so könnte man meinen, seien wir im Archivwesen auf einem guten Weg zur Gleichstellung der (binären) Geschlechter. Gefühlt arbeiten in den Archiven aktuell genauso viele, oder gar mehr Frauen als Männer und auch in der Überlieferungsbildung müsste sich doch spätestens mit der Einführung fachlicher Instrumente (Federführungsmodell, vertikale und horizontale Bewertung, Dokumentationsprofil usw.) eine spürbare Trendwende vollzogen haben und die Unterlagen über Frauen und Männer dürften gleichermaßen repräsentiert sein. Um solche Annahmen einer genauen Prüfung zu unterziehen, hat sich der Beirat entschlossen, dem Thema „Frauen im Archiv“ einen eigenen Schwerpunkt zu widmen. Der analytische Blick hat sich gelohnt, denn das vorliegende Heft kann in vielen Bereichen zeigen, dass der Gleichheitsglaube vorwiegend auf einer subjektiven Wahrnehmung beruht. Die fundierten und differenzierenden Beiträge, die in der Einleitung vorgestellt werden, fördern Einsichten zutage, die so bestimmt nicht immer erwartet wurden; vielfach wird der Finger in die Wunde gelegt und damit aufgezeigt, an welchen Stellen gehandelt werden kann und muss. So ist es auch nur folgerichtig, dass diese Zeitschrift, die den gesamten Berufsstand repräsentieren möchte, aber immer noch eine geschlechtliche Kategorie in ihrem Namen trägt, erneut umbenannt und 75 Jahre nach ihrer Gründung einen neutralen Titel erhalten wird!

Unter den weiteren Rubriken finden Sie wie gewohnt Artikel zu verschiedenen archivfachlichen Themen, wobei der Beitrag „Zeit zu Handeln. Zur Bedeutung von Bewertungs- und Aussonderungskonzepten und einer aktiven Übernahmesteuerung von analogen Unterlagen in Zeiten der Digitalisierung“ von Gerd Schneider einer besonderen Erwähnung bedarf. Wie der Autor, der als studierter Mathematiker lange für namhafte Unternehmensberatungen tätig war, in einer Vorbemerkung selbst darlegt, erhebt der Beitrag keinen wissenschaftlichen Anspruch. Vielmehr handelt es sich um Erfahrungen und Eindrücke, die v. a. aus einer über zwanzigjährigen Projekterfahrung mit Beratertätigkeiten für Archive verschiedenster Sparten stammen.

Schließlich finden Sie im vorliegenden Heft wieder Literatur- und Tagungsberichte, Mitteilungen und Beiträge des Landesarchivs NRW und des VdA sowie Personalnachrichten und Nachrufe.

Wir wünschen Ihnen eine interessante Lektüre und einen schönen Frühling.

*Herzlichst, Kathrin Pilger, in Verbindung mit Ralf Jacob,
Bettina Joergens, Frank M. Bischoff, Torsten Musial und Bernhard Homa*

PIONEERING WOMEN ARCHIVISTS IN EARLY 20TH CENTURY ENGLAND: A PROGRESS REPORT

by *Elizabeth Shepherd*

INTRODUCTION

Many professions, as they mature, seek to understand themselves through reflection on and investigation of their own histories and of their historical context. Archival science is no exception. Archival history has tended to be the history of great men and institutional archives, such as the Public Record Office (now The UK National Archives).¹ My own work² focused on the national themes of archival history in 19th and 20th century England, examining government commissions and reports, the development of archival institutions, professional infrastructure and university education, providing the larger framework for our history. Few women in the archival field have been studied in detail: Eileen Power (1889-1940), Professor of Economic History at London School of Economics (LSE) (by Berg³) and Margaret Cross Norton, head of the Illinois State Archives (by Mitchell⁴), are notable exceptions. Where are the voices of pioneering women in the history of archives?

This short article will summarise my work so far on the study of early 20th century women archivists in England, part of a new field of archival history. My research examines in some detail the life and professional work of a number of pioneering women in the archival field to exemplify their pioneering endeavour, to give them a voice in archival history and to provide a basis for some observations about the role of women archivists in shaping the emerging archival profession in early 20th century England. So far, I have researched Joan Wake (1884-1974) record agent, founder of Northamptonshire Record Society and county archives⁵; Ethel Stokes (1870-1944) a record agent and a friend of Wake's, who founded the Records Preservation Section of the British Records Association and was its first archivist⁶; and Lilian Redstone BA, MBE (1885-1955), daughter of a well-known Suffolk antiquary, who was the first archivist for Ipswich and East Suffolk. By examining their lives and the lives of other women, the research will enable us to draw some conclusions about their contribution to the early development of the archival profession in England. Women in the early 20th century often faced educational barriers, few had the classical education needed for university entrance and few universities admitted women. London University was the first in England to award degrees to women in 1878. At Oxford University although there were women's colleges, no degrees

were awarded to women until 1920, and at Cambridge University not until 1948. Women often had to choose between marriage and employment. A number of women, however, studied at the LSE, where they were taught by Hubert Hall. Hall, author of "A Repertory of British Archives", worked at the Public Record Office from 1879, rising to Assistant Keeper by the time of his retirement in 1921.⁷ Hall was trained in the von Ranke tradition and he passed on the documentary approach to history through his seminar teaching at the LSE. Proctor, in her thesis, shows that at the LSE, a "majority of seminar participants were women". Hall's teaching "encompassed diplomatics and palaeography and administrative history but it also provided the skills needed for employment in the various branches of historical work". Proctor reports that Hall was immensely proud of the fact that "numerous posts or employment as historical lecturers and as archivists or researchers have been obtained by students as the result of their training in the courses" he ran at LSE, and he was always ready to promote their advancement. She says that Hall, along with his PRO contemporaries, Charles Johnson and Charles Crump, trained "a generation of women historical workers". She further suggests that while these women were not employed as academic historians in the universities, there was a direct line from "the women who came within [Hall's] ambit as students, collaborators and researchers, whether in his classes at LSE or in the PRO searchrooms, [to] a later generation of women who were clearly identified as archivists".

1 J. D. Cantwell (1991), *The Public Record Office 1838-1958*, HMSO.

2 E. Shepherd (2009), *Archives and Archivists in 20th century England*, Ashgate.

3 M. Berg (1996), *A Woman in History, Eileen Power, 1889-1940*, CUP.

4 T. W. Mitchell (ed) (2003), *Norton on archives: the writings of Margaret Cross Norton on archival and records management*, Society of American Archivists.

5 E. Shepherd, *Hidden voices in the archives: pioneering women archivists in early 20th century England*, in *Engaging with Archives and Records: Histories and Theories* eds. Fiorella Foscarini, Heather MacNeil, Gillian Oliver and Bonnie Mak. Facet, 2017.

6 E. Shepherd, *Pioneering women archivists in England: Ethel Stokes (1870-1944)*, record agent, *Archival Science*, 17: 2 (2017): 175-194.

7 M. Proctor (2012), *Hubert Hall (1857-1944): Archival endeavour and the promotion of historical enterprise*, Doctoral thesis, University of Liverpool.

During World War I, the London Society for Women's Suffrage enquired into the employment of older educated women on war work. In 1915, The Association of Women Clerks and Secretaries proposed a scheme for the temporary employment of women as record cataloguers and indexers in county councils. Hall proposed an alternative scheme of advanced historical training and permanent jobs for women as "skilled archivists and assistant archivists". He suggested a Committee be formed to investigate, to include Lilian Knowles and Eileen Power both at LSE, but I was not able to find any record that this ever happened.⁸

SOME PIONEERING WOMEN IN ARCHIVES

Maxine Berg's analysis of the work and personality of Eileen Power, Professor of Economic History at the LSE in the 1930s and the best known medieval historian of the inter-war years, provides a model for this research. Power studied at Girton College, Cambridge from 1907, at the Ecole des Chartes in Paris in 1910, and the LSE in 1911, where she attended Hubert Hall's seminars. She was appointed to a lectureship at the LSE in 1921 and to a chair in 1931. Power played a part in the history of archives, as secretary to the newly founded Economic History Society in 1927. In 1932, she proposed "the formation of a Committee for the study and preservation of London business archives" which would compile a register of archives and establish a depository at LSE. Lord Hanworth, Master of the Rolls and President of the recently formed British Records Association, met the Director of the LSE, William Beveridge, to discuss a business archives section of British Records Association which would promote the preservation of archives of commercial and industrial enterprises useful to the economic historian, compile a register of business records over 100 years old, seek to preserve business records by arranging their deposit in public institutions and provide expert advice and publications. The Council for the Preservation of Business Archives was launched in 1934 with foundation members comprising academics, businessmen, archivists and librarians.

Joan Wake studied with Power at the LSE in 1913-1915. Wake was born in 1884, the fifth of six children of Sir Herwald Wake 12th Baronet, was privately educated at home. The family was well-connected, married into the Bloomsbury Sitwells, and in the social circle of the suffragists. Before the War, Wake travelled widely around Europe. She enrolled at the LSE in 1913, studying palaeography, diplomatic and medieval economic history and attending Hubert Hall's seminars and lectures by Eileen Power. She became a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society. Wake began her archival work in earnest in 1920 by founding the Northamptonshire Record Society, to publish local records (many of which Wake herself edited), organise lectures and exhibitions and to acquire local records. Paper salvage drives during the War and the breakup of country estates threatened the survival of local archives and made rescue work essential. In a few localities, such as Northamptonshire, local public archive services emerged from archaeological and record societies. After the Second World War negotiations began with Northampton borough and the county council about a joint archives service. The Northamptonshire Archive Committee was established and the five staff members of the Record Society, led by Wake, transferred to the new body.⁹ Wake had devoted herself to local records rescue and publication for over 40 years, eventually establishing the joint archive

service for the borough and county of Northampton in 1951. However, Wake's contribution to national archival development was even greater. She was a significant figure in the British Record Society and organised the first Conference of Record Societies at the Archaeological Congress in 1930, which discussed records preservation and "acceptable standards" for record repositories. The Committee set up to continue the work, including Wake, led to the formation of the British Records Association (BRA) in 1932. Wake remained an active Council and Committee member of BRA for the next 25 years. She was also the first Vice Chairman of the Society of Local Archivists, founded in 1947. Her obituary recorded her "striking personality, at times formidable, her character and her capacity" for work.

Joan Wake wrote a tribute to her friend, Ethel Stokes, following the latter's untimely death in 1944 in a traffic accident in the black-out.¹⁰ Although their family backgrounds were very different, Wake and Stokes were colleagues, correspondents and friends. Stokes was from a much more modest background than Wake. Born in 1870, she was a student at Notting Hill High School in London one of the first founded by the Girls Public Day Schools Trust, but family circumstances prevented her from going to university. Instead, she began work as a record agent in the 1890s. "A sturdy and plainly dressed figure" with a "strong and vigorous" personality, Stokes set up business with Mary Cox, the daughter of a law stationer. Stokes and Cox had rooms at 75 Chancery Lane, near the Public Record Office (PRO), from which they worked and largely lived. During the First World War, Stokes and Cox, with a group of elderly women, took on women's work; not spinning and weaving but stitching wind-proof waistcoats for the troops. Stokes also devoted time to the Paddington Boy Scouts, acting as the Secretary from soon after their foundation in 1917 until she died. Stokes and Cox ran a very busy, highly organised record agency, with private and official clients around the world. By the 1930s, Stokes and Cox had clients in the USA, Canada, Australia, Argentina, as well as in Europe. Stokes and Cox undertook legal searches for official purposes; genealogical work for clients in New York, Sydney, Burma and Buenos Aires; documentary support for Austrian refugees trying to reach England in the late 1930s; and an extensive search as part of a court case claim into the circumstances of a treaty made by the British army with the Thompson River Indians in British Columbia in 1858.¹¹ Ethel Stokes was also closely involved in two of the major early 20th Century national historical projects: the Victoria County Histories of England and the Complete Peerage. She worked with H A Doubleday VCH's founding editor and then later at the Complete Peerage, a working association of over 40 years.¹²

However, her place in archival history rests on her largely unacknowledged role as founder in 1929 of the Records Preservation Committee, a forerunner of the British Records Association. Stokes was Secretary of a British Record Society Committee charged with obtaining funding for editorial and publishing work; but she had a larger vision for English archives. She wrote a report which proposed "a nationally useful" society for "organised work throughout the country"; and "to secure the establishment of local record offices" so that "our splendid heritage of records should be preserved and properly valued". Stokes sent her scheme to many influential people including Lord Hanworth, Master of the Rolls. She secured the support of Professor Frank Stenton, and AE Stamp, Deputy Keeper of the PRO and obtained national publicity through The Times. William Le Hardy, of record

agents, Hardy and Page, chaired the supervising Committee and provided a room at 2 Stone Buildings for the sorting and listing of solicitors records. The Carnegie Trust gave a grant. In 1932, the Records Preservation Section transferred to the newly founded British Records Association. The BRA records tell of tireless advocacy for archives and rescue work, mainly undertaken by Stokes after 4.30 in the afternoon when the PRO closed and she finished her day's work as a record agent for her clients. For example, in six months in 1939, 38 receipts and 91 dispatches of records were made by Stokes for the BRA around England. A huge network of hundreds of volunteers and workers around the country rescued, registered, sorted and listed records in the inter-war period, when local archive services were still in formation. Under the guidance of Stokes, by the end of the Second World War, records preservation work had achieved a national profile.

Lilian Redstone (1885-1955)¹³ met Ethel Stokes when Stokes visited Woodbridge in Suffolk where Lilian lived. She was the youngest of three daughters of a well-known Suffolk antiquary and school teacher, Vincent Burrough Redstone. The Redstones supported the pioneering research undertaken by Sidney and Beatrice Webb, the economists and social reformers who were co-founders of the LSE in 1895, by providing access to and advice on local historical records in 1903. Vincent was Honorary Secretary of the Suffolk Institute of Archaeology and Natural History and he trained his three daughters in historical skills including palaeography and transcription. Stokes and Redstone became friends, and, together with Vincent, from about 1904 onwards worked regularly at the PRO searching and transcribing records for their clients and their own historical research. Lilian Redstone was also employed on an emerging historical project, the Victoria County History, around the same time that Ethel Stokes worked for VCH. Since its inception in 1899, VCH had provided research work for many highly-qualified female historical workers, a number of whom were educated by Hall at the LSE. Unpublished work by John Beckett shows that many of the VCH staff in the London office were women, including "topographical supervisors" who formed part of "a large staff of topographers and architects at work on a variety of counties. There was a supervisor for each county to whom we gave our account of each parish when finished, and she overhauled our work before it was passed to the editors"¹⁴ Lilian Redstone held such a position from 1905 until 1909, and wrote topographical entries for Buckinghamshire, Berkshire, Hampshire, Huntingdonshire, Surrey and Worcestershire, as well as 33 histories for her native Suffolk, still unpublished. After 1909, she wrote for the VCH on a freelance basis. She took a London BA external degree in history in 1910 and went on "to take her place among that first generation of learned ladies who made history their profession" as a record agent, perhaps (Scarfe suggests) following the lead of her friend Ethel Stokes.¹⁵ Following the disruption of the War, Lilian was employed in the Historical Records Section of the Ministry of Munitions and Disposal from 1917 to 1920, as a result of which she was awarded the MBE. Her father, Vincent, began to research the family background of the famous poet Geoffrey Chaucer, having discovered a link between the Chaucer family and the town of Ipswich in Suffolk. Vincent and Lilian published the work in 1937.¹⁶ Lilian was for several decades the London agent for the University of Chicago Chaucer research project, searching for and transcribing records held at the PRO, British Museum and elsewhere and sending notes and transcripts to Chicago where they informed the work of Professor

John Matthews Manly, editor of the Canterbury Tales project, and his research associate, Edith Rickert. Between completing her PhD at the University of Chicago in 1899 and taking up an academic and teaching post there in 1914, Rickert lived in London for about 10 years, researching for American academics unable to travel. It is intriguing to think that she and Lilian might have met during that time: certainly, from about 1920 until her death in 1955, one of Lilian's major projects was the organisation of the London Chaucer historical research work.

Lilian's close involvement with the BRA came through her professional and social connection to Ethel Stokes, working as the Suffolk link for the Records Preservation Section of BRA, and taking on the work of Honorary Secretary to the Section after Ethel's sudden death in 1944 until a successor could be appointed. After the War, Lilian was appointed as the first official Archivist to the Corporation of Bury, combined with responsibility for the county of West Suffolk. Later she was appointed as Archivist to the Ipswich Public Library, jointly with the county of East Suffolk. In due course, having ensured these new county record offices were firmly established, she retired but continued to act as advisory archivist. Lilian published several historical works and prepared the first modern manual for the archival profession, "Local Records: Their Nature and Care", published in 1953, which aimed to inform archivists, history students and county councillors about the work of local record offices and provide professional guidance on aspects of archive policy and practices.¹⁷ In these ways, Lilian helped to build the foundations of the modern archival profession in England.

CONCLUSION

In 19th century England, great cultural institutions were founded and developed by great men, including the establishment of the Public Record Office in 1838. In the first half of the 20th century, archival and records preservation work developed in the localities, where scholarly and historically trained women, largely excluded from the universities, were able to establish themselves and carry out the fundamentally important, but often unglamorous, labour of ensuring the preservation of the sources of local and community history. These women forged the profession of archivist, and shaped the organisations, the county record offices and archives, which would, in time, act as official guardians of local records.

⁸ The National Archives, file PRO 44/3; London School of Economics, Archives and Special Collections, box 367.

⁹ L. Redstone and F. Steer. *Local Records: their nature and care*. Society of Local Archivists/County Councils Association/Library Association: London, 1953, 38-39.

¹⁰ Joan Wake, "Edith Stokes: a tribute", *Northamptonshire Past and Present*, II/1 (1944), 3-9.

¹¹ Northamptonshire Record Office (NRO): Joan Wake Collection 1974/27, Boxes 235, 236.

¹² P. W. Hammond, ed., *Complete Peerage XIV* (1998), p. Xiv; Herbert Arthur Doubleday, 1867-1941 (1942), 23.

¹³ N. Scarfe in: J. Thirsk and J. Imray, eds., *Suffolk Farming in the Nineteenth Century* (Suffolk Record Society, I, 1958), 6-13.

¹⁴ J. Beckett, *Women Writers and the Victoria County History*, paper given to Institute of Historical Research's "Locality and Region" Seminar on 3 May 2011.

¹⁵ N. Scarfe in J. Thirsk and J. Imray, eds., *Suffolk Farming in the Nineteenth Century* (Suffolk Record Society, I, 1958), 6-13.

¹⁶ V. B. Redstone and L. J. Redstone, *The Heyrons of London: a study in the social origins of Geoffrey Chaucer*, *Speculum*, 12:2, (1937), 182-195.

¹⁷ L. Redstone and F. Steer, *Local Records: Their Nature and Care* (1953) London, G Bell for the Society of Local Archivists.

They emerged place by place, a patchwork of provision, taking opportunities where they were offered to find offices, storage spaces, and skilled workers. These women also founded some of the key national voluntary organisations which took on the records preservation campaigns and ensured that the very stuff of our national local history was not pulped in the war effort paper salvage drives, but protected and made available for future generations. Uncovering the hidden contribution of pioneering women archivists is essential to a proper understanding of our past.

PIONIERINNEN DES ARCHIVWESENS IM ENGLAND DES FRÜHEN 20. JAHRHUNDERTS: EIN ERFABUNGSGE- BERICHT

Dieser kurze Artikel gibt einen Überblick über die bisherigen Forschungsarbeiten zu wegweisenden Archivarinnen in England im frühen 20. Jahrhundert. Während Berichte über die Geschichte der nationalen Institutionen und der Männer, die sie gründeten und leiteten, geschrieben wurden, wurden nur wenige Frauen im Archivbereich im Detail untersucht. Diese Forschung versucht, dies zu korrigieren und weiblichen Archivarinnen eine Stimme zu geben. Der Artikel befasst sich mit dem Leben und Wirken von vier Pionierinnen: Eileen Power, Joan Wake, Ethel Stokes and Lilian Redstone.

Professor Elizabeth Shepherd

UCL Department of Information Studies
Foster Court
University College London
Gower Street, London WC1E 6BT
E-Mail: e.shepherd@ucl.ac.uk
Web: <http://www.ucl.ac.uk/dis/>