

## Reports on Archives

The Royal Commission on Historical Manuscripts *List of accessions to repositories in 1968* (Her Majesty's Stationery Office, 1969), reports the following additions to the manuscript collections in various institutions which may interest workers on Quaker history:

Berkshire Record Office, Shire Hall, Reading, RG1 3EY.

Society of Friends (addnl.): Berks and Oxon Quarterly Meeting, papers, 1786–1910.

Birmingham University Library, P.O. Box 363, Edgbaston, Birmingham 15.

Single letters and small groups: John Bright (5).

Bristol Archives Office, Council House, Bristol, BS1 5TR.

Personal: Crofton Gane, diaries, notebooks and papers *re* Craft Movement, c. 1900–1940.

Westmorland Record Office, County Hall, Kendal.

Family and estate: Braithwaite of Kendal: letters from George to parents in America for Society of Friends, 1823–1828.

Crewdson of Kendal (addnl.): eighteenth-twentieth century.

Richardson of Newcastle upon Tyne and Yorkshire: eighteenth-twentieth century.

Greater London Record Office, Middlesex Section, 1 Queen Anne's Gate Buildings, Dartmouth Street, London, S.W.1.

Family and estate: Howard and Eliot: letters and diaries *re* family and Quaker affairs, eighteenth-nineteenth century.

Leeds City Library, Archives Department, Sheepscar Library, Chapeltown Road, Leeds, LS7 3AP.

Birkbeck of Settle (Quaker merchants and bankers): family and business papers and letters, eighteenth-nineteenth century.

Norfolk and Norwich Record Office, Central Library, Norwich, NOR 57E.

Personal: John Balderston, a Quaker from America, journal of visit to London, Norwich and Leeds, 1765–1766 (Xerox).

Shropshire County Record Office, Shirehall, Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury.

Family, estate and business: Darby of Coalbrookdale: deeds, Coalbrookdale, etc. 18–19 c.; maps and surveys; family and business a/cs. and papers, incl. copy of agreement for casting pots 1707 . . . 3 letters from Abiah Darby, 1768–1775, letter about award for building the iron bridge, 1787 . . . description of Coalbrookdale works and environs, early nineteenth century.

*Guide to the contents of the Public Record Office. Volume III: Documents transferred, 1960–1966.* (London, H.M. Stationery Office, 1968.)

[Transfer from the] General Register Office:

Registers, Authenticated: Society of Friends Series (R.G. 6). 1613 to 1841. 1,673 volumes, etc.

Registers of births, deaths, burials and marriages of congregations of the Society of Friends or Quakers in England and Wales. A number of original birth and burial notes and original marriage certificates are included. [p. 77].

Devon Record Office: Brief guide: part I. Official and ecclesiastical.

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Society of Friends: East Division of Devon (Cullompton, Exeter, Kingsbridge, Okehampton, Spiceland, Topsham, Torquay)

*Yearly Meetings:*

Epistles, pamphlets, reports and letters from London and Bristol (210) 1663-1829

*Meetings of Sufferings:*

Minutes, Accounts, reports, etc. (34) 1677-1854

*Quarterly Select Meetings:*

Minutes (2) 1777-1831

*Select Monthly Meetings:*

Minutes (13) 1776-1898

*Monthly Meetings:*

Minutes (37) 1678-1903

papers (648) 1666-1863

*Preparative Meetings, Cullompton, Spiceland and Exeter:*

Minutes, accounts and papers (229) 1665-1886

*Title Deeds:*

Cullompton, Spiceland, Colaton Raleigh and Okehampton (101)

1675-1944

*Registers:*

Spiceland (4) 1765-1884

Exeter (2) 1864-1879

Papers 1827-1884

*Plans, etc.:*

Spiceland and Exeter eighteenth cent.-1895

The list of accessions to the archives in the Borthwick Institute of Historical Research, University of York, contained in the Report 1968-1969, includes the following:

From Mr. Anthony Tuke, Wherwell, Hants.:

The Tuke family papers consisting of a considerable quantity of correspondence of various generations of the Tuke family of York, dating mainly from the late eighteenth century; correspondence of the families into which they married, notably Scott, Favill and Copsie; genealogical material of these families; printed books and pamphlets, including Samuel Tuke's *Description of The Retreat* (1813); and some broadsheets, maps and plans of York interest (eighteenth and nineteenth centuries).

*Sources for the study of local history in Northern Ireland.* A catalogue for an exhibition, January–July, 1968. (Northern Ireland Public Record Office, Law Courts Building, May Street, Belfast, BT1 3JJ.)

*The Churches*

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The most rewarding ecclesiastical archive for the social historian is that of the Quakers; the minutes of their meetings and books of sufferings from the late seventeenth century, provide much detail of their relations with the local community. Their birth, death and marriage registers date from the same period and often include detailed inventories of property for testamentary purposes. A comprehensive "Guide to Irish Quaker Records" edited by Mrs. O. Goodbody contains a supplement for Northern Ireland by Mr. Brian Hutton of this Office.

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The Quakers played a role in the development of the Ulster community out of all proportion to their numbers. We do not know, however, why they concentrated in the Lagan Valley and north Armagh and why meetings founded outside this area rarely survived into the eighteenth century. How can we explain the important role played by Quakers in the economic life of the province, especially in the linen industry? Was there a significant decline in their numbers in the closing years of the eighteenth century? Did they lose adherents to the Methodists?

Item 51 in the Exhibition was

Draft of a letter from Thomas Greer of Dungannon, to Danl. Bell of Wakefield and Bell, London, 30th of 9th Month 1782

[concerning the linen trade].

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*Guide to Irish Quaker Records, 1654–1860*, by Olive C. Goodbody. With contribution on Northern Ireland records by B. G. Hutton. (Dublin, Stationery Office, for the Irish Manuscripts Commission, 1967. £2 17s. 6d.)

Mention of this *Guide* in the exhibition catalogue noticed immediately above causes us now to express our regret that we have not hitherto brought to the notice of our readers this key work. It embraces the Dublin archives of the Society of Friends, the documents in the Historical Library at Eustace Street, Dublin, the records of Ulster Province Meeting (Lisburn), and the Quaker material in the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland.

The *Guide* will find an indispensable place beside *Quaker records, Dublin: Abstracts of wills*, which was edited by P. Beryl Eustace and Olive C. Goodbody for the Irish Manuscripts Commission in 1957 (Dublin, Stationery Office). It should be found on the shelves of all libraries where historians congregate, and should be consulted by all who are interested in Quaker history before they visit Ireland, and by those interested in the spheres of Irish life in which Quaker families have played a part.