

## WELCOME

to the spring 2011 edition of the Science Museum Library & Archives newsletter. We're focusing on our family history resources in this issue. Read on to discover what we have in our collections and how we can help you search for your ancestors in the Library & Archives.

## UNUSUAL TITLES IN OUR COLLECTION

Science Has No Sex

Are Universes Bigger Than Blackberries?

Romance Amongst Cars

Maggots, Murder, and Men

Scrapeana: fugitive miscellany; or, A medley of choice bon mots, repartees, &c. to which is added, a large collection of Yorkshire anecdotes

Glory Days: When Horsepower and Passion Ruled Detroit, a Memoir

What the Hell Do We Want an Artist Here For?

Concrete Quarterly

The Poet and the Pox

Patents for Hitler

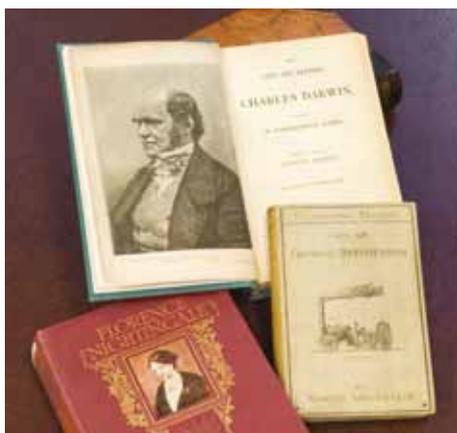
Two Years Amongst the New Guinea Cannibals

## IS YOUR ANCESTOR IN THE LIBRARY?

### Biographies and more

The Library in London holds our large and dedicated collection of scientific biographies. Whilst we have all the big names in there – such as Newton, Darwin and Einstein – we also have the biographies of less well known scientists, from engineers to doctors, chemists and botanists.

It's also worthwhile checking our collection of biographical dictionaries. These cover particularly specialised and diverse areas including clock-making, seal-engraving, deaf people in science and Scottish arms-makers. And of course we have the more general biographical dictionaries such as the *Dictionary of National Biography* and *Who's Who*. So if you think your ancestor worked in a scientific or technological field, this is where you should start your research.

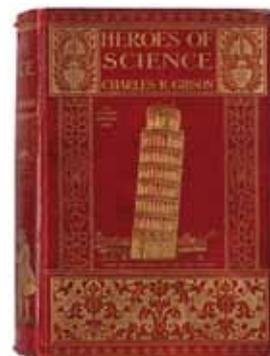


### And what did your ancestor do?

But it's not just about the biographies. If you think your ancestor may have worked in a scientific field, we can help you find out whether there are any records of his or her work.

Perhaps your ancestor wrote a book or an article. In addition to a world-class collection of original scientific works, we hold an aircraft hangar full of specialist journals dating from as far back as the 17th century. These cover a wide assortment of fields, from hard science to trade journals for electricians or car repair. Researchers can use the yearly indexes to look for names or search through selected e-journals online.

We also have the journals of professional bodies such as the Institution of Civil Engineers and the Royal Aeronautical Society. If you think your ancestor was a member of a professional body, you may be interested in searching through these journals for contributions such as a letter, an announcement or an obituary.



## Was your ancestor a mad inventor?

If you think one of your ancestors was an inventor you may be interested in our complete run of patents, right from the very first one in 1617 up to 1992. The patent indexes are searchable by surname and year. We can help you look through them to discover the details of your ancestors' invention, including any technical drawings and plans. And, if the copyright regulations permit, we can even provide you with a copy of the patent for your records (copying charges apply).

## Working life and trade

Did any of your ancestors own or run a business? We have several hundred trade and street directories ranging from 1817 to 2008. Most of these are London directories, but we have a few directories covering other counties. Researchers can look up the street addresses of their ancestors and see how they advertised their business.

Alternatively you might know that an ancestor worked for a particular company. Our large and varied Trade Literature collection encompasses everything from sales catalogues to manuals to in-house magazines. These give a valuable insight into how different companies worked.

Perhaps you think that an ancestor may have displayed products at an international exhibition. International exhibitions became popular in the 19th century and were used to showcase the best of the best, from steam engines to fine porcelain. Our Exhibition Literature collection covers many expositions and world fairs from the Great Exhibition at Crystal Palace to the Chicago World's Fair of 1933. You may even be able to find a picture of your ancestor's own creations or find out if he or she won a medal.

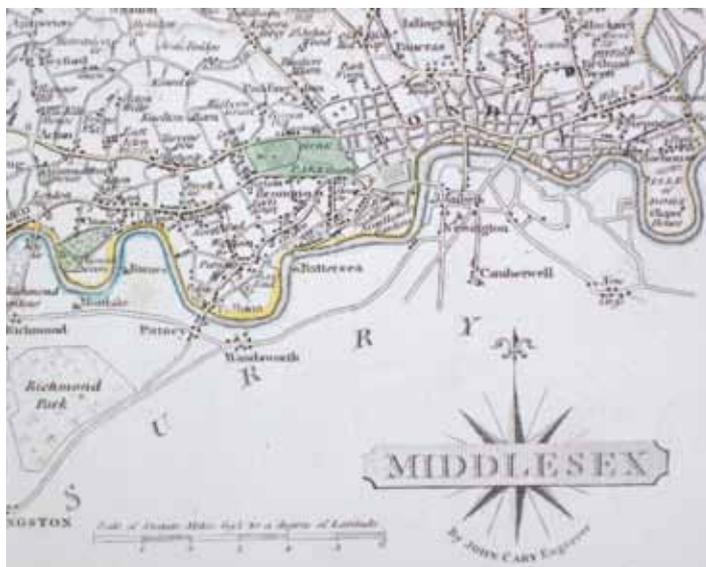
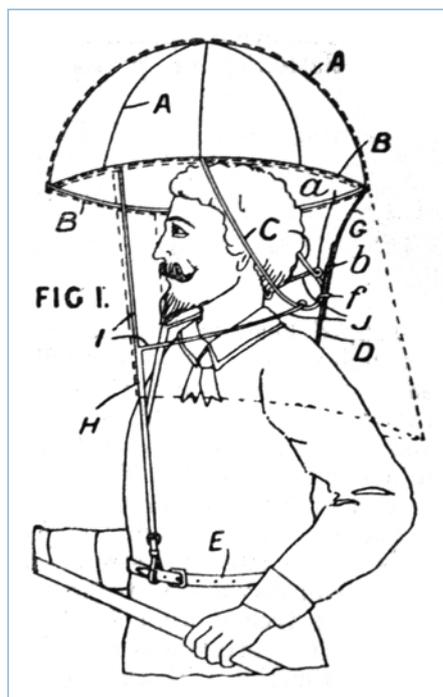
We also have a lot of general information on working life and trades. If you know your ancestors worked in a particular trade or industry we can help you discover what working life was like for them and the conditions they had to face.

## All at sea

If you think you have ancestors who served on a British merchant ship we can help you find out about their working life. We have a collection of *Lloyd's Register of Shipping* from 1764 to 1999. *Lloyd's Register* is an annual list of merchant ships which includes details of the ships' owner, captain, origins, design and ultimate fate. Alternatively if you think an ancestor was in naval service you may be interested in our collection of *Jane's Fighting Ships*, which covers the years from 1898 to 2004. This is an annual register of the world's warships listing information about ships' names, design and fighting capabilities.

## Location, location, location

With our large and varied collection of maps we can help you find out about the area where your ancestors lived. Our set of Ordnance Survey maps cover the whole of the UK and are dated circa 1894-1904. They measure 6 inches to 1 mile and provide a fascinating amount of detail. We also have a number of older maps covering counties and towns. These maps date back to 1607 and often include details about major businesses and land use.





## AND WHAT'S IN THE ARCHIVES?

The Archives hold a large collection of personal papers, company records and manuscripts. We have the private papers of some of the most influential scientists and engineers, such as Charles Babbage, Isambard Kingdom Brunel, Humphry Davy and Barnes Wallis, as well as records about the teams and staff that helped them.

But it's not just the big names of science in our Archives. We also have smaller collections, sometimes just a few photographs or letters that belonged to ordinary people. We have a schoolboy's exercise book from 1818, a nurse's exam papers and certificates from 1932 and a telegram arranging an Australian sky-writing patent from 1924. Discover the amazing range of materials in our Archive for yourself.

Do you know whether your ancestor worked for a particular company? We have a large collection of specific company records in our Archives, from coach-building and construction projects to steam engines, spaceships and kitchen appliances. Company archives typically include such documents as contracts, correspondence, reports, notebooks and photographs. Company photographs are very varied, ranging from executive portraits to international engineering projects, and even to conga dancing at a staff party. We have a thousand faces in the Archive photographs. Could one of them be your ancestor?



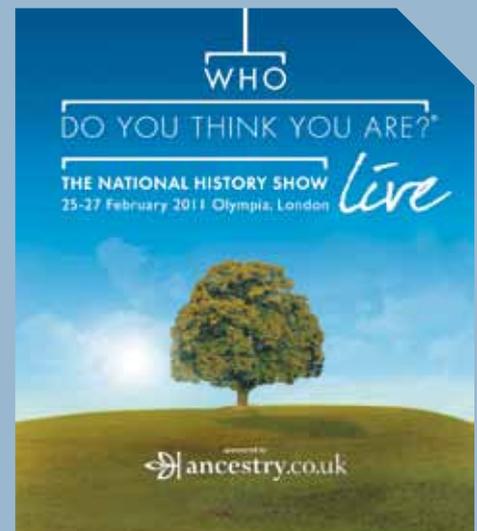
## WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE? LIVE SHOW

The *Who Do You Think You Are?* live show is the country's biggest family history event. And the Library & Archives team are going to be there!

The event will feature hundreds of exhibitors including the Society of Genealogists and the Military Pavilion. Visitors will have the chance to get advice from experts, history societies and representatives from all the major online resources. There will be over 100 workshops and seminars, including the cutting edge of technology in the DNA workshop. There will even be a few famous faces, such as Monty Don, Tony Robinson and Hugh Quarshie, sharing their stories with the audience.

Our Library & Archives stand will highlight the family history resources in our collections. Visitors to our display can search our online catalogue, receive a free booklet about our resources or get some advice from our friendly staff. If we're unable to help you on the day we'll take your enquiry and research it for you, free of charge for up to half an hour. We'll also have some facsimiles of unique family history resources you can look through for yourself.

The *Who Do You Think You Are?* live show will take place on 25-27 February 2011 at London's Olympia.



### Special offer on tickets

Tickets to the *Who Do You Think You Are?* live show cost £22. We are pleased to offer our readers a **special offer price** of 2 for £25. Readers will need to use our special

code SCM2425. Tickets can be booked through [www.whodoyouthinkyouarelive.co.uk](http://www.whodoyouthinkyouarelive.co.uk) or by phoning 0844 873 7330. Offer ends 19 February 2011.

# 'I AM PROBABLY THE ONLY PERSON WHO EVER COLLECTED A BABY FLYING LEMUR ON A BICYCLE.'

## *Pheasant Jungles* by William Beebe – a review

Pheasants are not renowned for their ability to inspire passion and willingness to risk death. William Beebe suffered wild animal attacks, plunged off an ice ridge, risked cholera infection, became caught in troop skirmishes and a murder attempt, and ate a durian fruit... all for the sake of his beloved birds. *Pheasant Jungles* is Beebe's account of a 1909 expedition that travelled about 52,000 miles and visited 22 countries to complete the first definitive study of pheasants in the wild. Beebe's passion for the birds shines throughout the book: 'My cup of joy was filled, when from my observation tent, I watched a cock for a full ten minutes.' He is equally enthusiastic in his descriptions of other animals and at one time ended up with a menagerie of creatures including a leopard and a sun bear cub.

As Beebe trekked from one country to the next, he needed to hire teams of local people to help him travel. Beebe's crews were at least as interesting as his own adventures. Beebe describes Drojak, one of his Dyak crew in Borneo, as gentle and kind. One day whilst working for Beebe, Drojak was attacked by 12 men from another tribe. Drojak not only survived the attack but came back with eight heads hanging from his girdle. Beebe commented that head-hunting originally had its roots in courtship and described how Drojak used to re-enact his kills for the general entertainment of the camp. But at least Beebe didn't have to fear an attack from Drojak. A few days after engaging a cook, Beebe found out that his

new employee had a habit of going mad at every full moon, even needing to be restrained in irons. However, Beebe decided to keep him on because of his otherwise gentle manner and epicurean sauces.

Beebe survived the attentions of his employees, but he was nearly murdered by a Kachin tribesman in Burma. One of the photograph captions in his book reads: **'The Shooter of Poisoned Arrows. From the hillside just behind, he shot at us for three nights. The evening following this photograph I shot and killed him.'**

Apparently Beebe's Gurkha guards were extremely upset that he had not let them handle the matter.

Beebe's writing is vivid and personal. He describes how in Pungatong he was afflicted with an acute nervous breakdown: 'I hated pheasants, the jungle and all its inmates.' His unusual remedy was to read 'penny dreadful' paperbacks nonstop for the next few days until he felt able to go on with the expedition. In the High Himalayas, Beebe wrote, he felt shame and embarrassment on seeing a female missionary from the West break through a Buddhist procession to force missionary tracts into the Dalai Lama's hands.

*Pheasant Jungles* is more than just a record of birds and nature, more than an entertaining account of Beebe's adventures and experiences. The book records a time gone by, a world long since vanished. The societies that Beebe encountered have changed, evolved and disappeared. Beebe wrote extensively about the people and tribes that he met,



Beebe and his pheasant tent

their customs and religious beliefs. Although the locals frequently considered him mad, he was often welcomed by the remote communities he visited, particularly so at the village of Sin-Ma-How. Beebe received gifts, help and speeches of welcome and said of the headman's wife, 'It was an honour to have known her, and ... I hope she thought well of me.' Beebe didn't just restrict his observations to the local peoples. In Ceylon he paid an unexpected visit to the British government agent, the only other Westerner for miles around. 'When I went to his bungalow in the evening I saw him sitting at table in formal evening dress ... alone except for two servitors waiting upon him with equal formality.'

Beebe's passion for nature continued all his life and he went on many more expeditions. He became the Director of Tropical Research at the New York Zoological Society and later expanded his interests underwater. Most famously he achieved a world record in 1934 when he descended half a mile underwater in a bathysphere. Although *Pheasant Jungles* was published in 1927, some of Beebe's words are as true today as they ever were. 'There is something elusive and eternally baffling about human nature at all times. ... Which provides, I think that it is easier to deduce general facts about pheasants than about human nature.'

C Watson

## London

Monday to Friday 09.30–20.30, Saturday 10.00–18.00

The Science Museum Library is on Level 3 of the Central Library at Imperial College London, which is situated in South Kensington, just round the corner from the Science Museum. For a single visit, you need only show personal identification and sign the Visitors' Book at the Reception Desk; the attendant will issue you with a Day Ticket. If you intend to visit more often, you must apply for a Library Admission Card.

Contact us on 020 7942 4242  
SMLinfo@sciencemuseum.org.uk

[www.sciencemuseum.org.uk/library](http://www.sciencemuseum.org.uk/library)

## Wroughton

Monday to Friday 10.00–17.00

The Library & Archives are located at the Hackpen end of the Wroughton site on the edge of Swindon in Wiltshire. Access is via Red Barn Gate on the A4361 Devizes Road. Visitors should contact the Library & Archives in advance to make an appointment, and bring personal identification with them.

Contact us on 01793 846222  
SMLWroughton@sciencemuseum.org.uk