BRITISH & DUTCH COLLECTIONS

Examples from the CIBSE Heritage Group Archives

A WINDOW ON LONDON'S GAS HERITAGE

THE LONDON GAS MUSEUM

British Gas
North Thames
The London Gas Museum

These are easy-to-follow displays showing how gas was made from coal and steerable scale models of the 'lights' that brought the gas to London by sea from the North East and Scotland.

A special feature is the creation of the world's largest gasworks at Beckton, East London, in the second half of the 19th century.

Beckton was named after Sir William Bakewell, governor of the Gas Light and Coke Company, a predecessor of North Thames Gas, now British Gas South Thames, one of the 12 regions of British Gas plc.

Beckton had its own railway and carriage, including shop, post office, public house and two churches. A tape-slide presentation tells the story.

Christchurch Electricity Museum

Established in 1884, Southern Electricity Museum houses one of the most extensive collections of historic electrical equipment in Great Britain.

The museum building in Christchurch which dates from 1909 is used to be the town's power station. It has been carefully restored and it displays many of its original features including a cast iron staircase, a hoist crane on decorated columns and ornate brickwork of the building.

These provide an ideal backdrop to more than 700 exhibits which trace the development of the Electricity Supply Industry and represent all its facets—electricity generation and distribution as well as the many uses of electricity which have developed over the years.

Working models, copies of the original experiments of Faraday, Ritchie and Barlow. These and other working displays spell out the dramatic discovery of electricity and provide a hobby used by many students and teachers — to touch, inspect, operate and learn.
EAST MIDLANDS GAS MUSEUM

John Doran Museum
Emgas Service Centre
Aylestone Road
Leicester, LE2 7QH.
Soho House (Boulton & Watt), near Birmingham

The Royal Pavilion, Brighton
PERSONAL COLLECTIONS
Major collections include Sir Francis Ronalds’ research papers on telegraphy; numerous collections relating to the development of telegraphy and submarine cables, including material on the dispute between William Cooke and Charles Wheatstone and on the work of Charles Bright; the Blaikley Collection of Michael Faraday’s early notebooks and scientific correspondence; papers, notebooks and correspondence of Oliver Heaviside; reminiscences of A.P. Trotter on the early development of the electrical industry, and the papers of J.N. Aldington concerning the development of the lighting industry from the end of World War I to the mid-1960s.

TECHNICAL AND INDUSTRIAL RECORDS
Records of electrical engineering firms and equipment manufacturers held within the Archives include Evershed and Vignoles, Avo Ltd., Lawrence Scott & Electromotors; the British Thomson-Houston Ltd. photographic archive, circa 1900-1939; and the records of several small consulting firms.
THE INSTITUTION OF ELECTRICAL ENGINEERS

The IEE is the largest professional engineering institution in Europe. It was founded in 1871 as the Society of Telegraph Engineers and from the outset members and eminent engineers gave books, manuscripts, diaries, working papers, drawings and photographs. The Archives Department was set up in 1975, leading to the acquisition of more modern collections of technical and research papers and the records and trade literature of electrical businesses. The Archives contain material on the history of the electrical industry as a whole, design, business and family history, and women in engineering.

THE INSTITUTION ARCHIVES

The Institution Archives comprise the minutes, papers, correspondence, and photographs of the activities and achievements of the IEE from its foundation to the present day, and the archives of the Institution of Electronic and Radio Engineers and the Institution of Manufacturing Engineers, which merged with the IEE in 1988 and 1991 respectively.
Other important collections include the papers of Dame Caroline Haslett and the Electrical Association for Women (1924-1986); the Women’s Engineering Society, founded in 1919; photographs showing the National Grid under construction in the 1930s; papers of the radar scientist H.A.H. Boot on his work on the cavity magnetron in the early 1940s.

**Photographs and Films**
The IEE Archives include portraits and engravings of eminent scientists, electrical engineers and IEE members, and, beginning in 1934, films of many IEE honorary members and Faraday medallists.

**The Rare Book and Manuscript Collections**
The library of Sir Francis Ronalds, donated in 1876, contains rare editions of books on electricity, the telegraph and related subjects mainly from the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Silvanus P. Thompson’s 3,500 printed books and 12,000 pamphlets date from the fifteenth century to Thompson’s death in 1916, and cover all aspects of electricity and magnetism. Thompson’s library also includes several manuscripts, among which are three volumes of medieval texts.
ARCHIVAL COLLECTIONS

The Institution of Mechanical Engineers possesses outstanding collections of original material from engineering history. These nationally important resources are an unrivalled source of information and images. Manuscripts, paintings, photographs, artefacts and the Institution's own records chart the development and progress of mechanical engineering over three centuries.

ART AND ARTEFACTS

Artistic and technical elements of engineering are combined in the Institution's visual materials:

- PRINTS AND DRAWINGS illustrate the elegance of engineering design.
- PHOTOGRAPHS of locomotives, ships, automobiles and aircraft record innovative products.
- PORTRAITS AND BUSTS show famous engineers both past and present.
- MODELS AND INSTRUMENTS preserve their working apparatus.

The Institution of Mechanical Engineers, London
Kew Bridge Steam Museum
A Guide by Kenneth Brown

- World's biggest collection of large steam engines
- World's largest single cylinder beam engine
- World's largest working beam engine
- World's largest working waterworks engine
- World's largest collection of Cornish Beam engines

A New Museum of Water
Dutch steam-engine driven water-pumping station
The Gladstone Pottery Museum, Stoke-on-Trent
Displays of sanitary ware in the Gladstone Museum
The Dutch Lift Museum