

WOMENS LANGUAGE AND EXPERIENCE, 1500-1940

Women's Diaries and Related Sources

Part 1: Sources from the Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire County Record Offices

Part 2: Sources from Birmingham Central Library and Birmingham University Library

General Introduction

"The local record offices of Great Britain hold staggering quantities of manuscripts written by women. Only now is this vast resource being tapped. Women's own writings facilitate the exploration of a multiplicity of themes from the construction of identity to the composition of political communities, from the intimacies of emotional life to the structure of society. The examination of women's manuscripts will enable scholars to engage critically with the categories, modes of explanation, and chronology of recent women's history. Feminist theory can be evaluated and developed by applying it to the range of empirical material offered in Women's Language & Experience."

Dr Amanda Vickery, Consultant Editor

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Scattered throughout the local record offices of England, Scotland and Wales are vital yet neglected sources for the study of women's history: Diaries, commonplace books, travel journals and letters which describe women's lives and experiences in their own language.

This new project brings together such sources for the first time and makes possible a general overview of the condition of women in Britain from 1500 to 1940. It will suggest answers to questions such as:

- Did women actually conform to prescribed models of authority?
- How did women's aspirations and fantasies match up with their real lives?
- Did women employ the rhetoric of submission selectively, with irony, or quite cynically?

This project will encourage work by scholars across many disciplines including English, Politics, History, the social history of medicine, Social Policy and Women's Studies.

Subjects covered include:

- Sexuality, masculinity & femininity
- Courtship & marriage
- Household organization & authority
- Childbearing, childrearing & parenting
- Medicine & health
- Women's paid & unpaid work
- Informal & institutionalized charity
- Religion & ethical values
- Gentility, politeness & snobbery
- Tourism, taste & commercialized leisure
- Women's reading & visits to the theatre
- Political culture & social structure
- Perceptions of female destiny
- Female education & professional aspirations
- Equal rights feminism

The project is based on a nationwide trawl of women's diaries in public libraries, university libraries and county and regional record offices carried out by Dr Amanda Vickery, Consultant Editor for this project. Correspondence with and subsequent visits to many of the libraries and record offices concerned established that many hundreds of such diaries survive. They vary widely in style, clarity, content and extent.

To create a useful microform edition we have generally excluded diaries which are very sparse, those which are difficult to read, and those which are full but deal exclusively with topics such as weather observations. However, all diary sequences filmed have been filmed in their entirety, and the aim has been to provide as broad a range of diaries as possible, covering as many types of women as possible, over a broad date range.

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Publisher's Note - Part 1

Part 1 is based on sources from the Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire County Record Offices. In all it comprises nearly 100 volumes describing the lives of 25 women for the period from 1670 to 1922.

The earliest sequence of diaries (in 7 volumes, with 7 further volumes of commonplace books) describe the life of Dame Sarah Cowper between 1670 and 1715. She pours forth her views on almost every subject, especially on marriage and fidelity:

"Sunday, going early to Church, I chanced to be present at a wedding, the most melancholy sight one can see, and affects me strangely. ...

To hear a simple woman promise to love without cause, and obey without Reason, is amazing...." (Volume I, p268)

The 18th Century is particularly well covered. No fewer than 13 volumes describe the lives of Mary, Harriet, Charlotte and Anne Orlebar in the period from 1751 to 1830. As well as their daily observations on their households, their children and their social lives, there is much of literary interest - including the poetry of Mary, their unofficial poet laureate, who commemorated important family events in verse.

Another volume of great poetical interest is the Commonplace book of Lady Anne Blount, marked on the spine as "*Stella's works*". It contains 35 lyrics including "*To Lady Blount - a panegyrick on the friendship of a modern Pilades and Orestes of my acquaintance*", a song entitled "*how great is that ruin, when pleasure pursuing, we passion obey*" and "*To Sir Harry Blount, on his saying he wou'd not have a fiddle on his lady's birthday*" (the later is marked "*Pope*" at the top).

Further 18th Century diaries include those of Mary, Countess Cowper (covering 1714-1720), Catherine Talbot the noted author (for 1745), Elizabeth Wheeler (for 1778, an excellent diary with outspoken political comments and notes on her reading) and an anonymous volume for 1720.

The manuscript autobiography of Frances Stackhouse covers her life from 1794 to 1881 and is especially valuable for her comments on her schooling, the birth of her daughter, and on the visits of Humphry, Joseph Banks, Madame Le Brun, Davy and Sidney Smith.

Equally wide-ranging in subject matter are the diaries and travel journals of Frederica St John Rouse-Boughton (covering 1859-1864). Many are gloriously illustrated. We also cover her devotional volume which witnesses the changes in her spiritual beliefs. At one point she remarks:

"I for my own part I think an immense deal of nastiness often lurks behind the 'respectability' of us 'ladies'...."

Two long diary sequences are those of Jane Johnston (in 23 volumes, 1817-1840, with notes on the living conditions of labourers and servants, charity work, gambling and contemporary amusements) and Louisa Arrowsmith (in 17 volumes, 1792-1837, with much about her garden and visits to the theatre).

The diaries of Adela Capel, aged 14, and Eliza Stevens, aged 9 (by her governess) describe the education and upbringing of girls in the first half of the 19th Century. Both texts illuminate the construction of gender roles and the socialization of girls.

Women's diaries have fulfilled the roles of friend, confessional, scrapbook and analyst. Now they are offered as a revealing historical record.

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Part 1: Sources from the Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire County Record Offices

Part 2: Sources from Birmingham Central Library and Birmingham University Library

Contents of Reels - Part 1

Manuscript Reference - Approx Date - Person

REEL 1

OR 2156 1776 Mary Orlebar
OR 2170 1751 Mary Orlebar
OR 2171 1752 Mary Orlebar
OR 2192 1794 Charlotte Orlebar
OR 2211/1 1785 Mary Orlebar

REEL 2

OR 2214 1785 Harriet Orlebar
OR 2215 1786 Harriet Orlebar
OR 2216 1787 Harriet Orlebar
OR 2220/2 1827 Ann Orlebar
OR 2220/3 1828 Ann Orlebar
OR 2220/4 1829 Ann Orlebar
OR 2222/1 1830 Ann Orlebar

REEL 3

OR 2244/5 1860 Frederica Rouse-Boughton
OR 2244/6 1861 Frederica Rouse-Boughton
OR 2244/7 1861 Frederica Rouse-Boughton
OR 2244/8 1859-75 Frederica Rouse-Boughton

REEL 4

OR 2318/3 & 3a 1794-1873 Frances Stackhouse mss autobiography
OR 2344/1 1883 Faith Harriet Bourne
OR 2344/2 1891 Faith Harriet Bourne
OR 2344/3 1894 Faith Harriet Bourne
L 31/106 1745 Catherine Talbot
L 31/111 1803 Lady Cole
L 31/112 1806 Anne Robinson
L 31/114/15 1852 Henrietta Cowper
X 67/847 1778 Elizabeth Wheeler, Quaker
Z 778/1-2 1922 Anonymous travel journal

Sources from Hertfordshire County Record Office

Manuscript Reference - Approx Date - Person

REEL 5

D/EP F29 - F31 1700-05 Dame Sarah Cowper

REEL 6

D/EP F32 - F34 1706-12 Dame Sarah Cowper

REEL 7

D/EP F35 1713-15 Dame Saarah Cowper
D/EP F36 1670-onwards Dame Sarah Cowper
D/EP F37 1673 Dame Sarah Cowper

REEL 8

D/EP F38 1675-84 Dame Sarah Cowper
D/EP F39 1680 Dame Sarah Cowper

REEL 9

D/EP F43 nd Dame Sarah Cowper
D/EP F44 nd Dame Sarah Cowper
D/EP F45 nd Dame Sarah Cowper

REEL 10

D/EP F205 1714-20 Mary, Countess Cowper
D/EP F209 1720 Anonymous
D/ECd (Add) F7 18th C Lady Anne Blount
Panshanger Box 37 1857 Lady Adine Cowper
D/ERv F4 - F5 1866-68 Lady Adine Fane, née Cowper

REEL 11

16195-16200 1817-23 Mrs Jane Johnston

REEL 12

16201-16207 1824-30 Mrs Jane Johnston

REEL 13

16208-16213 1831-36 Mrs Jane Johnston

REEL 14

16214-16217 1837-40 Mrs Jane Johnston

REEL 15

57462 1873 Edith, Lady Lytton

70150-70159 1792-1826 Mrs Louisa Arrowsmith

REEL 16

70160-70168 1827-36 Mrs Louisa Arrowsmith

86135 1859 Frances Crespigny

86326 1820 The governess of Eliza Hope Stevens

D/P78 29/1 1836 Mrs Frances M Polhill

D/Z32 F1 1841 Lady Adela Capel, 14

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Detailed Listing - Part 1

Sources from the Bedfordshire County Record Office

REEL 1

OR 2156 1776 Mary Orlebar

A small diary, consisting of c80 openings, written in The Ladies Annual Journal or Complete Pocket Book for the Year 1776. It provides details of appointments, social life, and the weather. For instance (8 Jan 1776):

"My Brothers Wedding Day kept with the usual Festivity above Thirty Poor People dined most plentifully in the Laundry & Wash House."

OR 2170 1751 Mary Orlebar

OR 2171 1752 Mary Orlebar

Two commonplace books full of poetry, mostly written by Mary on family occasions. 68ff and 86ff respectively. The first contains a manuscript index at the front. Poems include "A reflection on life", "On the Distress'd Mother" and "On the Death of a Labourer". The second volume is also indexed and includes "Rural Happiness" and "On Beauty".

OR 2192 1794 Charlotte Orlebar

A brief diary contained in The Ladies New & Polite Pocket Memorandum Book for 1794. 84ff.

OR 2211/1 1785 Mary Orlebar

"Some Account of our Expedition to France - Mary O - 1785." 18ff, the rest of the volume is blank.

REEL 2

OR 2214 1785 Harriet Orlebar

This is Harriet's version of the trip to France (see OR 2211/1 above). It includes accounts of attending Balls in pre-Revolutionary France.

Paginated 1-58.

OR 2215 1786 Harriet Orlebar

A commonplacebook with much relating to the French expedition. 32ff.

OR 2216 1787 Harriet Orlebar

OR 2220/2 1827 Ann Orlebar

OR 2220/3 1828 Ann Orlebar

OR 2220/4 1829 Ann Orlebar

These three small pocket books were kept by Ann Orlebar. The first two are written in The Ladies Complete Pocket Book for 1827 and 1828 respectively. The third uses Hinckesman's Pocket Book for 1829. c80ff each. The second volume includes some poetry and a list of books read. A number of loose inserts are tucked into the front of third volume. These have been filmed before the volume.

OR 2222/1 1830 Ann Orlebar

This is a straightforward commonplace book kept by Anne Orlebar and entitled "*Extracts by Miss Ann Orlebar who died 1830.*" Paginated, 1-54.

Items include: "*Ode to my beloved daughter*", "*From Lady Sophia Woodville, to Ld Edmund FitzEdwin*", "*A Remark on Evelina*", and "*Ode to Despair*" by Charlotte Frith, which features the couplet:

*"Life is a variegated, tedious span,
A sad and toilsome road, the weary trav'ler Man."*

REEL 3

OR 2244/5 1860 Frederica Rouse-Boughton

OR 2244/6 1861 Frederica Rouse-Boughton

OR 2244/7 1861 Frederica Rouse-Boughton

OR 2244/8 1859-75 Frederica Rouse-Boughton

These are the diaries of Frederica St John Orlebar (née Rouse-Boughton) (1838-1928). There are 4 volumes in all, together with a few letters and enclosures. They include descriptions of bathing and music festivals; scandals and problems with servants; reactions to the baby; and notes on reading Schiller and Wilkie Collins. OR 2244/5 runs to c185 openings and is entitled "*Our fortnight in Wales*" (1860). The visit was obviously much anticipated:

"We had been talking of "our going to Wales" all the Summer, and at last it was settled for us to start on a certain Friday - 24th of August."

It is beautifully illustrated throughout with small watercolours (see below) and the events of the trip are very well described. Here is a description of their visit to the Pystyll y Mawr Vach Falls:

"ere we struck down amongst the brushwood, on emerging from which, the Fall burst suddenly upon us, & it was beautiful. This sketch I made, Sophy & Lechmere up on the rock before the Fall, Gertrude down on her knees, drinking, Katey, Mary & I in the foreground. The water runs through quantities of small rocks, with shingly sort of shores. It comes dashing gloriously down from the height all in foam, looking so clear & bright, & in the shadows, just varying in tint according to the colour of the rocks it flows over. When we had taken a good look at the Fall, we rose to go; and was packing up my sketching things, I heard a shout of "Oh! such a pretty little cave!" & there it was, not far from where we had been sitting, the entrance to a little cave in the side of the hill, almost buried in the luxuriant fern & heather that grew round the entrance. Right before the mouth, the water dripped constantly like a sparkling veil, so plentifully that we could only just see inside. We all looked in, but could see nothing. Here is my sketch, with me in the foreground, & Katey looking over my shoulder."

She shares her views of her companions, the Welsh people, the beautiful scenery and subjects ranging from doctors to small children. On doctors:

"I always feel upset when a doctor looks at me ... they seem to be taking you in gradually with an abstracted, immoveable look that goes through yr eyes, & out at the back of yr head, & of which you feel the effects throughout yr whole frame, yr pulse immediately starting at a rate of 150; & yr colour coming and going as if a fit of apoplexy must shortly ensue.... This old man was not intrinsically disagreeable - only so professionally."

On ragged children: "*Outside our own door we had an amusing encounter with a troop of small boys, in all varieties of costumes and patches. They were all more or less ragged, but with such happy mischevious faces, and looking so roguish as they all pressed round us, teasing & bothering for halfpennies, that they were quite irresistible, & we held up a penny before them all (much as one would a bit of meat to a dog when one wants to make it beg) & after keeping them some time in suspense, tossed it in amongst the group, & let them scramble for it. It was such an amusing sight, that we went on throwing pennies until all our store was exhausted, & throwing silver being too expensive a form of amusement, we left the children to fight out the possession of the last penny, & went into the house. Nothing more happened that night, and Gertrude and I spent the evening sketching the group of children, both which sketches I enter here, as they are quite different views on the same subject."* (The first of these appears opposite the general introduction).

OR 2244/6 & 7 (c185ff and 96ff) deal with "*Our wedding tour*", starting in Chester on 31 July 1861. There are fewer illustrations. One of the accompanying loose manuscripts describes "*inevitable*" expenses.

In complete contrast OR 2244/8 (65ff) is a quite revealing devotional volume, recording her innermost thoughts from 1859 to 1875. The religious musings and records of worries provide scholars with an opportunity to produce a psychological profile,

and to compare the content of her secret journal with her 'public' travel journals. It is clear that she experienced a crisis in faith in later years. A late entry (7 March 1875) reads:

"I feel quite strange opening this old journal again - can it be that I shall change as much in the next 11 years as I have done since 1864? I wish I were as sure of being on the right path now as then. Then there seemed such things as "right & wrong", "good & bad people", "heaven & hell", "God & the devil" - Now everything has got muddled;...."

REEL 4

OR 2318/3 & 3a 1794-1873 Frances Stackhouse Acton

This autobiographical account by Frances Stackhouse Acton (1794-1881) of Acton Scott was compiled in 1873 at the request of her nieces. It covers her early schooling and includes descriptions of local cottages and of the clothes of the people who lived in them. It describes visits to her family's house by Humphry Davy, Madame Le Brun, Joseph Banks and Sidney Smith. There is also an account of the birth of her daughter. Please note that the text reads from both the front and the back of this volume (9ff forward and 10ff back).

OR 2344/1 1883 Faith Harriet Bourne

OR 2344/2 1891 Faith Harriet Bourne

OR 2344/3 1894 Faith Harriet Bourne

These are the diaries of Faith Harriet Bourne (later Orlebar) (1869-1951 covering 1883, 1891 and 1894 (112ff, 21ff and 37ff respectively). The first is very detailed and taken together they provide an interesting picture of family life, local events, the establishment of a household and life in Bournemouth.

L 31/106 1745 Catherine Talbot

This small journal (34ff) with a 10ff typewritten transcript, provide a very full record of Catharine Talbot's activities and reading in 1745. There is much literary comment, especially concerning Cowley and La Belle Assemblée, a contemporary literary journal for women. Catherine Talbot (1721-70) was effectively raised and educated by Thomas Secker (Bishop of Oxford from 1737; Archbishop of Canterbury, 1758-68) and later achieved fame through her contributions to Johnson's Rambler, her friendship with Samuel Richardson, and her Reflections on the Seven Days of the Week (1770). Her extensive correspondence with Jemima, Marchioness Grey (1722-97) is featured in Part 1 of our related publication entitled: Aristocratic Women: The Social, Political and Cultural History of Rich and Powerful Women.

L 31/111 1803 Lady Cole

A very brief diary (7ff) written on yellow bordered letter paper, starting:

"I left Ireland June the 30th, 1803."

L 31/112 1806 Anne Robinson

A book of prayers and admonitions written in the early 1820's by Henrietta, wife of Earl de Grey, for her daughter, Ann Florence Robinson (b 1806). 51pp.

L 31/114/15 1852 Henrietta Cowper

Diary from 26 August 1852. 31ff.

X 67/847 1778 Elizabeth Wheeler, Quaker

Quaker diaries offer rich sources for the historian on account of their full and frank nature. This one is no exception, with lengthy records of conversations. For instance, on 27 Dec 1778:

"... the conversation turn'd in part on American affairs. There seems not much possibility of reconciliation at present & news brought of the English Fleet being dispersed the second time in a storm & one if not more ships wreck'd wherein fourscore perished & upwards of four hundred taken prisoners by the Americans...."

Z 778/1-2 1922 Anonymous travel journal

A charming travel account of a tour of the Lake District comprising a journal (124ff) and an exercise book (14ff). It is illustrated with contemporary photographs.

Sources from Hertfordshire County Record Office

REELS 5-7

D/EP F29 1700-01 [First volume] 172ff

D/EP F30 1702-03 Volume the Second 175ff

D/EP F31 1704-05 Volume the Third 157ff

D/EP F32 1706-08 Volume the Fourth 187ff

D/EP F33 1709-10 Volume the Fifth 207ff
D/EP F34 1711-12 Volume the Sixth 185ff

D/EP F35 1713-15 Volume the Seventh 195ff

This magnificent 7 volume diary sequence by Sarah Cowper provides a wealth of material for scholars in many disciplines. It is very extensive, the writing is generally clear in script and style, goes into great detail, and each volume has its original manuscript index at the front or the back of the volume. It is particularly worthwhile following up the "Observe", "Note" and "Resolution" entries. Other indexed entries range from "Cool Wine" and "King's evil", to "Toads" and "Women". The diaries mix together descriptions of contemporary events with philosophical digressions and religious musings. Marriage and the position of women provide a rich vein. For instance:

"Sunday, going early to Church, I chanced to be present at a wedding, the most melancholy sight one can see, and affects me strangely. For the loss of my eye I never shed tear, but this melts me into weeping, when I think how little that solemn covenant is either perform'd or understood, by most (that) engage in it. To hear a simple woman promise to love without cause, and obey without Reason, is amazing, and what nothing past sixteen can excuse such as come to years of discretion should be well advised of what they undertake and look before they leap. For vows tho' rashly made (if not unlawful) must be kept so far as possibly they can."
(Volume 1, p268)

"To be yoked for life to a disagreeable Temper; to be contradicted in every thing, and bore down not by Reason but Authority of a Master whose will and commands a woman cannot but destrate at ye same time she Obeys them, is a Misery none can have a just idea of but those who have felt it.... neither prudence nor Duty will allow a wife to fly out: her Business and Entertainment are at home...." (Volume 2, p190)

Other topics covered include Age, Anger, Education, Melancholy, Quakers, Servants, and Whigs. The last three volumes also have memoranda sections at the end, and Volume 7 includes copies of a number of her favourite poems, as well as this on history:

"By Reading of History we do as it were Antedate life and make our selves contemporary with the Ages past. In conversing with books we may choose our Company...."

REELS 7-9

D/EP F36 1670-onwards c200ff
D/EP F37 1673 c190ff
D/EP F38 1675-84 c120ff
D/EP F39 1680 c550ff
D/EP F43 nd c336ff

D/EP F44 nd c180ff

These 6 volumes of commonplace books complement the diary sequence and commence in 1670. Their contents are as follows:

D/EP F36 has text running from both the front and back of the book. From the front are "Collections of several things out of History begun about the year 1670". There is a list of these at the front. For instance:

f1 Dr Hammond on the New Testament
f21 Montayne's Essays in three parts
f22 Memoirs of China
f90 Taylor on ye Sacrament
f121 Grotius on Religion
f133 Erasmus Christian Soldier

Running from the back of the volume is a separate section entitled "*Poems Collected at severall times from the year 1670.*" This includes:

Abraham Cowley The Civill Warre
Andrew Marvell On the Sad day
Anon To Celia
Robert West A Poem at Tunbridg
J Dryden A Satyr
There is also a book-list covering 133 volumes.

D/EP F37 completes Reel 7 and is an alphabetic commonplace book arranged by headings. For instance:

"Love - Love is like a Hecticke feavor, att first hard to know, and easy to cure, afterwards easie to be known, and impossible to be cured." (c15pp in this section)

"Woman - Woman was made to punish man, and the Devil to punish women."

"Kisses - Kisses are but like sands of gold and silver, found upon the ground which are not worth much themselves but as they promise a mine near to be dig'd."

D/EP F 38 and 39 make up Reel 8. Both are religious commonplace books. The first is marked: "A collection of texts of scripture wch may be usefull to review at any times 1 Dec 1684." Text runs both ways. The second volume is huge and includes the note: "Sarah Cowper 1680 I recommend particularly the paraphrase upon the Book of Ecclesiastes."

D/EP F43 appears at the beginning of Reel 9. It is well-organized with tables by subject (eg Art, Charity, Errour, Heaven and Hell, Humility, Marriage, Prayer, Zeal) and by author (eg Bacon, Hooker, T Kempis, Taylor). It includes paraphrases, excerpts and complete poems such as a previously unrecorded version of a poem by Katherine Philips ("the matchless Orinda").

D/EP F44 contains further "Collections out of the Holy Bible."

D/EP F45 nd Dame Sarah Cowper

This volume is an illustrated scrapbook and has numerous blank pages which have not been filmed. It contains 22 pictures and a manuscript enclosure entitled "The Character of Sir Hen Vane" by Algernon Sidney.

REEL 10

D/EP F205 1714-20 Mary, Countess Cowper

Mounted in a modern guard-book, D/EP F205 comprises 6 original manuscript books providing a marvellous (and often scandalous) account of life at court. They were written by "*une Dame du Palais*", Mary, Countess Cowper, a Lady of the Bedchamber during the reign of King George I. The dates of the volumes are as follows:

Book 1 Oct 1714 - Mar 1714/15 ff 1-15
Book 2 Oct 1715 - Jan 1715/16 ff 16-23
Book 3 Feb 1715/16 - Apr 1716 ff 24-50
Book 4 Apr - Jul 1716 ff 51-60
Book 5 Jul 1716 - Nov 1716 ff 61-70
Book 6 Apr - Jul 1720 ff 71-113

There are a number of coded entries for individuals such as:

2 The Prince
3 The Princess
11 The Duke of Newcastle
24 The Duchess of Roxburgh
54 The Earl of Nottingham
59 Hanover
115 Mrs Kilmarnock
193 Mistress

A complete list of codes appears at the end of the volume at ff 114 - 126.

The following excerpt provides a flavour of the original:

"I din'd undress'd at Mrs Claytons with the D-s of Marl: Co-s of Pique borg [?] & Lady E.R. The D-s gave me a pattern for imbroidery for the next birthday. Mad. Piq. told us a story from Han: of one of Schullenbergs nieces that is marryd to a man of quality whose name I have forgot. She had formerly led a very ill life wch had occasioned a parting between her & her husband, by whom she had only one daughter, who by the Laws of Germany being incapable of inheriting her Fathers Estate gave great uneasiness to the Relations on both sides, wch put them (upon the joyfull occasion of the Kings coming to the Crown) upon making a reconciliation, wch was not very uneasy to effect; she being one of the handsomest as well as wittiest women in the world. But it seems she lik'd a lewd life too well to be reclaim'd from it & she saw a young man (who had before this an unreprouchable Character) that she likd & she never gave over writing to him till she had brought him to her will as appears by some letters of hers that were found in his pockets. She made an excuse one night to her husband that she was not well & wished to lye alone; he who had narrowly watched her, mistrusted something, & so got notice that this young man was in bed with her; upon wch he went up to her apartmt & knock'd at her door, & open'd it with a Candle & a sword in his hand. She call'd to know wt he wanted, he said he wanted to know who was in bed with her, you come & see replied she if there is any body; & upon his drawing the Curtain finding no body, he flung down the cloaths guessing rightly that he was crept underneath & wn he found him he stab'd him in several places, during wch time she put out the Candle & the young man got out of the room, the husband follow'd him but had the precaution to lock up his wives aptmt & meeting wth this young man in the Passage he kill'd him as he thought & left him. & having raisd the house & sent for the Sheriff he went to his wife wth all these witnesses wth him. As soon as he saw her he began to expostulate wth her & she to deny all that had happen'd & bid him prove him; he did so by producing his night cap in bed, his cloaths in the room, & the blood on the floor. She alledging that he & his Man contriv'd all this to undo her so then the wounded man was search'd for and found, after he had bled almost to death (his wounds being no otherwise dangerous). Wn she saw him she saw it was time to

dissemble no longer so putting on an impudt air she turnd about to the Sheriff abusing, well Mr Sheriff don't you think that you have made a fine nights work out to find out the failings of one woman. This I must tell you is wt all Ladys in the world do, but all are not found out as i have been. She has since made her escape & the Gallant is likely to recover: & thus the Relations of both sides are disappointed in the expectation of a son to heir the Grandeur of this family."
D/EP F205 Book 1, f11, 24 Nov 1714

D/EP F209 1720 Anonymous

"*The Ladies Diary or the Woman's Almanack for the Year of Our Lord, 1720.*" This small (c35ff) diary has cropped pages and occasional notes. It has been included to illustrate another type of printed diary format and because space allowed.

D/ECd (Add) F7 18th C Lady Anne Blount

This is the commonplace book of Lady Anne Blount and bears the inscription "Stella's Woerks" on the spine. It contains:

1 A Song to the Tune of Colin's complaint

2 On My Linnet

3 Now the gay Spring....

5 On three ladies falling asleep in Gubbin's wood and a gentleman sleeping with a book in his hand. A Song, starts:

*"From Love, soothing fatal passion
guard my heart yee Powers divine
to no, triffling inclination
lett me liberty resign
ever innocently gay
spitefull refflections I'll defie
no tyrant man will I obey
but a free Maid will live and dye."*

6 To Lady Blount, A panegyrick on the friendship of a modern Pilades and Orestes of my acquaintance

8 On reading some verses of a heathen satyrst, quoted by the honble Mr Boile in his Seraphick Love

9 A song on my most dear and worthy friend Lady Blount

10 A Song - *"how great is that ruin, when pleasure pursuing, we passion obey...."*

11 A Song made extempore, in a Coach, going to Tittenhanger, where a Lady was afraid of being drove too fast.

12 To my Dear and Worthy Friend Lady Blount, on her insisting on my writing to her in verse, because I had not answer'd her last letter

15 On the holy Bible

16 A Ballad, to the tune of shepherd Adonis

18 A song - *"Sure absence is the greatest woe the Lover's mind can undergo."*

20 *"A L'eternelles ennui je me vou condemnee."*

21 To Sir Harry Blount, on his saying he wou'd not have a fiddle on my lady's birth day. "Pope" is written at the top.

23 A Song, on the birth day of my Dear and worthy Friend Lady Blount, Tune an Italian Minuet

25 On my Dear and worthy friend Lady Blount when she was at London, myself being in the Country

27 A Song to the Tune of Louis, a gentle generous passion

28 A Song to the Tune, can love be controlld by advice, can reason and madness agree

29 Upon Good Nature

31 Upon her Grace, the Dutchess of Leeds

32 Chloe's Answer to, sweet were once the joys I tasted

33 Upon the Death of the St Alban's Assembly....

34 A Song to the tune of Arno's Vale

35 A Song "Dear Chloe your rigour give over."

Panshanger Box 37 1857 Lady Adine Cowper

Marked as "Volume II" this chatty diary provides an account of "a quiet studious country-life." Reading, visits and family life are all covered.

D/ERv F4 - F5 1866-68 Lady Adine Fane, née Cowper

Two small volumes (c75ff each) packed with diary entries in a tiny hand. The first is Pawsey's Pocket Diary, and Almanack, for 1866. The second is Peacock's Diamond Diary & Memorandum Book for 1868.

REELS 11-14

16195-16200 1817-23 Mrs Jane Johnston

16201-16207 1824-30 Mrs Jane Johnston

16208-16213 1831-36 Mrs Jane Johnston

16214-16217 1837-40 Mrs Jane Johnston

This lengthy sequence of diaries is filled with brief factual entries. These touch upon society life, the education and

upbringing of her children, gambling, charity, letters received, meetings, illness, and her domestic staff. Expenses are analyzed thoroughly (prices are given for shoes, bonnets and all manner of other items, as well as accounts of money paid to labourers, and of charitable giving) making this an excellent source for the study of consumption. There are also some reading notes. In the Record Office these diaries are gathered together in 5 bundles:

Bundle 1 16195 1817
16196 1819
16197 1820
16198 1821

Bundle 2 16199 1822
16200 1823
16201 1824
16202 1825
16203 1826

Bundle 3 16204 1827
16205 1828
16206 1829
16207 1830
16208 1831

Bundle 4 16209 1832
16210 1833
16211 1834
16212 1835
16213 1836

Bundle 5 16214 1837
16215 1838
16216 1839
16217 1840

Jane Johnston used a variety of diaries including Keasley's Gentleman & Tradesman's Pocket Ledger, Thomas's Daily Register, or Complete Remembrancer, The Student's Journal, and Dunn's Law & Commercial Remembrancer.

REEL 15

57462 1873 Edith, Lady Lytton

A chatty diary written on black edged letter paper entitled "Diary from Paris from 1873, from first arrival" and providing a very detailed account of Lady Lytton's stay in France. Lady Lytton is very class conscious and there is a memorable passage concerning a channel crossing: *"We asked for a deck cabin thinking our only hope was to lie down, but the steward said he was very sorry he feared they were all engaged. However on giving him our name an empty cabin was soon found.... ...it is wonderful what effect a title has upon the vulgar - I got ill."*

REELS 15-16

70150-70159 1792-1826 Mrs Louisa Arrowsmith

70160-70168 1827-36 Mrs Louisa Arrowsmith

Another long diary sequence, this is the diary of Lady Louisa Arrowsmith, wife of Edward A—, an attorney on King's Bench. It has a heavily religious tone and there is much on charitable work and alms for the poor. There is material on estate affairs, visits to the theatre, current events, radicals, village life, haymaking, work on the garden, a visit to Brighton, staem-boats and many other topics. The original sequence is gathered together in four bundles as follows:

Bundle 1 70150 (1792) 4ff Records a journey
70151 1818 c46ff
70152 1819 c69ff
70153 1820 c70ff
70154 1821 c70ff

Bundle 2 70155 1822/3 c100ff
70156 1823? c16ff
70157 1824 c60ff
70158 1825 c50ff
70159 1826 c50ff

Bundle 3 70160 1827 c50ff
70161 1827 c50ff
70162 1828 c50ff
70163 1829 c50ff

Bundle 4 70164 1830 c60ff
70165 1831 c50ff
70167 1832 c26ff Much in pencil
70168 1836 c35ff

REEL 16

86135 1859 Frances Crespigny

Covering the period from 28 Apr 1859 to 29 Mar 1860, this is the diary of Frances Crespigny, later Lady Russell Reynolds.

86326 1820 Eliza Hope Stevens

Kept by her Governess, this diary describes the trials and tribulations encountered in the education and socialization of a young girl. It lists lessons and evaluates her performance, which improves from "Imperfect" to "Indifferent" and then to "Tolerable" and "Well." For example:

"Tuesday. Eliza has been so inattentive and ill behaved today she has scarcely done any thing; reading, mental Improvement, Arithmetic & Globe lesson have all been omitted & after spending two hours & a half over less than half a Fable which I gave her to translate she had obliged me to send her back 18 times to look out that number of words in the Dictionary when the whole lesson was only 16 lines; & this the 126th fable she has read.

*Tables repeated Indifferently
Dancing Indifferent
Passing Careless."*

D/P78 29/1 1836 Mrs Frances M Polhill

The entries in this diary are very slight, but space allowed it to be included. There are notes on who called and on travels made recorded in The Law & Commercial Daily Remembrancer for 1836.

D/Z32 F1 1841 Lady Adela Capel

This is the diary of a girl of 14 living with two younger brothers and numerous servants at Cassiobury Park, Watford. Her parents live in London. The diary is followed by a journal article (from The Lady, 11 Dec 1941) reflecting on the diary. There is much on pets, including a fawn named Fairy which she takes for walks (it dies in November). There is also much on the garden. Adela Capel was evidently a thoughtful and sensitive girl, as the following extract shows:

"Humanity is a virtue talked of by many but practised by few. It is a virtue which we should try to profess and exercise to the fullest extent of our power not only to our fellow men but to the poor dismle animals for whose pleasure they are kept and for whose food they are maintained. How useful an animal is a horse but how often do we see him who is one of the noblest works of the Creation whipped, spurred for the selfish motive of the Driver to show his skill in the art of horsemanship...." This is followed by a long essay on animal welfare.

Lady Adela Capel was the daughter of the Earl of Essex and her diary is recorded in Richards's Universal Daily Remembrancer for 1841.

WOMENS LANGUAGE AND EXPERIENCE, 1500-1940

Womens Diaries and Related Sources

Part 1: Sources from the Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire County Record Offices

Part 2: Sources from Birmingham Central Library and Birmingham University Library

Publisher's Note - Part 2

Part 2 of this project brings together Diaries, Commonplace Books, Travel Journals and Letters from Birmingham Central Library and Birmingham University Library describing women's lives and experiences in their own language. It covers the lives of a further 33 women in the period from 1744 to 1940.

Amongst the items reproduced here from Birmingham University Library are five travel journals providing excellent sources for the social history of leisure and offering sources for comparisons between womens lives in Europe, America, Asia and Africa; a humourous and gloriously illustrated account of a ball; accounts of the education of young girls; plus a large body of material from the Church Missionary Society Papers in the form of diaries, letters, journals and photographs.

The two volumes of a mid-nineteenth century journal kept by Annie Lambert, daughter of John Lambert, wine merchant of 33 Tavistock Square, London provide a detailed record of middle class family life in the early years of Queen Victoria's reign. The first volume covers the period January - September 1845. It faithfully describes visits to and from a wide circle of friends and her father's business acquaintances, records gossip and intrigue, visits to theatres and concerts, shopping ("walked to the Bazaar, bought 2 camp stools & some ribbon for trimming our bonnets") and, on a more serious note, the occasional visit to a junior school, where she observes the children's progress and chats to the schoolmistress. On July 4 she and her mother drive to Walton-on-Thames ("took luncheon in the Duke's Head; the landlord a very civil man") where they arrange to take Capt. Stephens' house for 2 or 3 months. Thereafter, until September, her activities are in the country, with walks or drives to Esher, Sunbury, Addlestone and Hersham and renewed socialising. Its very triviality creates an accurate picture of the life of a middle class girl of the period. The second volume begins in November 1845 when the family is about to start a 12 month visit to Oporto in Portugal, where Annie's brother John worked in the port wine trade. Annie finds Oporto "a much more civilized kind of place than I had expected" and takes full advantage of dances at the Assemblée, socialising with other great "wine" families (eg: the Sandemans), the company of the young naval officers from the "Cyclops" and other visiting British warships; she enjoys riding on the banks of the Douro, the gossip of "the Factory House", and much attention from male admirers.

The Diary of Lavinia Bartlett also reveals much about the personality of the writer. She tells of her tour to Paris in 1843 in the company of her husband, Charles Bartlett. The diary is written for her five young children. The trip to the Pyrenees and the Riviera in 1851 were intended to benefit the health of her husband. Accompanied by three daughters and one niece, they visit the thermal baths of the French Pyrenees, Toulouse, Montpellier, making their way along the French Riviera to winter in Nice, and continuing to the Italian Riviera. The diary ends in Genoa.

The manuscripts of "Lady Noble's Ball" (a humorous 23 page account of a Ball) and "A Book to the Wise, a story in letters from two young ladies concerning the most interesting period of their lives" (47 pages) contain charming pen and ink drawings depicting episodes from the two stories. The accounts are written and dedicated to her aunt Ann by Issy of Bond End, Knaresborough, dated 13 August 1850.

A journal by A M Tierney of Malvern Wells describes six months residence in Bonn from October 1855 to April 1856. She is presumably a girl in her early teens and the journal is written with humour and a keen perception of people and the things she sees. Here is a brief extract:

"We are very comfortable, Mama & Agnes have a room, Matt has one & Harriette & I one, all of which open one into the other off the drawing room. Our rooms are on the second floor from the bottom. Miss Fook's room is at the end of the passage & the School room is next to hers We are delighted to think we are English when we see the way the Germans go on - the men sit with their elbows flat on the table & lap up the sauce with their knives. The smells in the street of Bonn are dreadful, the Germans are very coarse in their manners, especially the women Oct. 22nd unpacked all our things & settled ourselves for the Winter discovered Mr Hensler the Music Master"

Another journal by a young lady details a tour from Leeds to Scotland and to Lichfield in 1837. She writes on the first page: "The first thing that attracted our attention en route this morning was the spire of the church at Chesterfield; it is 220 feet high and so curiously twisted that whichever way you look at it, it appears falling down." Other volumes cover a tour to Paris in 1802; the diary of a young woman living near Bath; a family journal for 1823 to 1827 written by a farmer's wife on the Warwickshire-Leicestershire border; visits to Paris in 1888, 1893 and 1896 and part of a voyage from England to Mombassa.

The Diaries and Photograph Albums of Miss Edith Baring-Gould, 1894-1939 make up the bulk of the Church Missionary Society material included here. They encompass tours of North America, much material on Japan and China - she sails from Vancouver on the "Empress of Japan" arriving in Yokohama, and spends a considerable amount of time travelling throughout Japan. She records visits to Paris, New York, Niagara, Toronto, Winnipeg and the Rocky Mountains, whilst a number of volumes feature the CMS Delegation to the Far East in 1912-1913. Her travels and experiences all round the world are noted down in solid detail in 41 volumes.

Other Church Missionary Society material comprises the Corby Diaries for 1930, 1931 and 1933 with sections on teaching and education, summer holidays and "nine hundred miles of motoring in Central Africa"; the Martha Venn Diary of 1838-39 and Emelia Venn's Diary of 1815 with accounts of Waterloo, visits to Liege and Worms and travels in France and Switzerland. There are the Letters and Journals of Frances Dennis (sister of Archdeacon Dennis) whilst stationed in Southern Nigeria in 1902-1906; the Diaries of Mrs William Compigne Shaw; the Diaries and Papers of Miss Ellen Brighty, 1899-1937, including missionary activity in Persia and the CMS Medical Mission; and the Journal letters of Isobel E Barbour recording a visit to Uganda and Kenya in 1927, Jubilee celebrations of the Church in Uganda, and the long journey from Marseilles via Port Said to Port Sudan, Aden, Mombassa and the final destination.

Material reproduced from Birmingham Central Library begins with 12 volumes of Travel Diaries of Helen Caddick, 1889-1914. They cover Palestine, Egypt, Canada, Japan, China, Cambodia, the Yangtze, Korea, Burma, Hong Kong, Moscow, the Philippines, Java, Australia, New Zealand, India, South Africa, B.C. Africa, Uganda, USA, Mexico, Peru, the Andes and Buenos Ayres, Panama and the West Indies.

A small typescript volume contains the Early Reminiscences of Elizabeth Anne Galton, a young lady from Birmingham, eldest daughter of Samuel Tertius Galton, a prosperous Birmingham banker of an old Quaker family. Francis Galton, the Eugenecist, was her younger brother and Erasmus Darwin her grandfather. The volume starts with references to the coronation of Queen Victoria.

Six remarkable journals, 1790-1801, of Mary and Martha Russell (family friends of Joseph Priestley) document a truly amazing set of experiences, starting with reflections on the French Revolution and first-hand accounts of the Birmingham

Riots, and proceeding with their voyage to America, and their capture en route by French pirates. Their portrayal of events provides a vivid and refreshing view of a very turbulent period, politically and socially.

Other diary sequences include the Autobiography of Miss Florry, 1744-1812, the daughter of an ironmaster in Birmingham, who took over and ran the business from 1788 onwards; a Diary of excursions to London, Lichfield and Cheltenham by Sarah Sargent, 1822-1832; The Diary of Sarah Robinson, c1800; and the Diary of Mary Elizabeth Hall, 1891-5, who writes: "I have been very busy and like it, we are expecting a lot of people here on Tuesday to see the Prince & Princess of Wales, I hope I shall be in a good temper" with an afternote "The Princess came and everyone including myself was in a good temper. Jack was in prime form and took good care of me...I love Jack more each week; he is so good, & oh ! how thankful I am that I wrote to him as I did last February 19th ... for I want to obey him, as much as I can, & how could I, if he had been of a different way of thinking & had wished me to do things contrary to the will of my King ?" The entries end just after her marriage.

There is a small diary of Margaret Pigott, a nurse in 1913. Miss Smythe's travels in France in 1917 are documented in a 4 volume diary. The Diary of Miss M C Albright records a missionary visit to Madagascar in 1924.

The Travel Diaries and Notebooks of Rosamund and Winifred Bayes, c1922-1935, cover journeys throughout Europe, Greece, the Balkans and the Middle East. Volume 27, stretching from August 1928 to April 1929 features a European tour, another volume is entitled "From the Baltic to the Aegean Sea", volume 31 records European, African and Asiatic Travels, many other volumes contain much material on Greece and the Balkans, the Middle East, archaeology, family matters, the Refugee Settlement Commission, with descriptions of the local people, the terrain, mode of travel, other fellow travellers. One group comes in for some criticism:

"There was an American missionary and his wife and 4 children going home on a furlough from Abyssinia, 3 days journey on mules, then several by boat on the Nile, a journey of several weeks, not altogether a joy ride with that family."

There is also one diary of the wife of a Wesleyan minister for the early nineteenth century and two commonplace books written by Sarah Mary Breedon (1793-1850). The latter describes various religious and natural phenomena.

Forthcoming parts of this project will make available sources from Suffolk Record Office and Cambridge University Library; the National Library of Wales; the National Library of Scotland; Essex Record Office and Somerset Record Office.

WOMENS LANGUAGE AND EXPERIENCE, 1500-1940

Womens Diaries and Related Sources

Part 1: Sources from the Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire County Record Offices

Part 2: Sources from Birmingham Central Library and Birmingham University Library

Contents of Reels - Part 2

Sources from the Birmingham University Library

Manuscript Reference - Approx Date - Person

REEL 1

Mss 6/iii/30 1843-51 Mrs Lavinia F Bartlett
Mss 6/i/35 1877 A young woman in Bath
Mss 6/iii/27 1802 Anonymous Paris journal
Mss 5/iv/7 1851 Issy - The first trial
Mss 5/iv/8 1850 Issy - Lady Noble's Ball
Mss 10/iii/15 1823-27 A farmer's wife
Mss 5/iv/4 1837 A young lady touring Britain

REEL 2

Mss 7/i/5 1855-56 A M Tiernay (in Bonn)
Mss 4/v/9-10 1845-46 Annie Lambert
CMS F4 (Acc 22) 1930-33 Nancy H Corby
CMS F23 (Acc81) 1838-39 Martha Venn
CMS F5/1 (Acc 88) 1888-96 Anonymous (in Paris and voyage to Mombassa)

REEL 3

CMS F1 (Acc 4) 1902-06 Frances Dennis (Nigeria)

REEL 4

CMS F1 (Acc 4) 1902-06 Frances Dennis (Nigeria)

REEL 5

CMS F1-8 (Acc 21) 1894-1939 Edith Baring-Gould
Volumes 1-6

REEL 6

CMS F1-8 (Acc 21) 1894-1939 Edith Baring-Gould
Volumes 7-12

REEL 7

CMS F1-8 (Acc 21) 1894-1939 Edith Baring-Gould
Volumes 13-18

REEL 8

CMS F1-8 (Acc 21) 1894-1939 Edith Baring-Gould
Volumes 19-24

REEL 9

CMS F1-8 (Acc 21) 1894-1939 Edith Baring-Gould
Volumes 25-30

REEL 10

CMS F1-8 (Acc 21) 1894-1939 Edith Baring-Gould
Volumes 31-36

REEL 11

CMS F1-8 (Acc 21) 1894-1939 Edith Baring-Gould Volumes 37-41
CMS F7 (Acc 81) 1815 Emelia Venn (European tour)
CMS F2 (Acc 162) 1914, 1929 Mrs W C Shaw

REEL 12

CMS F1-3 (Acc113) 1899-1937 Mary Ellen Brighty
CMS F1 (Acc 209) 1927 Isobel E Barbour

Sources from Birmingham Central Library**REEL 13**

MS 908, v1-3 1889-92 Helen Caddick
Palestine & Egypt; Canada & Japan; India & Japan

REEL 14

MS 908, v4 1895 Helen Caddick
Java & Australia

REEL 15

MS 908, v5 1898 Helen Caddick
South Africa & B C Africa

REEL 16

MS 908, v6-7 1900-05 Helen Caddick
USA, Mexico & West Indies; New Zealand, Panama & Peru

REEL 17

MS 908, v8-10 1905-09 Helen Caddick
Peru, Andes & Buenos Ayres; Cambodia, Yangtze & Korea; Cambodia, Yangtze, Korea & Moscow

REEL 18

MS 908, v11-12 1912-14 Helen Caddick
Uganda & Australia; Philippines, China & Burma (including Hong Kong)

MS 1199 1808-1906 Elizabeth Anne Galton

REEL 19

486807 c1790 Mary Russell
486799 1791 Mary Russell (Riots)
660347 1790 Mrs Martha Russell (Yorkshire tour)
660348 1794-95 Martha Russell (Tour of America)

REEL 20

660356 1794 Mary Russell (Tour of America)
MS 934/16 1913 Margaret Pigot (nurse)
MS 596/1 1891-95 Mary Elizabeth Hall
592734 1822-32 Sarah Sargent

REEL 21

MS 857 c1922-35 R & W Bayes
MS 1509/5/62 1924 Miss M C Albright (Madagascar mission)

REEL 22

MS 1368 1917 Miss Smythe (France)
259854 1744-1812 Miss Florry (Autobiography)

REEL 23

MS 1513/1-17 c1800 Sarah Robinson
MS 977 early 19th C Mary Taft

REEL 24

311137 1793-1850 Sarah Mary Breedon
311141 1793-1850 Sarah Mary Breedon

WOMENS LANGUAGE AND EXPERIENCE, 1500-1940

Womens Diaries and Related Sources

Part 1: Sources from the Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire County Record Offices

Part 2: Sources from Birmingham Central Library and Birmingham University Library

Detailed Listing - Part 2

Sources from the Birmingham University Library

REEL 1

Mss 6/iii/30 1843-51 Mrs Lavinia F Bartlett

This red quarto diary is divided into three parts: (a) Details of a trip to Paris, 20 May - 23 Jun 1843, pp1-65; (b) Miscellaneous extracts of poetry, etc, pp67-87; and (c) Details of a trip to Pyrenees and Riviera, 27 July 1850 - 29 Apr 1851, pp88-202. Although abounding in Guide-book information on churches, monuments and the like, the two tours are very revealing of the personality of the writer. The first sight-seeing tour to Paris in 1843 was in company with her husband, Charles Bartlett. They had been married for 11 years and this particular diary was written for her five young children by their fond and anxious mother. The second tour was in search of health on her husband's part, accompanied by three of her daughters and a niece, to the thermal baths of the French Pyrenees, followed by a tour by way of Toulouse and Montpellier, along the French Riviera, to Nice, where they wintered. They then proceeded along the Italian riviera, the diary finishing abruptly in Genoa. The two diaries are a fund of information concerning mid-nineteenth century tourism, with revelations concerning hotel accommodation, food and travel discomforts.

Mss 6/i/35 1877 A young woman

This is the diary of a young woman living near Bath in 1877. Her son (?) Ben is thrown from a pony carriage on Monday 4 June, and grows delirious and sick. The diary describes her anxiety as she nurses him back to health. He first speaks her name on the 10th, and regains full consciousness on 1 August. 72ff.

Mss 6/iii/27 1802 Anonymous

A Journal of a tour to Paris in 1802. 65ff plus some loose items including some sketches of views and statues. There is "A scetch of the Character of Buonaparte.... Buonaparte, like most of the Heroes of Antiquity, continually tells us that the object of his arms is to give liberty to the world, at a time when he is extending his conquests to almost every part of it."

Mss 5/iv/7 1851 Issy. The first trial.

Mss 5/iv/8 1850 Issy. "Lady Noble's Ball" and "A word to the wise".

Whilst not a diary, this pair of tales provides a humorous and revealing account of a Ball, as well as describing the aspirations and experiences of two young girls during the "most interesting period of their lives." Illustrated with 14 naive but charming pen and ink drawings, these tales were written by Issy, of Bond End, Knaresborough, and dedicated to her aunt Ann. The following extract provides a flavour of these tales:

"Mr Gibson where is your wife? Upstairs, eh? Oh! Here she comes! What a beautifully classical style.... how becoming is her

simple white dress fitting close to her shape exposing rather too much of her splendid bust.... Captain Smith and Lieutenant Leynes, you are wasting all your glances for sweet Ellen Gibson loves her husband....Yes! plain, heavy looking, and unintellectual as he appears, and is...."

Mss 10/iii/15 1823-27 A farmer's wife

A Family journal, 1823-27, of a farmer's wife living on the Warwickshire-Leicestershire border. The entries vary from 4 lines to half a page and provide a good account of daily life. 84ff.

"The beginning of another year. God knows how many of us in this house will live to see the end of it." (1 Jan 1823)

"Great alterations in the weather since last night the frost going very fast foggy all the day. We did not go out. Mr & Mrs Hounslow call to say that they left Lutterworth at Morrow if I had anything to send my Boy they would take for me. Nothing particular occurred - very gloomy night - we retired to Bed past 11 o'clock."(2 Jan 1823)

Mss 5/iv/4 1837 A young lady

Journal of a tour from Leeds to Scotland and to Lichfield by a young lady, 1837. 63ff.

REEL 2

Mss 7/i/5 1855-56 A M Tiernay

A journal of a six months residence in Bonn, October 1855 - April 1856, written by A M Tiernay of Malvern Wells, who travels to Bonn accompanied by her Mamma, Agnes, Harriette & Matt, and Miss Fooks, presumably their governess. They travel by paddle steamer from London to Rotterdam, and then up river, stopping overnight at various places en route - Emmerich *"this dirty spot is the boundary of the Prussian Dominions. We no longer saw the pretty little clean villages of the Dutch, but the nasty dirty ones of Prussia"* They pass through Thiel, Dusseldorf, Cologne - *"....Mamma & Miss F went to Bonn from here by the rail road, while Matt & we walked about the town (a filthy smelling place): no pavements again, & the shops are very poor looking things"*

They continue by river to Bonn where they meet their Mamma & Miss F who have found lodgings at the Belle Vue Hotel. *"....We are very comfortable, Mamma & A have a room, Matt has one & Harriette & I one, all of which open one into the other off the drawing room. Our rooms are on the second floor from the bottom. Miss F's room is at the end of the passage & the School room is next to hers We are delighted to think that we are English when we see the way in which the Germans go on - The men sit with their elbows flat on the table & lap up the sauce with their knives. The smells in the streets of Bonn are dreadful, the Germans are very coarse in their manners, especially the women Oct. 22nd unpacked all our things & settled ourselves for the Winter discovered Mr Hensler the Music Master Oct. 27th Miss Schmidt (the German Mistress for Agnes & me) she is to come four times a week. Herr Ghener (the Master) came afterwards he is to come three times a week for Matt & H Naddan the French M is to come three times also"* The journal goes on to describe their daily walks, visits to church (the English church, to which they go at least twice every Sunday), the things they see in town, their table d'hôte meals in the hotel, & meetings with various English friends they know in town *".... Mamma says no wonder the servants are so cheap here, for they are filthy looking, that even Louisa the Malvern Wells scrub if she had her hands & face washed would look better than the servants who open the house doors do about here, & Matt says he would rather live in a clean English pigstye than in these beastly holes 5th [Nov.] Guy Fawke's day in England we are all hard at work now, German, French, Music, &c The Gs are nothing short of pigs; one man walks about here in the passage smoking his cigar, & fills the whole passage with a smell of stale tobacco, & even in walking up & down stairs one is obliged to hold up one's dress as you would get it all over messes & dirt. The Rhine is the only nice part of this place 27th. A foggy day, we did not go out. I played with little Pitt at battle door Mrs P asked Miss F & me into their room which is a good deal too snug for a discontented man as Mr Pitt. Naddan informed us the other day that he taught Prince Albert French & that he has had the honour of breakfasting with him"* There is a description of Christmas in Bonn *"31st Dec.... At five went to the Jesuits Church to hear the Roman Catholic Service which was horrible the Priest went up the steps of the altar in a cloud of incense then he went up again and with a funny twisting of something up above the altar which we could not make out, & with that came a great puff of incense into the Church & that was the end. A grand case it was of squeezing & pushing to get out of the Church being so full. New Year's Day We went to hear high mass in the Minster & a dreadful mockery it was"* The journal continues with day to day happenings in Bonn, and a description of a trip up the Rhine with descriptions of places visited - Mainz, Frankfurt, Heidelberg, Mannheim, but the actual dates are not present. *".... April 1857 (there is some confusion concerning the actual date which is inside the front cover; it is shown as 1855, but this later entry refers to her having left Bonn in April 1857) Matt H & I left Bonn by the 9.20 a.m. train - via Dusseldorf - We arrived at Paris at five minutes after nine on Saturday evening the 18th"* They travel by omnibus to a Guest House (Pension) where they are to stay, and after a description of the House and its inmates, a visit to the Madeleine, they get to the Arc de Triomphe, where the journal ends.

The journal is written on 185 pp. The writer is presumably a girl in her early teens. The journal is written with humour and keen perception of people and things she sees. The young girl certainly likes the Rhine but hates many aspects of life in Bonn - leading to her unflattering remarks about the Germans.

Mss 4/v/9-10 1845-46 Annie Lambert

Two volumes of a mid-nineteenth century diary by Annie Lambert, daughter of John Lambert of 33 Tavistock Square, London, a wine merchant. The first volume covers the period Jan-Sep 1845 and gives a fairly detailed record of middle-class family life in the early days of Queen Victoria's reign. Walks or drives are taken to Esher, Addlestone, Hershaw, Sunbury and

Walton-on-Thames (4 July "Took luncheon at the Duke's Head; the landlord a very civil man") and visits are paid to friends (19 Mar "Called on Mrs Stevens at Dulwich. Saw her child, which is a monster of fat.") There is gossip and intrigue, notes of visits to the theatre and concerts, shopping ("walked to the Bazaar, bought 2 camp stools & some ribbon for trimming our bonnets"), and, on a more serious note, the occasional visit to a junior school, where she observes the children's progress & chats to the schoolmistress. The volume ends rather abruptly with a jaunt to Sunbury on 22 Sep: "looked in vain for Arthur" are the final words. The inside back cover has some sketches of female heads (see opposite page 33).

The second volume begins in Nov 1845 when the family was about to start a visit of nearly twelve months to Oporto in Portugal, where Annie's brother John worked in the port wine trade. The young woman evidently had a pleasant time of it, finding Oporto "a much more civilised kind of place than I had expected" and taking full advantage of dances at the Assemblée, socializing with other families in the wine trade (such as the Sandemans) and sharing the company of officers from visiting warships. The Lamberts returned to London on 2 November 1846, when the journal ends, neatly filling the volume with the remark: "The rooms appeared so small after the spacious chambers to which we had been accustomed and the streets looked so gloomy as we passed through the fogs of London; affording a sad contrast to the blue skies and clean air of Oporto." This volume, like the first, has a sketch on the inside cover, this time of a couple youths annotated "I wish people wouldn't draw absurdities in this book" and initialled A.E.G.C, almost certainly the initials of Annie's married name. 50ff and 162ff.

CMS F4 (Acc 22) 1930-33 Nancy H Corby

The first of the diaries from the Church Missionary Society Archive, these three volumes are written in a clear hand and comprise:

- Part 1: Walker's diary for 1930, a lot on teaching and education;
- Part 2: Summer Holiday, 1931;
- Part 3: "Nine hundred miles of motoring in Central Africa."
c80ff, 40ff and 60ff.

CMS F23 (Acc 81) 1838-39 Martha Venn

A small diary kept by Martha Venn in 1838-9. c20ff.

CMS F5/1 (Acc 88) 1888-96 Anonymous

An anonymous diary recording visits to Paris in 1888, 1893, and 1896 and recording part of a voyage from England to Mombassa, (1927?)

REELS 3-4

CMS F1 (Acc 4) 1902-06 Frances Dennis

Letters and journals of Frances Dennis (sister of Archdeacon Dennis) while stationed at Idumiye Ugboke, Southern Nigeria, 1902 - 1906. Comprises: Letters for 1902 (c59ff); 1903 (c127ff); 1904-05 (c141ff); and 1905-06 (c329ff); and 6 volumes (c33, 56, 76 130, 80 & 78ff).

REELS 5-11

CMS F1-8 (Acc 21) 1894-1939 Edith Baring-Gould

- Volumes 1-6
- Volumes 7-12
- Volumes 13-18
- Volumes 19-24
- Volumes 25-30
- Volumes 31-36
- Volumes 37-41

Diaries and photograph albums of Miss Edith Baring-Gould, 1894-1939. A most impressive series of travel journals. Volume 1, for instance, encompasses Paris, New York, Niagara, Toronto, Winnipeg, the Rocky Mountains, and British Columbia as she toured North America. She then departed from Vancouver on board the Empress of Japan and later arrives in Yokohama. There is much on her experiences in Japan. As a further example, volumes 3 and 4 cover her travels when accompanying the Church Missionary Society delegation to the Far East. These journals can be usefully compared with those of Helen Caddick (see Reels 13-18).

CMS F7 (Acc 81) 1815 Emelia Venn

Diary of a tour abroad in 1815, including France, Switzerland, Worms, Liege and Waterloo. Emelia Venn was 21 at the time of writing.

CMS F2 (Acc 162) 1914, 1929 Mrs W C Shaw

Diaries of Mrs William Compigne Shaw, 1914 and 1929. 2 volumes.

REEL 12

CMS F1-3 (Acc 113) 1899-1937 Mary Ellen Brighty

Diaries and Papers of Miss Mary Ellen Brighty, 1899 -1937. F1 is a single volume and consists of carbon copies of letters sent to England describing her first impressions of Yezd and of missionary work in Persia. It covers 1899-1901. F2 provides "*My notes on the Journey to and in Persia*" and begins 5 Oct 1899, continuing through to 1903. F3 consists of three separate diaries for 1920-30, 1902-08 and 1909-19. There is much more on Persia in these volumes.

CMS F1 (Acc 209) 1927 Isobel E Barbour

Journal letters of Miss Isobel E Barbour, 1927, describing her visit to Uganda and Kenya.

Sources from Birmingham Central Library

REELS 13-18

MS 908 Travel Diaries of Helen Caddick, 1889-1914

Volume 1: Palestine & Egypt, 1889

Volume 2: Canada & Japan, 1891

Volume 3: India & Japan, 1892

Volume 4: Java & Australia, 1895

Volume 5: South Africa & B.C. Africa, 1898

Volume 6: USA, Mexico & West Indies, 1900-1901

Volume 7: New Zealand, Panama & Peru, 1905

Volume 8: Peru, Andes & Buenos Ayres, 1905-1906

Volume 9: Cambodia, The Yangtze, Korea, 1908-1909

Volume 10: Cambodia, The Yangtze, Korea & Moscow, 1909

Volume 11: Uganda & Australia, 1912-1913

Volume 12: Philippines, China & Burmah (including Hong Kong), 1913-1914

This remarkable 12 volume set of travel diaries document the peregrinations of Helen Caddick around the world over a 25 year period. Handsomely illustrated with photographs, with fold-out maps added, and with an Index to locations at the front of volumes, these diaries were certainly intended to be read and to provide a memorial to her travels. They provide a valuable record of cultural tourism as the following extracts show:

Wednesday July 29th 1891 (from Vol. 2. Train journey across Canada)

"Passed Regina at 6.30 - quite a large place. Reached "Moose Jaw" at 7.15 and took on our Dining Car "Buckingham". Lots of Indians at the station selling buffalo horns. Saw lots of gopher, antelopes and birds. The Prairie very undulating (what they call "rolling") - lovely flowers, lakes and farms. Huge heaps of buffalo bones at the stations and saw many buffalo wallows, but the animals are all murdered off here and are almost extinct. Stopped at Aikins at 12, saw a good many Indians dressed in their gorgery and painted. The alkaline lakes are very curious, quite a thick white deposit round the edges. The Old Wives' Lakes, pretty and lots of birds. Sir Lister Kaye's farms and the Government farms looked very flourishing. At Maple Creek saw the "Black Feet" Indians and at Medicine Hat still more. A cattle train had just come in and out of it got a lot of "Cow boys" headed by a very tall fine looking (but dirty) fellow who we heard afterwards was brother of Sir William Gordon Cumming. He has a ranch near Calgary but is not much sought after by respectable Canadians ! in fact they say the specimens we send out are not very creditable to the Old Country. They think they may behave anyhow in Canada and are dirty and horrid. Saw several of the Mounted Police in scarlet uniform. For some distance it had been quite hilly, but after Medicine Hat the regular Prairie began again. At Langevin is a wonderful supply of natural gas, which was flaring away at the station - one of the engine boxes got very hot and we had to wait while water was poured over. Bow river very pretty. Had a great talk with Dr Fagan, who is a red hot Home Ruler, but was great fun as most Irishmen are."

Thursday September 17th 1891 (Vol. 2. Japan)

"Went with the Dimsdales to see a grand procession from Iyeasu's Temple - the grandest procession except the one in April. It was a wonderfully pretty sight to see the different groups standing about in the Temple grounds. We sat just inside the granite Torii and saw everything splendidly. The Prince Imperial and the two little Princesses were there, we saw them come and go. He is a sturdy little fellow and was dressed in a white suit and sort of official cap. The Princesses were in Japanese dress and held the ladies' hands. In the Procession was a wonderful dragon; a live monkey who much objected to being taken along; the old pony of Iyeasu (1600 years old and looking very fat and young) brown and white; a sacred shrine carried by an immense number of men (Iyeasu's spirit supposed to be in the shrine); many banners; small boys in glorious old embroidered dresses and with wonderful crowns bearing the signs of the Zodiac; five priests on horseback; curiously dressed musicians playing flutes and things like bagpipes; warriors in armour of the old Diamo's time; dancing girls etc. - an enormously long procession. The men carrying the shrine kept cheering and shouting. They started at 12. Mr and Mrs Dimsdale had Tiffin with me and afterwards Mrs Dimsdale went with me shopping and then to tea at Mrs Lindsleys, a very charming American lady. Mrs Cavendish who has the rooms above me is such a pretty woman and very nice too - her husband is Captain in the Argyll Highlanders. Mrs Heathcote also at Kanaya's is wife of Lieutenant Heathcote on the "Mercury", she is a charming woman. Mrs Burges Watson has the rooms at Kanaya's that Miss Bird had. Mr Wooton, head of the Engineering Department at Hong Kong and on the "Imperieuse" is very good fun. The Japanese ladies wear mostly quiet

colours, dull blues, browns and greys. The working men wear a short blue overshirt (sort of blouse) with their badge in white characters on the back, and hats like inverted bowls. People who drive in carriages with horses are always preceded by a "betto", a running groom, to clear the way."

Tuesday September 29th 1891 (Vol. 2. Japan)

"Left hotel in Jinricksha at 8.15 and went to Aozama to see the Mikado inspect some troops. Had a good view of him as he drove in and out again - not as ugly as I expected and sits quite high in the carriage - black moustache of course - Barouche and pair of black horses, gilt harness, not much show as it was only a private inspection, preceded by Lancers, the two first with lances pointed forward and the two last with them pointed backwards - Immense parade ground. Rode home past Prince Imperial's Palace and the Emperor's Palace. The crowd as much interested in us as we were in the Mikado. Not a sound as he drove up, only everyone took off his hat. Sixteen Jinrickshas went from hotel, such a funny procession. I went with Mr and Mrs Thayer, Canadians - Lovely day - very hot. The grey stone walls and green banks along canals and moats looked very pretty. In the afternoon went down the "Ginza" among the Curio shops and by the Fish Market, then to the Asakusa Temple, a most curious place, full of people buying and selling. In the Asakusa Temple is a picture of the "S.S.China" in a gilt frame - a bronze figure of the god of Medicine "Binzuru" is all defaced - Sick people rub his face and limbs wherever they have a pain and then rub their own - and get cured !"

Japanese Lady's toilet (little Appendix in Vol. 2. - between p102 and p103.)

"She brushes her teeth and scrapes her tongue with the handle - scrubs her face with a soft brush dipped in perfumed face powder, and touches her lips with rouge - then puts on her day garments. 1st a square of cotton cloth folded round the waist, then the jibon (very splendid), then two or three kimonos - upon the outer one she ties low down a girdle of soft white crepe, taking a "round turn" higher up with the same piece. Then comes the "obi" 8 feet long, doubled and wound round the middle, brought up at the back through itself so as to hang in a loop to the hollow of the knees - then an elastic string is passed through the loop and lifting it up and being fastened in front the obi forms the broad lappet behind, so distinctive of a Japanese dress. A man's obi is the width of your hand."

Friday August 9th, 1895 (Vol. 4. Sydney, Australia.)

"... A lovely day; spent the whole of it on the harbour. Went first to Manly. The harbour is beautiful. The entrance (the Heads) is very narrow between high rocks (reminded me of Knysna Heads) and opens into an immense harbour with lovely bays and nooks all round. Manly is right the other side from Sydney and a very favourite seaside resort. I have hardly ever seen a prettier place. About ten minutes walk from the landing on the harbour side, you come to the ocean - the roar of the waves was grand - and beautiful sands to walk along and rocks to scramble among. I got back at 1 o'clock. Had lunch and set off again at 2.30 to Watson's Bay. Walked to the top of the hill and had a grand view over the "Heads" and ocean on one side and the harbour the other. Then on up to the lighthouse and found to my joy I could go to the top of it. The man let me go inside and see the light. It is a revolving one, lighted by electricity and of course made by Chances. Thick blinds were drawn all round, if they were not, he said the heat would be so great your clothes would set on fire if you went in when the sun was shining. Had a glorious view from the top. The accounts of the beauty of Sydney harbour are certainly not exaggerated. Took tickets at

Cooks' office for the Blue mountains and Jenolan caves and told them to take my passage on the "Miowera" for Fiji, August 20th. The buildings here are very good - The "Equitable" Life Assurance "New York" is the most magnificent I ever was in to inspect. The stairs, floor and walls are white marble, the pillars and panels are of coloured marble and the ironwork is exquisite. The porter said it was the same the whole way up. I only went up one flight."

Saturday August 10th, 1895 (from Vol.4.)

"Started by 10.15 a.m. train for the Blue Mountains. Lovely scenery nearly all the way, thickly wooded, mostly with gum trees, but some tulip trees and quantities of yellow whattle in flower (rather like broom) - very rocky, in shape like those in saxon, Switzerland. After passing Mount Victoria the line goes down a steep zig-zag ... at each corner the engine has to be taken off and put in front of the train. There was a bad accident a week or two ago and now it is forbidden for the engine to push...."

Thursday April 9th 1896 (Vol. 4. p380. Visiting old Convicts' Prison in Tasmania)

"... I asked the convict to shut me in and close all the doors so that I might really feel what it was like ! he promised not to leave me long. When the old convict shut me in the feeling was terrible, and though he declared he only shut me up one minute it seemed five. Men were kept there for twenty-four and forty-eight hours and I did not then wonder at the size of the Lunatic Asylum they had found it necessary to build after starting the dark cell. Ashton said he had spent twenty-four hours there and felt more than half insane when he came out. The Asylum was a huge building and was always full. There are still some lunatic convicts left at the Hobart Asylum. There was also a Padded Cell for violent prisoners. When the convicts were moved from Port Arthur many of the cells were left locked up and it was not till the fire last year that they were got at - the doors were burnt through and people rushed to see what was in - some expecting to find skeletons ! - but there were quantities of leather for shoemakers' work, books, papers etc. just as they were being used - heaps of papers and documents seem to have been left behind as if they went off in a hurry, or did not care about keeping them. Ashton showed me the yard where they used to be tied to the triangles and flogged and also showed me the house where Smith O' Brien was a prisoner. It was a ghastly system altogether. Some commandants seem to have been fearfully severe and take real pleasure in taunting and punishing the men - then another would come who went to the other extreme and was so lenient the convicts unused to kindness thought he was afraid of them and became unmanageable and thoroughly disorderly which of course led to another commandant being sent down who was more severe than ever"

Friday October 12th 1900

(Vol. 6. Boston. Cambridge, Visit to Radcliffe College; Women's Education.)

"Telephoned to Miss Ware and she arranged to be here at 11 to go to Cambridge. Went to Cooks and settled my journey, then over the "Old South Museum" and back to Parkers'. Miss Ware came at 11 and off we went to Cambridge. Called on Miss Irvine, Principal of Radclyffe (Ladies College) - delightful woman. They don't believe in "co-education" but consider it better for boys and girls to be separate, they study and work better. The girls' work is exactly on the same lines as Harvard, the Professors are the same and they have an equivalent degree, though unfortunately it is not called the same. Girl graduates are allowed to take some classes at Harvard with the men. The girls' College seemed admirably arranged. They have a very large area, but at present the old houses on the ground are adapted to their requirements and different departments are in different houses - one is a sort of Club and restaurant - another for the laboratories etc. - one new and very fine building is the Gymnasium - there is a large room splendidly fitted up for drill and exercises - near to it on the same floor are baths that they can take after their exercises - & below on the ground floor is a splendid large swimming bath and a number of baths and dressing rooms - each girl must take a bath before going into the swimming bath. Before taking a course of exercises the girls have to be examined and tested by a health officer (lady) sent from Boston and she orders what exercises they are to take if they are at all delicate. There are 420 women students at Radcliffe. After seeing thoroughly over that Miss Ware took me to see the old elm under which Washington took over command of the army - and the place where the spreading chestnut tree and the village smithy stood ! Then to see Longfellow's house, such a pretty place. Washington stayed there too. Then we went to lunch at a "Creamery" just opposite Harvard. Several students were in, and each had to sit on a high fixed wooden stool (that revolved) up to the counter and your food was served there - a delicious milk and eggs and butter. Then we went to call on President Elliot and unfortunately found he was just going out to a meeting. He was a very pleasant fine looking man but with a terrible mark all over the right side of his face, just like Colonel Archer. Then we went to see the house where "Mary Ware" and her husband "Henry Ware junior" lived and where Harriet Ware was born - and also her grandfather's house"

Monday January 14th 1901 (Vol. 6. Arizona.)

"... Professor Pickering (of Harvard Observatory), Mr Lowell and Mr Douglass were all at the Observatory in Mexico together. After dinner we went to Mrs Sykes' house. Mr Sykes is an engineer, and a most interesting man. He is well educated and English - came out here quite young and has been a Cowboy, a prospector, in the Grand Canyon, and all sorts of things and has travelled in nearly every country. Mrs Sykes is English too and evidently of good family. She visited at Tamworth a good deal and knew old Miss Harding there. Saw the Zodiacal light in the sky so distinctly, I thought it came from some electric light in the town."

Saturday January 19th 1901 (Vol. 6. Arizona.)

"At 1 a.m. Mr Douglass came to my door to say we would go up to the Observatory. I was soon ready as I had only just gone to my room thinking he would not come, he carried a lanthorn as it was very dark and we had to walk more than a mile to the top of the hill. The Observatory looked very weird and it was a very uncanny sight. It was of course very cold, so Mr Douglass put on a lot of warm over things, woollen cap and woollen gloves - the caretaker (Alfred Hussey) had on thick wraps and I bundled myself up in two blankets. The Observatory was quite dark, except a shaded lantern and a bull's eye one, that Mr Douglass kept on a small table with his paper and pencil, close to him, to make his observations. Mars was fairly high, so he had to crouch down on the step of the wall to look through the telescope. He took some observations first and then gave me a turn. The North Polar Cap was very distinct and after a time I began to see dark markings, these he made me draw on the paper exactly as I saw them and refused to help me at all with remarks as to whether they were correct or not till I had finished. Then he told me what canals they were and seemed greatly pleased that I had seen so much. After I had looked for about a quarter of an hour, he took a long turn again."

February 19th, 1909 (Vol. 9. pp148-149. China and the Far East.)

"... Dr Wang is Chinese, but was educated as a doctor at Toronto University and took her degree there. She is Chief Physician to the Wife of the Viceroy and gets a splendid income, and does private practice as well. The Viceroy is second in rank to the Emperor - when we arrived at Dr Wang's she received us in a small drawing room and gave us delicious tea in cups with lids and saucers with holes in for the Cup to fit into. Then we went to the dining room - The table was covered with a plain light oil cloth and on it were 14 small bowls with different things in to eat. We sat down and each had a pair of Ivory Chop sticks with silver points, a China spoon and a small saucer - Ham, Chicken, Red Haw Jelly, Shrimps, Pears, Cuttle Fish, 100 year old eggs, Bamboo, Pickled Plums, Raw Fish, Olives, Water Melon seeds, Peanuts. At a signal from Hostess we helped ourselves from any dish we fancied. Then came 14 large dishes in succession, each was placed in the centre of the table. They were made of Pewter, very handsome and had hot water underneath. At a signal we helped ourselves, or our neighbour helped us to choice morsels, Sea Cucumbers, Pigeon Eggs whole in liquid, Bamboo and preserved Cabbage, Chicken and onion Duck boiled - Meat turnovers in liquid, Egg pork and ham chopped and Fried - Fish fried and cut in pieces. Lotus Seeds in Syrup, "8 Precious Pudding" or "Empress Pudding", Rice Lotus, Dates, raisins, Almonds, Pickled Plums, Sweet Peas, sugar, Chicken and Ham, Pigs Trotters, Fish fried whole, Ham and Cabbage. Last 4 came on together & rice for us to put in our bowls and eat with them. Served in the order I have written. The small dishes remained all the time. Our little plates changed several times. Paper to wipe our chopsticks, and a hot wet cloth to wipe our fingers. Tea served several times and again in the drawing room before we left, and oranges peeled and quartered. Rice is brought on last but if you accept it you must finish all in your bowl to the last grain - bad manners not to. Before leaving the table small cloths wrung out in very hot water were brought for faces and hands."

MS 1199 1808-1906 Elizabeth Anne Galton

Reel 18 finishes with MS 1199 providing "Some Early Reminiscences of Elizabeth Anne Galton (Mrs Edward Wheeler) 1808-1908." It is in typescript format with contents listed at the front. (viii) + 212pp.

Elizabeth was the eldest daughter of Samuel Tertius Galton, a prosperous Birmingham banker from an old Quaker family. Francis Galton (the eugenicist) was her youngest brother. Charles Darwin was her half-cousin.

This journal provides details about her grandfather Dr Erasmus Darwin; the Lunar Society; Boulton & Watt families; details of education from the age of 6; travel by stage coach & how expensive it was, nursery governess; departure in 1822 to school in Bath run by the five Miss Fourniers; descriptions of life at Bath; Lord & Lady Byron in London in 1824; description of "my first dinner party" at Dr John Johnstone's (early 1825) after "I came out", being seventeen in February. There are also good details on social behaviour, etiquette at dinner parties etc; visits to see old Mrs Watt at Heathfield; puzzle letter to her niece Miss Emma Sophia Galton; money market panic of 1825; travel in the early nineteenth century; customs and dress for ladies; London connexions; Birmingham and further travels 1829-1832; Leamington 1832-1838; Coronation of Queen Victoria 1838; Scottish Pilgrimage 1839; Early Years of Married Life 1846-1857; and some final entries 1857-1865 which are rather more disjointed jottings about births, marriages, deaths & minor comings and goings. The extract below is taken from p57:

"Before I begin on 1827, I must mention some old customs of these times. First, in ladies' dresses: we wore stays with very stiff bones, which we had to lace behind, from top to bottom, every morning. Our stays and petticoats all had shoulder straps, so that it was an effort to raise our arms. It was a great relief when elastic bands were made of India rubber for shoulder straps, and a still greater relief when doctors decided that shoulder straps were bad for health and they were discarded, when I was thirty or so. India-rubber, and afterwards gutta percha, only came into use for wearing apparel after I was twenty-four or twenty-five. We used to have ribbon sandals to our shoes, which were always coming untied. Doctors are now thinking it unhealthy for women not to wear shoulder straps and want them worn again; I recommend my young fiends not to give in to them. Our dresses all buttoned behind, so that we could not fasten them ourselves. another fashion which is quite obsolete, which I like, was that every woman, when she married, let her be ever so young, wore caps. It was very becoming and made them look matronly and mistresses of their houses.

In those days, wives did not address their husbands as "Charlie" or "Willie", but always by the full name, or by the surname. There was more respect than now. Till lamps for the table were invented, we used tall mould (not sperm) candles, which had to be snuffed constantly. Rich people burnt wax candles, which were very expensive. Game could not be sold; gentlemen gave their game to their friends, and as it was a rule that they should pay the carriage of it, it was an expensive present. I remember when we were at Boulogne in 1829, how we enjoyed the game we could there purchase. There were no "battues" in those days.

Postage was very dear, and the receiver of a letter had to pay it. We paid ninepence for a letter from London to Bath, fourpence from Kenilworth to Leamington, and sixpence [I think] from Derby. It was thought a wonderful feat when a coach could go from Birmingham to London in twelve hours. My Father remembered when the post woman, who carried the letters from Birmingham to Wolverhampton, gave it up because "the road was lonely". But in my young days there was a coach passing on that road nearly every five minutes.

My Father remembered the time when the roads were so bad that people always made their wills before going to London, and their teeth were quite loosened with the jolting. The ruts were so deep that to go one stage (about fourteen miles) a day was as much as could be done. Before you went, the custom was to ask whether there was good "quartering" on the road, which meant, could you drive easily on the edge of the ruts without falling into them. Besides this, in my Father's time, there was the probability of being robbed by Highwaymen."

REEL 19

486807 c1790 Mary Russell

The Commonplace Book of Mary Russell of Birmingham, c1790 [II R13]. This contains a mixture of poetry and improving thoughts. Mary and Martha were the two daughters of William and Martha Russell, friends of Joseph Priestley. After the riots of 1791 in which Priestley's house was attacked and their's was burned down, they fled to London. They then left for America in August 1794 although they were taken by pirates en route and diverted to France for a while. The following volumes describe their adventures!

486799 1791 Martha Russell

Martha Russell's account of the Birmingham riots of 1791.

660347 1790 Mrs Martha Russell

Journal of a tour to Yorkshire, 1790.

660348 1794-95 Martha Russell

Journal of a Tour to America, 1794-1795, by Martha Russell, in four volumes.

REEL 20

660356 1794 Mary Russell

Journal of a Tour to America, 1794. 2 volumes.

The following interesting extract (Vol 2, pp28-29) compares a performance in Paris of the Opera "Castor & Polux" with a

performance in London; also offering details of "Telemachus" with performance of the famous dancer Vestris; compares prices between London and Paris; and compares Buffon exhibit in Paris to the British Museum in London.

"... the scenery then changed to heaven & he descended apparently in the midst of the clouds - the scenery of heaven was more beautiful than anything I ever saw. We saw a representation of heaven & hell at the Opera in London but the French heaven was I must confess much superior in taste & beauty to the English tho' the English hell was far more terrific & dreadful than the French - Vestris the famous Dancer was ill this evening & could not perform - we therefore went again some time after to see him perform. The Opera was called Telemachus - it was very well rated. Vestris danced wonderfully. It is almost incredible with what agility & ease he danced - several of the girls danced exceedingly well - the opera house is a very fine one but not equal in my opinion to the New Drury in London - both the play & Opera in Paris are exceeding(ly) cheap not a 3rd of what they are in England - . April 6 - went to see the Cabinet of Natural history arranged by Buffon of the Botanical Gardens - The Cabinet is a very curious & valuable one tho' the arrangement is by no means so pleasing or convenient as the British Museum as glass cases in which the different articles are arranged are from the top to the bottom of the Ceiling & those which are in the upper part it is impossible to examine. The fossiles & shells are all arranged in classes; the birds and beasts are not numerous or curious. There are a few beasts alive - a fine Lion, some monkeys, a greenland bear, a Leopard & a few other small animals - the museum is open gratis 3 days in a decade - The garden is very large & pleasant"

MS 934/16 1913 Margaret Pigot
The diary of Margaret Pigott, nurse, 1913.

MS 596/1 1891-95 Mary Elizabeth Hall
The diary of Mary Elizabeth Hall, 1891-1895. 102ff plus one loose sheet. A rich account of society life. For instance:

"I have been very busy & like it, we are expecting a lot of people here on Tuesday to see the Prince & Princess of Wales, I hope I shall be in a good temper." Afternote: "The Princess came & everyone including myself was in a good temper. Jack was in prime form & took good care of me...."

I love Jack more each week; he is so good, & oh! how thankful I am that I wrote to him as I did last February 19th 191? for I want to obey him, as much as I can, & how could I, if he had been a different way of thinking & had wished me to do things contrary to the will of my King?"

The diary ends shortly after her marriage.

592734 1822-32 Sarah Sargent
Diary of excursions to London, Lichfield, Cheltenham etc, by Sarah Sargent, 1822-1832. 67ff. There are some interesting observations on art and taste. For example:

"Among the Flemish artists, Rembrandt and Teniers seem to claim pre-eminence. The only fault I would find with Teniers is that his subjects are too low and there is a want of beauty in his designs."

REEL 21

MS 857 c1922-35 R & W Bayes
Travel Diaries and Notebooks of Rosamund and Winifred Bayes, c1922- 1935. Volumes 25-65. These were kept as joint diaries and describe everything from archaeological digs and European travel to Family life and trips to the movies.

Vol 25 Joint Diary, 1902-04

Vol 26 Archaeological Diary, 1922

Vol 27 Memoranda of European Tour, Aug 1928-Apr 1929 Vol 28 follows on from Vol 27

Vol 29 "From the Baltic to the Aegean Sea", 1931-32

Vol 30 In the Balkans, 1932

Vol 31 Greece & Italy, 1933-34

Vol 32 follows on from Vol 31

Vols 33-55 comprise letters and reports about their travels. There is much on Greece and the Balkans. Vol 46 is entitled "A study of the treatment of minorities."

Vol 56 Notes by Rosamund Bayes.

Vol 57 "My Affairs."

Vols 58-65 comprise photographs

None of the volumes are very large, making c495ff in total.

MS 1509/5/62 1924 Miss M C Albright
Diary of Miss M C Albright on a missionary visit to Madagascar, 1924.

REEL 22

MS 1368 1917 Miss Smythe

The diary of Miss Smythe's travels in France, 1917. 4 volumes.

259854 1744-1812 Miss Florry

The "*autobiography of Miss Florry, 1744-1812.*" Miss Florry was born in County Meath and came to Birmingham in 1750. The daughter of John Florry, Ironmaster, of Cleobury Mortimer, who died 8 Apr 1788, she managed her father's business for some years before he died. She died in 1832.

REEL 23

MS 1513/1-17 c1800 Sarah Robinson

The letters and diaries of Sarah Robinson, c1800. There are notes on Joseph Burgess and Samuel Johnson, mechanical drawings of engines, notes on sermons, poems ("A Narrative of Cowper's experience written by himself - copied by S R"), descriptions of Moseley and other places and other items. A printed version appears at the end (1513/17).

MS 977 early 19th C Mary Taft

Diary of Mary Taft, wife of a Wesleyan minister.

REEL 24

311137 & 311141 1793-1850 Sarah Mary Breedon

Commonplace Books of Sarah Mary Breedon (1793-1850). The Library holds 6 of her commonplace books. We reproduce two.