

## Guide to using Theatres Trust Resources and the Resource Centre

Theatres Trust's Resource Centre opened in January 2010. Our Meeting Room and Library provide dedicated study facilities to access our theatre architectural plans, reference library and archive collections.

### Making enquiries

Theatres Trust is open to all researchers, students, academics, theatre practitioners, charities, commercial firms, the press/media, or those with a personal interest in theatre history. We encourage visitors to use the study facilities and undertake their own research.

Theatres Trust is happy to deal with initial enquiries via email, phone, or letter. The clearer researchers are with their requirements the more we will be able to help you with your enquiry. Note: we do not hold information on theatre people. This Guide is designed to help you understand what resources are available.

The Trust aims to respond to initial enquiries within 5 working days to discuss what materials or advice we can offer. With this information you can decide whether you need to make a personal visit to the Resource Centre to take your research further.

Use of the Library for the purpose of accessing the theatre architectural plans, reference library and archive collections is free for theatre practitioners, charities, and educational and personal researchers. Commercial researchers may be subject to a charge.

You may find it useful to look through our online resources that can be found at:  
[www.theatrestrust.org.uk/resources](http://www.theatrestrust.org.uk/resources).

Visits to the Trust's Resource Centre are by **appointment only**, weekdays between 10.30 and 16.30.

Contact the Trust's Records Officer, Stephanie Rolt by phoning: 020 7836 8591 emailing [stephanie.rolt@theatrestrust.org.uk](mailto:stephanie.rolt@theatrestrust.org.uk) or writing to:

Records Officer  
The Theatres Trust  
22 Charing Cross Road  
London, WC2H 0QL

## **Resource Centre access and facilities**

The materials held at the Trust are unique. The following guidelines are designed to help protect the archives, plans and reference library collection and to help you to make the most of your visit.

**Please make an appointment by contacting Theatres Trust at least 48 hours in advance.** This is to ensure that a place in the Library is reserved for you and that the collections you wish to use are available.

**On arrival.** Please come to the Resource Centre Reception on the first floor, where you will be shown to the Library.

**Access.** A ramp from street level is available, however there are two additional steps before reaching a small lift, which is not always suitable for wheelchairs. Every effort will be made to provide access wherever possible.

**In order to ensure the preservation of the archives we also ask the following:**

**Please use a pencil when making any notes.** We are happy to lend you one if necessary. Readers are welcome to bring in a laptop.

**Food and drink are not allowed.** Staff can advise on places to purchase food and drink locally.

**Archival material requires careful handling and respect.**

**Copying.** Photocopying or scanning of items for personal research in line with current copyright legislation for is permitted. Copying may incur a small fee, and some items may be too large or delicate to be copied. Please ask a member of staff for information.

**Internet access.** Please note that the Library has Wi-Fi internet access but you will need to provide your own computer/laptop equipment.

## **Making donations to the Trust's resources**

Theatres Trust is happy to consider offers of theatre architectural plans, books, and materials for the archive if they enhance the collections we already hold, and support the teaching and research activities of the Trust. Should you have some materials you wish to deposit please contact us.

## Theatres Trust's resources

The Trust has acquired a substantial amount of material since its establishment in 1976.

**Theatre architectural plans** for theatres where there has been a pre-application, planning application or application for listed building consent submitted to a Local Planning Authority and referred to Theatres Trust in its role as a Statutory Consultee.

**Reference library** that includes a 1500-strong specialist theatre book collection including the library of the Association of British Theatre Technicians (ABTT) and reference magazines. A library catalogue and subject lists can be downloaded online.

**Theatre building histories** with over 2,700 working files for extant theatres, buildings converted to other uses and demolished buildings.

**Photographic and special collections** with over 30,000 items including photographs taken by Ian Grundy and other independent photographers, and Special Collections including the Faulkner Collection, Krieger Collection, Brereton Collection and GLC Collection.

**Online database and image library** including our database of architectural and historic information on theatres across the UK and a collection of digitised images from our own collections, donated photographs and other ephemera.

**Online resource ‘Exploring Theatres’** providing an illustrated introduction to the history of theatre buildings in the UK; the spaces that make up a theatre and the people that work in them, including resources for teachers.

## Theatres Trust's archive collections

Theatres Trust's archive contains both the records of the Trust since 1976 and donated special collections.

A small number of our collections have been catalogued and the catalogues can be seen on archives hub at: [www.archiveshub.ac.uk/contributors/theatrestrust.html](http://www.archiveshub.ac.uk/contributors/theatrestrust.html).

If you can't find what you are looking for on archives hub, please contact us as we can search uncatalogued records for you.

### **General Collection (TTT)**

Theatres Trust Day files from 1977 that include copies of letters (and more recently emails) sent from the Trust office.

Theatre files (c.2,700) that are the Trust's working files, for extant theatres, buildings converted to other uses and demolished buildings. The files contain correspondence, press cuttings, photographs, building descriptions, etc.

Lottery/other grant applications, planning applications and associated documents (plans, design statements, conservation plans, etc) –c.12,000 items.

Photographs including Trust copyright photographs (and some negatives), photographs taken by Ian Grundy (now taken and submitted in digital form), slides, and other copyright images. Our total image resources are estimated at 30,000.

'Curtains II' files – assessment forms collected as research for the publication of *The Theatres Trust Guide to British Theatres 1750-1950* (A&C Black, 2000). We also hold several boxes of material relating to the *Guide*'s forerunner, *Curtains!!!* (published 1982).

Background on the joint ABTT and Theatres Trust Technical Backstage Survey.

### **Faulkner Collection (FLK)**

Includes photographs, line drawings, press cuttings, some correspondence (c.600 items).

The Rev John FAULKNER (1903-82) was an industrious collector of illustrations of theatre buildings, the collection mostly concentrates on London. His most important work was done from about 1942 to 1957 when theatres were being lost at an alarming rate, often without record. The National Buildings Record (now NMR) adopted Faulkner's suggestions for its own limited recording programme.

The Faulkner Collection catalogue can be seen at: [www.archiveshub.ac.uk/data/gb3401-flk](http://archiveshub.ac.uk/data/gb3401-flk)

### **Krieger Collection (KRG)**

Includes postcards and photographs, including contemporary photographs of the site of some postcards (c.190 images).

Eric KRIEGER was a collector of theatre postcards, unfortunately the Trust knows nothing more about him. His collection includes notes he collected in preparation of a book on theatres (unfinished).

The Krieger Collection catalogue can be seen at: <http://archiveshub.ac.uk/data/gb3401-krg>

### **Brereton Collection (CBR)**

Includes photographs, postcards, press cuttings, correspondence (over 2,000 items).

Christopher BRERETON (1941-92), who worked for English Heritage as Senior Architect (Conservation), was also a historian with extensive knowledge of theatre architecture. He contributed most of the regional theatre entries for the 1982 *Curtains!!!* gazetteer. His personal research files contain notes and correspondence concerning theatres throughout the UK.

### **Richardson Collection (RIC)**

Includes primarily postcards of UK and international theatres collected by Alan Richardson (c.800 postcards).

### **Coupe Collection (COU)**

Includes digital copies of theatre programme and illustrations depicting theatre buildings from Michael Coupe's personal collection (c.150 images).

### **Ernest A. E. Woodrow Scrapbooks (WOO)**

Three scrapbooks compiled by Woodrow in the late C20th. The scrapbooks contain articles on and drawings of theatre buildings and have a particular focus on theatre safety.

Ernest A. E. WOODROW (1860-1937) was a theatre architect and authority on theatre safety controls. His only surviving theatre is Clapham Grand. He was Edwin O. Sachs's collaborator on *Modern Opera Houses and Theatres*, although he left this partnership before the second volume was published.

### **Frank Matcham Society Archive (FMS)**

Includes photographs, press cuttings, articles, notes and programmes relating to the society and Matcham Theatres, and copies of the society's newsletters.

The Frank Matcham Society was established in 1994 to celebrate the work of renowned theatre architect, Frank Matcham (1854-1920). The society aims to encourage and carry out research into Matcham's life and work and visit and develop links with all the surviving Matcham theatres.

### **GLC Collection (GLC)**

Includes: black and white photographs (eighteen reference folders) and copies of theatre-related papers (seventeen files).

The Greater London Council folders contain black and white photographs taken by the LCC (later GLC) Historic Buildings Division in the 1950s to 1980s. They are reference copies only - the copyright of the photographs (and the original negatives) resides with the London Metropolitan Archives. The correspondence files are copies of a wide range of theatre-related papers including information on Wilton's Music Hall, correspondence regarding the model of London used in the opening sequence of Olivier's *Henry V*, and the transfer of three theatre freeholds to the Trust at the time of the disbandment of the GLC.