



Guide to Theatres Trust Collections

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. This document is designed to help you understand what resources are available.

Theatres Trust is happy to deal with enquiries via email or letter. The clearer researchers are with their requirements the more we will be able to help.

The Trust aims to respond to initial enquiries within 5 working days to discuss what materials or advice we can offer.

Information requests should be...

Emailed to: info@theatrestrust.org.uk

Sent to: Theatres Trust, 22 Charing Cross Road, London, WC2H 0QL

Our material

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 the 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 catalogue can be downloaded from our Library & Archives webpage.

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 ‘Discover 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.

Our collections

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: 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: archiveshub.ac.uk/data/gb3401-krq

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.

Donating

Theatres Trust considers offers of material for the archive where they support our objectives. Our Collections Development Policy can be downloaded from our [Library & Archives webpage](#).

Should you have any items you would like to donate, please contact us via the methods listed at the beginning of this document.

Last updated: March 2020