

Committee(s):	Date(s):
Culture, Heritage and Libraries	14/07/2014
Subject: London Metropolitan Archives receives a third inscription on the UNESCO UK Memory of the World Register	Public
Report of: The Director, Culture, Heritage & Libraries	For Information
Summary	
<p>London Metropolitan Archives (LMA) has been successful in having a third item from its collections inscribed on the UNESCO UK Memory of the World Register. This follows two previous nominations being accepted for 2010 and 2012. The UK Memory of the World Register highlights documentary items of outstanding importance to UK history and disseminates information about them and the organisations which care for them.</p>	
Recommendation(s)	
Members are asked that:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The achievement of the inscription be noted. 	

Main Report

Background: UNESCO UK Memory of the World Register

1. The United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisation's (UNESCO) Memory of the World Initiative was set up in the 1990s to preserve and promote outstanding global documentary heritage. Following this, in 2010 UNESCO started a UK Register for items with cultural significance specific to this country which complements the International Register.
2. Heritage inscribed on the Register, which can be a single document or a collection and may be in a digital format, is nominated for inclusion in annual rounds of applications to UNESCO. Applications are assessed against criteria which include authenticity, rarity, integrity, social, spiritual or community significance. The impact of the item(s) on the course of UK history and its significance against other documentary heritage is also important.
3. The Register is available for view online at http://www.unesco.org.uk/uk_memory_of_the_world_register#subs.
4. Between 2010 and 2012 London Metropolitan Archives (LMA) successfully nominated two of its holdings. Both these items are owned by the City of London Corporation and they are:
5. **The William Charter (1067). Inscribed on the UK Register for 2010**
The William Charter is the oldest item in LMA's care. It was drawn up soon after the Battle of Hastings in 1066 and just before William I entered London. Written in Old English and drawn up by the native London scribes, rather than the in-coming Normans, it appears to be the earliest royal or imperial

document which guarantees the collective rights of the citizens of a town. It also has the earliest impression of the seal of the new King of England.

6. The document also expresses the circumstances of the City of London at the time of the Norman Conquest, one of the largest, wealthiest and most powerful cities in the country and one of the leading cities of the world.
7. **The London County Council Bomb Damage Maps (1940-45). Inscribed on the UK Register for 2012.**

These maps provide the most detailed and accurate record of the bombing of the 117 square miles of inner London during the Second World War. The maps were drawn up the Architects Department of the former London County Council (LCC) by annotating 1916 Ordnance Survey maps, using a colour code to denote the severity of bomb damage building by building.
8. The maps are symbolic of the resilience and strength of London and Londoners throughout the Second World War. After the war the maps were used by Patrick Abercrombie and John Henry Forshaw in work for the Greater London Plan (1940) and they continue to be used today by planners, architects, surveyors, family and local historians. They were also used for the current Crossrail project as engineers navigated their way under London's streets.

Current Position: third successful nomination

9. LMA nominated the Robert Hooke Diary in the 2013 round of nominations and this application has also been successful.
10. **The Robert Hooke Diary (1672-83).**

Robert Hooke was a major scientific figure, at the forefront of physics, astronomy, microscopy, physiology and geology and was the first UK professional experimental scientist, appointed as Curator of Experiments to the Royal Society in 1662.
11. Hooke contributed greatly to the rebuilding of the City of London after the 1666 Great Fire and the Diary contains daily entries for his work as the chief City Surveyor for the rebuilding of the City, measuring and arbitrating rival property claims so that the City could quickly grow anew. With Sir Christopher Wren, he was employed to rebuild the City Churches and several hundred site visits to these are recorded (the Diary also notes so many meetings and conversations with Wren that it is a key source for Wren's career).
12. The Diary's daily entries are written in great haste and squeezed in to record memoranda of meetings, conversations with a large number of people at every social level, thoughts, observations, ideas and results of experiments. Hooke notes his several employments and his leisure hours in coffee houses, taverns and in parks equally. Sketches of achieved and intended inventions, such as barometers, scales and his spring balance watch are to be found in amongst the entries.
13. The Diary is a rich and importance source for both the history of the City of London and the history of science. It the only extant personal diary of an English scientist in the seventeenth century and it gives us a vivid and fascinating portrait of one of the great figures of his age.

Conclusion

14. The UNESCO UK Register of the World recognises the national significance and importance to the history of the UK of these archives held by the City of London. The Register is able to highlight these particular items to a wide audience and the role of the City in their stewardship is also evident.

Appendices

None

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