

Banks build

A close look at financial institutions' 'building' roles

A financial archives workshop

eabh (The European Association for Banking and Financial History e.V.)
sponsored by Deutsche Bank AG

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Frankfurt am Main, Germany

In history, financial institutions have always played major, often pioneering roles when new countries were built, independence was established, or peacetime re-building started. They initiated state and infrastructure building by helping other companies (re-)start their businesses in new legislations or after disruptive periods.

In the framework of this meeting, we would like to look at archival evidence in and about financial institutions' 'building' roles. The connections between banking and building, finance, cities, and countries may be wide range - and unexpected. The examples of historical experiences are global and manifold: the building of US infrastructure after independence (railways), specialising US financial infrastructure in the process, re-building Europe after WWI, after WWII and during the Eastern extension of the EU, nation building in Central and South America, African independence, ..., to name just a few...

The evolution of a country or economy is always reflected in the records banks, exchanges and insurers hold: if you look at what's traded and insured and how successfully, you can see the state an economy is in. More and beyond, finance plays a major role in building cities and infrastructure during 'normal' times; the sector's importance for architecture, urban planning and building of all kinds is undeniable.

The questions we would like to ask are:

- How did banks (re-)build their operations?
- How did they help (re-)build other sectors?
- Which case studies of building and re-building does your archive hold? How can those be presented best?
- How can the archives serve practitioners faced with the question of which building efforts to support?

In this workshop, we are looking for collections, databases and archival projects that shed light on the link of financial institutions as builders.

This is a workshop for

- Archivists holding relevant material on the matter that either have examples of how to explore the material or wish to engage with researchers.
- Banking practitioners wishing to engage deeper with their own institution's heritage.
- Researchers looking for new evidence to exploit in the context of their financial history research.

Please send your proposal to Carmen Hofmann (c.hofmann@bankinghistory.org) no later than 20 February 2023. Final text should be ready for the meeting on 1 May 2023.

Committee

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