



BANK OF ENGLAND



The Bank of England Archive Online: Openness versus ‘The Headline’!

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Bank of England Archive


27 April 2016



BANK OF ENGLAND

Online Catalogue

 **BANK OF ENGLAND**



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Catalogue home

Advanced search

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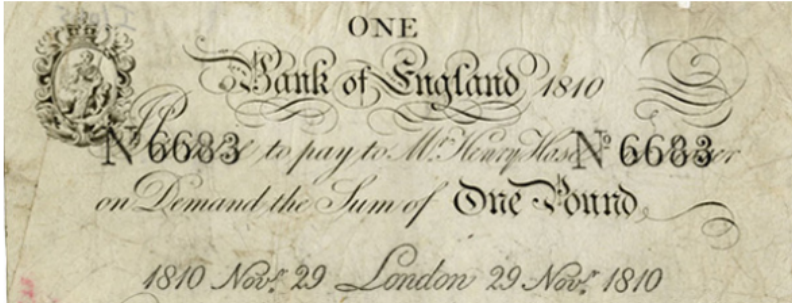
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Welcome to the Bank of England Archive Catalogue



ONE
Bank of England 1810
N^o 6683 to pay to M^r Henry Wood N^o 6683
on Demand the Sum of One Pound
1810 Nov^r 29 London 29 Nov^r 1810

The catalogue contains descriptions of over 57,000 records held by the Bank of England Archive. In common with many other archives, a number of records have not yet been released for research because they are very recent or for reasons of sensitivity or confidentiality. For more information please click on the following link: [When are records made available to the public?](#)

To do a quick search of the catalogue, use the box at the top right of the page, or for a more in-depth search, click on 'Advanced search' on the left hand menu.

Should you require any information about visiting the Bank of England Archive, please follow this link: [Visiting the Archive](#)

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Why did we choose to publish archive images online?We didn't!

But we did choose what IT project to do – online digitised content:

- Affordable
- Popular
- Showcase the archives
- Increase access to the archives
- Modern and dynamic service
- Reduce handling of material



BANK OF ENGLAND

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About the Bank
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Banknotes
Markets
Financial Stability
Prudential Regulation Authority
Publications
Statistics
Education and Museum
Research
Careers
Archive
Visiting the Archive
Archive documents
Publications pre-2006
Court Minutes

Home > Archive > Archive documents

Archive documents

Documents from the Bank of England Archive can be found from the drop down list below.

Choose an archive document...



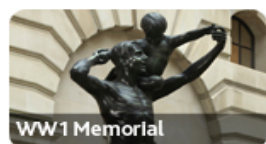
Court Minutes 1694-1989



Court Minutes 2007-09



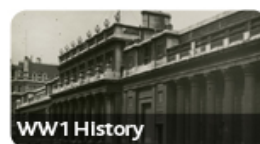
Treasury Minutes



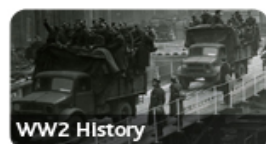
WW1 Memorial



WW1 Records



WW1 History



WW2 History



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Lawsuits



Bank Subscribers



Directors' Lists



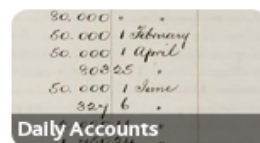
Building Minutes



Inspection Minutes



Norman Diaries



Daily Accounts

- Range of material
- Open
- Our copyright
- Important
- Most used/popular
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- Fragile material
- Complete series
- Uncontroversial

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Bank of England helped the Nazis

The Bank of England has admitted its role in its history - helping the Nazis sell gold plus the outbreak of the Second World War.

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The UK central bank also sold



312 Comments

An official history of the Bank of England's role in the Nazi gold scandal is set to be published on Tuesday, the German government has announced.

theguardian

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How Bank of England 'helped' gold stolen from Czech

Official account of what many believe is the most shameful episode revealed

Ben Quinn
The Guardian, Wednesday 31 July 2013
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Montagu Norman, w

Photograph: Hulton

Bank of England helped in sale of looted Nazi gold

The gold h

International Settlements Bank for the Czechoslovak govern

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31 July 2013 Last updated at 10:56

Bank of England helped in sale of looted Nazi gold



Germany invaded Czechoslovakia in the spring of 1939

The Bank of England helped in the sale of gold stolen by Nazis after the 1939 invasion of Czechoslovakia.

A document from 1950 shows the gold bars were sold by the Bank on behalf of Germany's central Reichsbank.

The details have been made public following the first stage of the digitalisation of the bank's archive.

In 1939 the UK government said it had frozen all Czech assets being held in London at the time, but the sale of looted gold still went ahead.

Germany had annexed the Sudeten area of Czechoslovakia following the Munich Agreement, which was signed in September 1938, and then invaded the rest of the country in March 1939.

'Misunderstood'

In its 1950 report, the Bank of England said, "at the outbreak of war and for some time afterwards the Czech gold incident still ranked".

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CHANCELLOR AND CZECH GOLD

BANK OF ENGLAND'S PART

GOVT. VIEW NOT ENTITLED TO INTERVENE

From our POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

WESTMINSTER, Tuesday.

The subject of the transfer of Czech gold to Germany was again raised in the House of Commons to-day. The Chancellor of the Exchequer was asked questions concerning the attitude of the Bank of England and the relations between the Bank and the Treasury.

Mr. G. Strauss (Lab., Lambeth, N.) asked whether, in view of the fact that one of the directors of the Bank for International Settlements was a member of the German Government he would consider the introduction of legislation by which the Bank of England's representative on the Board may be either a Government nominee or some other person whose duty it would be to report to the Government on all matters affecting British interests.

Sir JOHN SIMON said he did not think this would be a useful course to adopt.

MR. MONTAGU NORMAN

Asked if he would incur the disapproval of the Bank of England to deny its own interest and in the public interest the allocation made in 1939 to the Reichsbank of the Czech money to Germany, and that he opposed the view of the French directors who were strongly against the transfer, the Chancellor said he had not seen the suggestion. He did not think he was entitled to interfere with the action of the directors of this bank.

MR. SIMON: It is very important to know whether the representatives coming from this country did or did not support the transfer of this money to Germany? Does not the action of this Government in relation to the B.I.S. and its future representation on the B.I.S. largely depend on what happened or is going to happen?

Sir J. SIMON: This country has no representation on the B.I.S.

The Speaker intervened when Sir John was pressed to undertake to find out what action Mr. Montagu Norman took in the matter.

CONTACT WITH TREASURY

MR. A. HENDERSON (Lab., Kingston) asked the Chancellor to state whether



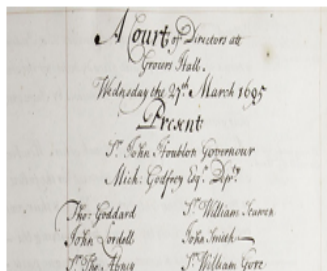
BANK OF ENGLAND

Court minutes

Court of Directors' Minutes 1694-1912

Archive Catalogue Reference: G4/1-55

From the foundation of the Bank in 1694 to the present day the Court of Directors has met on a regular basis to discuss a range of matters related to the administration of the Bank. Up until May 1998 the meetings were held weekly, after which time they were held monthly. The details of the meetings are recorded in the Minutes of the Court of Directors and as such they form one of the Bank's most important and extensive record series.



Originally the Court of Directors consisted of the Governor, the Deputy Governor and 24 Directors, of whom only the Governor and Deputy Governor worked full-time in the Bank. It soon became the practice for the Governor and Deputy Governor to serve for not more than two years and for the Deputy Governor to succeed the Governor: this procedure continued, with few exceptions, for over 200 years until Montagu Norman's Governorship.

In 1946, with the nationalisation of the Bank, the Court was reduced in size to the Governor, the Deputy Governor and 16 Directors. In 1998 two Deputy Governors were introduced to Court as part of the Bank of England Act 1998 and in 2009 the number of Directors was reduced to nine following the Banking Act 2009.

Throughout its existence, the Court has been the highest forum for discussion in the Bank. For the first 200 years topics ranged from finance to staff matters.

Each volume of minutes has a contemporary index. The minutes and indices are presented separately.

Bank of England's historic minutes focus on internal issues

Emily Cadman

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By any criteria, 1914 to 1946 were among the most challenging times for the Bank of England, with two world wars, the Great Depression, and the abandoning of and then return to the gold standard.

But those hoping for enlightenment on its thinking at the time from the [historic](#)

committee meeting minutes published by the BoE on Wednesday will be disappointed.



More

ON THIS STORY

BoE reforms on right track, says Tyrie

BoE Court kept in dark during crisis

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On September 5 1940 — a day after Hitler vowed to destroy London in the blitz — the minutes of the Court of Directors are concerned solely with granting pensions to long-serving staff and permission for an unnamed woman clerk to withdraw a resignation request.

The Court of Directors, which dates from the foundation of the bank in 1694, is now the body that has oversight of the BoE. But the only real insights from the newly published documents are on staff pay, conditions and subcommittee appointments.



BANK OF ENGLAND

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- How to put material online? Catalogue? Gallery? Digitised content? Social media?....
- What to select to put online? Consider public opinion and the dreaded bad headline!





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- Monetary Policy Committee papers
- More digitised content.....and analysis?



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Magazine

Photos from the Bank of England's vaults

By Paul Kerley
BBC News Magazine

28 January 2016 | Magazine



Bank of England Archive

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Cat sitting on a ledger during the Bank's evacuation to Hampshire during WW2
#ArchiveAnimals #cats #explorearchives



Cat on a ledger during the Bank's evacuation to Hampshire, 1939-1945
(WARVARIOUS, Bank of England Archive)

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