

The Marshall Archive: a Progress Report

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Loyal readers of this Bulletin will realise that a progress report on the cataloguing of Alfred Marshall's papers in the Marshall Library, University of Cambridge is long overdue. Indeed the previous report was written by my predecessor, Frances Willmoth, as long ago as 1992, when she warned that the cataloguing process would inevitably be long-term. At that time much preliminary sorting and boxing had been undertaken and the correspondence and photographs were catalogued in detail. Since beginning work on the collection on a part-time basis in March 1994, I have made significant further progress.

Marshall's papers related to teaching, his lecture notes and early research notes enclosed in hard cover folders are all now computer catalogued. Teaching records is a relatively small and straightforward section, which includes lists of students' attendances at Marshall's lectures, records of individuals' progress and reading and a considerable number of economics exam or essay questions written by him.

The surviving lecture notes comprise material ranging in date from Marshall's 1873 "Lectures to Women" to Cambridge undergraduate lectures of circa 1900 on distribution and exchange. Detailed Newspaper reports of some of his public lectures, probably supplied to the Press by Marshall himself, are included in addition to the manuscript material. Marshall frequently reused lecture notes in the preparation of his books. Where they have been found within the series of research notes they have been removed, due note having been made on the computer catalogue.

Marshall's working notes fall into two distinct sections, the earlier being enclosed in rigid dark green folders, those from after about 1890 being in bundles by broad topic area. They are by far the most bulky and complex sections to catalogue and the amount of detail one can reasonably give in describing them must be less than that given to the correspondence. The early folders had no discernible archival order and much of the material is undated. Thus they have been arranged alphabetically by the titles Marshall gave them and the catalogue gives information as to the specific subject and bulk of each sub-section of notes, also indexing the authors of publications cited by Marshall. Apart from some further subject indexing the catalogue for these folders is complete. One particularly unexpected find was a bundle of answers to a survey of local taxation and employment in the Bengal region of India which Marshall sent to his brother Charles William, who was then working for the Bengal Silk Company.

The later notes provide an even greater challenge to the archivist. Although a greater number are dated, Marshall's constant reuse and amendment of them as the plans for his published volumes changed over time mean that their origin, and even the subject of stray pages, is often difficult to describe succinctly. Again there is little evidence of the notes' original organisation, but the final catalogue will retain the division between the contents of Marshall's two "red boxes" of papers. Data for these later notes has been entered on the computer before their final order is decided upon. There are many notes

used in the writing of *Industry and Trade* and *Money, Credit and Commerce* and also numerous short draft sections from Marshall's proposed volume on the nature of economic progress. Many other topics are touched upon in the later notes, which also contain a small number of Mary Paley Marshall's notes.

Those papers as yet uncatalogued are the proofs of Marshall's books and annotated pamphlets, his graphs and tables, papers relating to the creation of the Cambridge Economics Tripos and biographical material. The bulk of these is not very great, but from experience it would appear unwise for me to predict the completion date for the cataloguing of the Marshall Papers. Recent progress in adding catalogue details of which papers have appeared in publications and in devising the subject index has been greatly aided by the continued assistance of Philomena Guillebaud, Marshall's great-niece, in the project. It was once hoped that the catalogue would be completed by 1990, the Millennium would now seem a more realistic proposition.

Postscript

Readers may be interested to learn that a brief guide to most of the archive collections in the Marshall Library is now available on the internet at

<http://www.econ.cam.ac.uk/marshlib/archives/archives.htm>

Many of the smaller collections were uncatalogued, and therefore unknown to potential readers, until very recently. They range from Clara Collet's reminiscences of the family of Karl Marx to letters of Henry and Millicent Garrett Fawcett and the French economist Jean Gustave Courcelle Seneuil. The more substantial collections of correspondence and papers of James Bonar and Charles Ryle Fay have also been listed recently. Substantial improvements have also been made to the archival arrangement of John Neville Keynes' correspondence, inevitably leading to a further re-numbering of the collection.

Considerable upgrading of our computer software means that name and place indexes are available for all catalogued material. We still have to define the chosen terms for subject indexes, which are complete for most smaller collections.

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