

THE HARRISON - HOWELL COLLECTION

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A small working group was set-up to investigate and make recommendations about the role of the BBTS in supporting and managing the UKNBS archive material. Following a thorough appraisal of all the options for preserving and storing archive materials, it was proposed by the working group and agreed by the BBTS Council and the NBS, that the UKNBS archive material held by the BBTS would be placed on permanent loan at the Wellcome Library, London.

This archive material consists of pictures, pamphlets, books, posters, papers and films/videos depicting the history of blood transfusion and the UKNBS. The Wellcome Library will store the records in their secure and climate-controlled repository, and in due course of time (depending on other pressures on staff resources, but probably within the next few years) will sort, arrange, and list the collection, placing the material in acid-free files in archive boxes, replacing staples, with non-corrosive paper clips, etc.

In due course it is anticipated that a detailed catalogue will be made available online on the Wellcome Library Website with a hardcopy also available at the Wellcome Library in London. Using these facilities researchers who have completed and signed a Reader's Undertaking for the use of archives and manuscripts will be able to order material to be consulted under supervision in the rare materials reading area of the Wellcome Library. The Wellcome Library will also publicise the archive and will, if appropriate, use items for in-house exhibitions.

In recognition of the tremendously valuable role that Jean Harrison, NBS, and Peter Howell, BBTS Historian, played in collecting, preserving, storing and cataloguing the UKNBS archive material the collection will be called the "Harrison-Howell Collection".

On sorting through the archive material for the Wellcome Library, the Society retained a large number of copies of the special supplement of Transfusion Medicine, entitled 'fifty years of blood transfusion'. Compiled by Harold Gunson and Helen Dodsworth, this edition documents the emergence of the NBTS and provides a unique insight into the development of the modern day NHS Blood Service. Any BBTS member who would like a copy of the special journal, originally published in 1996, should contact the BBTS Office who will be happy to provide a free copy.

The BBTS Historian, Peter Howell, will continue to store and manage the BBTS archive material that chronicles the history of the Society. The BBTS archive collection is housed in the BBTS administration office at Manchester Science Park. Peter will again be attending the BBTS ASM and aiming to put on another interesting display with historical insight into previous scientific meetings.