

BMSGH BROMSGROVE
BRANCH BRIEFING
Editor: Mike Fisher November 2010

Tuesday 9th November at 7.45 p.m.

**“A Pilgrimage to Ieper –
A Tale of Two Candlesticks”**

by David Humphries

A pair of silver candlesticks was "found" amongst the ruins of Ieper (Wiper) Cathedral during the First World War. The candlesticks were brought home by the speaker's soldier grandfather as a Trophy of War. This talk describes the subsequent return of the candlesticks by our speaker many years later.



What is a Catalogue ?

By a county record office

In archive terms, it is a description of a collection of original documents (received from the same source) and their individual contents. Each item or group of items has its own reference code.

By contrast, a list is a rough, unsorted version of a catalogue or a guide to a specific type of record. An archive collection could be just a few documents or several thousand records.

Archives have sometimes come into our custody in no sort of order, so on occasions you have to apply a rule of not letting people view uncatalogued collections, in case there are potentially sensitive documents among them.

How do you decide what to catalogue? There are several criteria to determine high priorities, including:

Records which you are required by law to produce in the searchroom, such as parish registers of baptism, marriage and burial, parish council minutes, manorial records and electoral registers. -'Popular' records, which are regularly used for research in the searchroom (I4r example, school and criminal records), or specific uncatalogued records which are relatively frequently requested by searchers.

Records which are unusual or rare within the context of the holdings of an office. -Records which have been in it's possession for a long time (to ensure that the general principle of 'first in, first catalogued' is maintained).

In addition, you also try to ensure that all types of deposit are represented in what we make accessible, so that if you haven't catalogued a set of business or local society records for some time, you will address that.

If you want to ask for a particular collection to be catalogued, you keep a database of such requests and factor this into compiling our priorities list.



Do you use Google Maps?

If so why not use Google Earth

Now on Google Earth you can view historic aerial views of Worcestershire and other places. Find the place you want then click on the clock Icon at the top of the screen , a slider appears and if you move the cursor to the left you can go back to a view from December 1945 for Worcestershire.

If you have the screens on two computers next to each other it is interesting to set one on the early view and then scroll through the others dates on the other one.

Regards

Mike Fisher