

Archival resources for the history of the West Midlands

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The local authority archive services – the county record offices and the city and borough archive services – are the principal repositories for the historical records of the people, institutions and businesses of the geographical area for which they are responsible. Check <u>The National Archives Find-an-Archive</u> website for contact details of those in the West Midlands.

The Cadbury Research Library does not collect archives on a geographical basis but, in the context of its collecting policy, the department holds a wealth of archive and manuscript collections which are of relevance for the study of the local history of the region. Some of holdings will both complement and supplement the holdings of the local authority services.

There is a great deal of information about our holdings on our website at www.birmingham.ac.uk/crl which incorporates an online guide to our archive and manuscript collections. Many of our collections are described on our online archive catalogue and there are also paper catalogues available in our reading room.

Records of the University of Birmingham, and its predecessors and associated institutions

The records of the University (from 1900) and its predecessors (which include Mason Science College, founded in 1880) constitute our largest archive.

The records include minutes and administrative records of the governing bodies and officers; records of faculties, schools and departments; records of student societies and clubs including the Guild of Students; University and student magazines and publications; records of other facilities and services including halls of residences; photographs and plans.



The archives chart the history and development of the University and its personalities from its conception up to the present day. Some of the trends, subjects and key issues which might be explored include the recruitment of students, the subjects taught and how the courses were delivered; the shift from non-degree courses to honours degree courses and the expansion of postgraduate courses and research degrees; student life and societies; the history and development of individual faculties and departments; the physical expansion of



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the campus and the move from the Edmund Street site; the relationship between the University and the region and its people, businesses and industry; the role and influence of individual vice-chancellors and professors; development of research; student protests in the 1960s; specific events; the fundraising campaigns; the provision of student accommodation and the changing demands; the impact of the two world wars.

In addition to records of the University and its predecessors, the department is also responsible for the archives of a number of Selly Oak Colleges, - principally Westhill College, Carey Hall United Missionary College, 1911-1966, St Andrew's College, 1948-1966, St Andrew's Hall, 1966-2000 – and of Selly Oak Colleges Council

Cataloguing of the University archive is under way and a number of sections appear on our online catalogue including: Records of the Guild of Students (Finding No: <u>UB/GUILD</u>); Records of Mason Science College (Finding No: <u>UB/MC</u>); Records of Queen's College and its predecessor institution, Birmingham School of Medicine (Finding No: <u>UB/QC</u>)





Papers of former staff and students

In addition to the official archives of the University, we hold a growing collection of personal, professional and research papers of nearly 100 former members of staff and officers in a wide range of academic fields.

A number of these collections include material relating directly to the history of the University. Examples include:

Lodge, Sir Oliver (1851-1940), physicist and Principal of the University, 1900-19: personal and family correspondence, 1861-1940, including correspondence relating to his period as Principal of the University, 1900-1919 (Finding No: UC 14/ii)



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Priestley, Sir Raymond Edward (1886-1974), geologist, Vice-Chancellor of the University 1938-53: typescript diaries of relating to his time in Birmingham. Priestley – who in earlier life went to the Antarctic with both Shackleton and Scott - maintained a typescript record of detailed weekly entries as Vice-Chancellor and these records are a wonderful insight into the organisation, politics and personalities and development of the University, as well as the workings of the national educational system. The war diaries are particularly interesting, even recording in some detail his participation on the campus fire night watch roster as part of the air raid precautions arrangements (Finding No: US38)



Stacey, Maurice (1907-94), Lecturer, Reader and Mason Professor in Chemistry, 1936-74: papers include material relating to the history of the Chemistry Department (Finding No: US15)

Collections of papers of other former key academic staff relate more to their own academic research or subject area for which they are particularly renowned or are more personal papers but these collections are important to the history of the contribution and role of the university to the wider national and international community. Examples include:

Norris, **Richard Hill** (1831-1916), Professor of Physiology at Queen's College, 1862-91: papers relating to his work on photography and on the physiology and pathology of blood (Finding No: <u>US41</u>)

Nicoll, John Ramsay Allardyce (1894-1976), Professor of English Language and Literature, 1945-61: correspondence and personal copies of some of his published works, with manuscript annotations (Finding No: US27)

Beazley, Sir Raymond (1868-1955), Professor of History, 1909-33: notes, manuscripts and typescripts of his works, press-cuttings, printed papers and miscellaneous correspondence on history, travel, geography, politics and theology (Finding No: US6)



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Personal papers

Badley, John (1783-1870), surgeon: medical case book with later entries referring to Badley's hometown of Dudley (Finding No: MS715)

Barnes, Ernest William (1874-1953), Anglican Bishop of Birmingham, 1924-53: personal correspondence and other papers of this controversial figure whose modernist and outspoken views and often unorthodox religious beliefs led to a series of controversies (Finding No: EWB)

Bradshaw, Robert Haldane (fl 1782-1833): miscellaneous correspondence and other papers principally relating to his career as landowner and agent for the 2nd Marquis of Stafford, 1782-1833 (Finding No: MS65)

Bunce, John Thackray (1828-1899), editor of the Birmingham Daily Post: personal and family papers, in addition to a collection of manuscripts (Finding No: <u>BU</u>)

Cox, William Sands (1802–1875), surgeon and founder of the School of Medicine, Birmingham: correspondence and other papers relating to his involvement in and the contribution towards the formation and early beginnings of the Birmingham School of Medicine and Surgery, founded in 1828 and to its subsequent management and funding; family and personal papers relating to other members of the Cox family and associated families including the Litchfield, Sands and Payne families (Finding No: MS220)

Dale, Robert William (1829-1895), Birmingham congregational minister, historian and author: letters from Gladstone, John Bright, John Morley and others, 1862-1891 (Finding No: RWD)

Debenham, Cecily nee Kenrick (1869-1956) of Birmingham: Letters and recollections, 1892-1996 (Finding No: MS311)

Ellis, Dr Frank Pollard (1913-1989): Research papers of data relating to Birmingham Heatwave, 1976-1979 (Finding No: MS800)

Gillott, Joseph (1799-1872), pen maker: Letters 1711-1857 (Finding No: MS94)

Hinton, Percival (1896-c1977), Birmingham journalist and local historian: scrapbooks of book reviews and record reviews written by him for Birmingham newspapers and cuttings of articles about Birmingham local history, including the history of Birmingham theatres, also written for the Birmingham press, 1920-1960 (Finding No: MS39)

Hodgetts, William (1791-1874) of Birmingham, printer and publisher: letters from his friend, Joshua Toulmin Smith (1816-1869) of London, writer, publicist and lawyer (Finding No: MS336)



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Jay, Leonard of the Birmingham School of Printing: personal papers relating to him and his career at the Birmingham School of Printing; includes correspondence with friend and fellow printer, Arnold Yates, examples of his printing and art work and material relating to the internationally famous London printer, George W Jones (1860-1942) a great influence on Jay (Finding No: LI)

Marks, John L. (fl. 1980) of Birmingham: scrapbook relating to the Birmingham General Hospital, 1780-1980 (Finding No: MS131)

Slaney, Robert Aglionby (1792-1862), politician and social reformer: journals and notebooks, 1815-1854 (Finding No: RAS)

Yates, Frank B. and H. Bertram, of Birmingham: business and personal papers, 1926-1929 (Finding No: MS805)

Family papers

Benton Family of Old Hill, Staffordshire: small collection of letters and other papers, principally relating to the period of WWII. The collection includes letters to Eric Benton from his mother, Mrs Benton of 'Fairways', Haden Hill, Old Hill, Staffordshire sent to him while serving in the RAF, 1940-1942 (Finding No: MS759)

Chamberlain family: correspondence of the wider family and other papers, including family photographs, can be found in the collections of Joseph, Neville and Austen Chamberlain and a separate Chamberlain family collection (Finding Nos: <u>AC</u>, <u>NC</u>, <u>JC</u>, <u>BC</u>, <u>C</u>)



Chamberlain family of South Yardley: collection of letters mostly from Dorothy Walker, a Birmingham school teacher and head teacher of St Peter's Infant School, Harborne, during WWII, to her fiancé Stanley (Stan) Chamberlain, 1938-1946 (Finding No: MS806)



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Eyton family of Wellington, Shropshire: family and personal correspondence including letters to Thomas Campbell Eyton from naturalists and ornithologists, 1877-1883, including Charles Darwin, Sir William Jardine, Albert Carl Ludwig Gotthilf Guenther and John Gould; letters to and from Robert Aglionby Slaney, 1825-1864; family letters to Elizabeth Frances Eyton, nee Slaney from India from her sister Frances Catherine Kenyon-Slaney, 1835-1849, and from the continent from her father Robert Aglionby Slaney, 1861-1862; to Rose Mary Eyton and Elizabeth Charlotte Eyton; 1858-1907 (Finding No: EYT)

Shaw family of Wolverhampton: letters between John Shaw and his wife, Elizabeth (nee Wilkinson), 1810-1839 which also include several letters from John prior to their marriage. Other letters to John are from his mother, brother and sister and from an employee. The collection also includes correspondence between Elizabeth and her parents, 1815-1836; several letters to Elizabeth prior to her marriage from a friend, W. Lomax; and a single letter from her daughter. The letters contain much information about the family's domestic lives and about John Shaw's business affairs (Finding No: SHAW)

Slaney family: nineteenth-century family letters, press-cuttings and pamphlets relating to the history of Shropshire, materials relating to the cholera epidemic of 1832-33 and its effect of Shropshire, 1545-1860 (Finding No: <u>SL</u>)

Stafford family: letters, from Susan, Marchioness of Stafford, to her daughter, Charlotte, Duchess of Beaufort, re family and social matters, 1774-1805 (Finding No: <u>STA</u>)

Thrupp family of Shrawley, Worcestershire: Notebooks kept by Henry Thrupp and wife of the Lenchford Inn, containing rudimentary accounts and records relating to their businesses which included the inn, coal merchant business, canal boat cargo trade and blacksmithing, 1838-1873 (Finding No: MS317)

Wilkes family of Sedgley, Staffordshire: deeds, wills, financial papers, family correspondence and other papers, 1566-1883 (Finding No: MS82)

Wyatt family of Birmingham: letters and from the engineer John Wyatt and his family, dealing with scientific and social matters (Finding No: <u>WP</u>)

Political papers

Special Collections holds the personal and political papers of a number of politicians, some of whom held local parliamentary seats and who were also involved in local politics, principally

Bennett, Peter Frederick Blaker (1880-1957), Baron Bennett, Birmingham MP and industrialist: Personal, political, business and other papers, 1930-1985 (Finding No: MS1)



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Chamberlain, Joseph (1836-1914), MP for West Birmingham 1876-1914 (offices held included President of the Board of Trade,1880-85, and Secretary of State for the Colonies, 1895-1903); chairman of the Birmingham School Board 1868-1873, Lord Mayor: personal and political papers (Finding No: JC)

His papers contain very little relating to his early involvement in local politics, apart from a few notebooks. They do include a small quantity of material relating his role as chairman of Birmingham Board School, his involvement in the family screw-making firm of Nettlefold and Chamberlain in Birmingham and papers relating to the founding of the University.

Chamberlain, Sir (Joseph) Austen (1863-1937), Birmingham MP, 1892-1937 (offices held included Chancellor of the Exchequer, 1903-1905 and 1919-1921; Secretary of State for India 1915-1917 and 1921-1922; Foreign Secretary, 1924-1929): personal and political papers (Finding No: AC)

Chamberlain, (Arthur) Neville (1869-1940), Birmingham MP (offices held included Minister of Health, Chancellor of the Exchequer Prime Minister, 1937-40 and Alderman and Lord Mayor of Birmingham): personal and political papers

The collection contains notebooks relating to his business activities in Elliotts Metal Company in Selly Oak, Birmingham, 1902-07 and papers relating to involvement in local Birmingham politics and activities (he was first chairman of Birmingham Corporation Savings Bank and Birmingham Municipal Bank) and as a Birmingham MP including election publicity material (Finding number: NC)

Dixon, George (1820-1898), MP, educational reformer and Birmingham businessman: letters from John Bright, Joseph Chamberlain and others between 1867 and 1889 on a range of political topics, as well as letters from Dixon written during a visit to New Zealand in 1888, describing farming life there (Finding No: <u>DIX</u>)

Eden, (Robert) Anthony, 1st Earl of Avon, MP for Warwick & Leamington 1923-57 (offices held included Foreign Secretary, 1936-38, 1940-45, 1951-55, Prime Minister, 1955-57): personal and political papers (Finding No: AP)

Schnadhorst, Francis (1840-1900) Liberal politician: correspondence and other private papers principally relating to his activities as secretary to the Birmingham Liberal Association, to the National Liberal Federation and to the Central Liberal Association, 1867-1901. His correspondents include John Bright, William Gladstone, Arthur Morley, John Morley, Henry Labouchere, Lord Rosebery, Joseph Chamberlain, William Harcourt, Campbell Bannerman, Cecil Rhodes and many other political figures (Finding No: MS170); scrap albums and illuminated addresses, 1886-1912 (Finding No: MS18)

Midland Union of Conservative Associations: letters covering the years 1888-1894, written mainly to A Clayton Barker, secretary of the Union. Correspondents include Stanley Baldwin, Neville Chamberlain and Joseph Chamberlain (Finding No: <u>MUCA</u>)



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West Midlands Liberal Federation: minute books, account books, lists of subscribers, press cuttings and campaign literature, 1894-1961 (Finding No: WMLF)

Business and trade records

The collections of business archives relating to the West Midlands are varied and include a number of particularly significant archives:

Benjamin Hadley Sanders of Bromsgrove, solicitors: day book, 1890-1894 (Finding No: MS13)

Blockley Silk Mill: financial and production records of the Westmacott family silk mill in Worcestershire, 1824-1838 (Finding No: MS84)

Cast Iron Hollow Ware Manufacturers' Association, Birmingham: minutes 1872-1926 (Finding No: MS53)

Chainmakers' and Strikers' Association: and associated and superseded chain trade associations, 1857-1977 (Finding No: MS57)

Birmingham silver and silver plated ware manufacturer: pattern book containing mounted hand drawn designs for Georgian and later silver and silver plated wares and aluminium articles including tea services, salvers, snuffer tray, desk stands, decanters cart, caddy spoons, early 20th cent (Finding No: MS59)

Mill Collection: personal and business papers of Charles Watson Mill (d 1933), dramatic author and proprietor and owner of the Theatre Royal, Royal Learnington Spa. It includes plays in typescript, part-books and letters and documents relating to family and business matters during Mill's tenure of the Theatre Royal, and covering the years 1910-34. (Finding No: MILL)

Cannock Chase Colliery Co Ltd: minutes and registers, 1959-1929 (Finding No: MS35)

Cannock Chase and Wolverhampton Railway: minutes, accounts, registers, and other records, 1852-1946 Finding No: MS36)

Chance Collection: records of the companies associated with the Chance family of Birmingham, Chance and Homer, William Chance and Son, and Chance Brothers and Co. including stock books of Chance and Homer, hardware factors, 1771-1880; ledger of William and George Chance, partners in the exporting firm later known as William Chance and Son, 1816-1824; private ledger of Sir James Timmins Chance, partner and manager of Chance Brothers and Co, glass manufacturers, 1838-1875; manuscript accounts of Robert Lucas Chance, partner and manager of Chance and Brothers, later known as Chance Brothers and Co, for 1831. (Finding No: MS67)



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Girls Expenditure Books: registers recording the name, age, address, occupation and wage of girls / women from the Selly Oak/Soho Hill area, 1903-1904 (Finding No: MS780)

Slade-Baker, solicitors of Bewdley: business correspondence 1785-1842 (Finding No: SB)

Smallwood, John & Daniel of Birmingham, rule-makers: wages books, 1884-1900 (Finding No: MS49)

Islington electro-plate works, Broad Street, Birmingham: Costing book giving details of products and prices with some sketches and drawings of products and business correspondence with related manufacturers, 1907-15 (Finding No: MS473)

John Hardman & Co of Birmingham, stained glass manufacturers: drawings, photographs and prints, 19th–20th century. (Finding No: MS785)



Survey of metal trades in the West Midlands: compilation from published sources, c 1950 (Finding No: MS816)

Records of institutions and organisations

Birmingham Black Oral History Project: listening cassettes and transcripts of interviews, of elderly black immigrants to Birmingham; with video and photographs of interviewees, 1990-1992 (Finding No: <u>DA6</u>)



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Birmingham Council of Christian Education (formerly Birmingham Sunday School Union): minutes, 1901-69, magazines, 1848-, handbooks and annual reports and other historical ephemera, 19th cent (Finding No: LCEC Birmingham and BCCE sections)

Birmingham Ear and Throat Infirmary (formerly Birmingham Institution for the Relief of Deafness): minutes, 1844-78 (Finding No: MS130)

British Medical Association, Birmingham and Midland Counties Branch: minutes of general and annual meetings 1854-1873, including printed material and correspondence: (Finding No: MS129); minutes of Pathological and Clinical Section, 1901-1947

English Association, Birmingham Branch: minutes 1913-1943 (Finding No: MS397)

HM Factory Inspectorate, Midlands Region: factory registers, 1896-1971 (Finding No: MS101). These give names, addresses, products, employment and lifespan of factories and workshops that employ power. Sequences arranged by district: Wolverhampton, Coventry, Birmingham North, Birmingham South, South Midlands, Staffordshire

Monumental Brass Society: rubbings of brasses in churches in the counties of Warwickshire, Worcestershire, Staffordshire, Shropshire, Gloucestershire and Herefordshire (Finding No: MBS)

Religious Study Circle of Birmingham: minutes, 1913-1960 (Finding No: MS792)

Sydenham College, Birmingham (established as a rival school to Queen's College, founded by William Sands Cox, a Birmingham surgeon, under the name of the Birmingham School of Medicine and Surgery in 1828) minutes, 1851-1866 (Finding No: MS128)

West Midland Group on Post-War Reconstruction and Planning: papers, 1921-1956 (Finding No: WMG)

YMCA: Records of the National Council include material relating to local associations and divisional unions, mainly printed materials (annual reports, handbooks etc, 1860s-present day). The archive also includes the records of Hereford YMCA, principally its minutes 1863-1980; and First World War emergency work photographs relating to the Midland Division (Finding No: YMCA)

Records of churches

Weoley Hill United Reformed Church, Birmingham: records, 1918-1998 (Finding No: DA48)



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Diaries

Anon: family journal of a farmer's wife living on the border of Warwickshire and Leicestershire, 1823-1827 (Finding No: MS632)

Anon: Diary of a stay in Leominster, 1859 (Finding No: MS162)

Anon: Diary of a Herefordshire farmer's wife, 1882 (Finding No: MS164)

Clarke, Leonard (fl. 1830-1831), of Birmingham: diary and literary log book, 1830-31 (Finding No: MS76)

Curzon, Jane (fl.1843-1870) of Great Malvern, lodging house keeper: journal, 1870 (Finding No: MS77)

Dixon, Joseph, mercer and haberdasher of Birmingham: journals and notebooks, c 1811-32 (Finding No: MS14)

Fletcher, William (b 1839) of Bridgnorth, Shropshire: personal diary, 1857-59 (Finding No: **MS5**)

Hutton, Catherine (1756-1846), daughter of William Hutton (1723-1815), historian of Birmingham: diary of her visits to Aston, Derbyshire, and to Nottingham, 1779 (Finding No: MS15)

Ormerod, George Wareing (1785-1873), geologist: recollections of his early life to 1829, then diary of his daily life in Harborne and elsewhere, 1829-1838 (Finding No: MS10)

Penn, William of Clifford Chambers, Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire: journal, 1829-1833 (Finding No: MS700)

Records relating to athletics

Birchfield Harriers: administrative records, newspaper cuttings and ephemera 1912-1992 (Finding No: ATH/Z/5/12)

Birmingham Charity Sports Committee: minutes 1903-1938 (Finding No: ATH/Z/5/14)

Coventry Godiva Harriers: miscellaneous records 1927-1992 (Finding No: ATH/Z/5/39)

Harborne Harriers: miscellaneous records [1960s] (Finding No: ATH/Z/5/67)

Midland Counties Amateur Athletic Association: minutes and other records 1900-1991 (Finding No: ATH/MCAAA)



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Midland Counties Cross-Country Association: minutes and other records 1898-1986 (Finding No: ATH/MCCCA)

Midland Counties Women's Amateur Athletic Association: administrative papers, programmes, results and fixture lists 1949-[1980s] (Finding No: ATH/MCWAAA)

Midland Masters Athletic Club: extensive sequence of club newsletters 1971-2015 (Finding No: <u>ATH/Z/5/97</u>)

Small Heath Harriers: records [c 1900]-1983 (Finding No: ATH/Z/5/137)

Antiquarian and artificial collections

Antiquities of Worcestershire: volume containing 38 drawings in sepia and watercolours of antiquities of Worcestershire, some with additional notes and signed by either W.H. Wood or S. Smith c 1830-40 (Finding No: MS277)

Collections relating to the Edstone Estate, Wootton Wawen, Warwickshire, 1830 (Finding No: MS593)

Mytton Collection: drawings, copies of manuscripts, pedigrees and other genealogical memoranda made by William Mytton, antiquary of Halston, Shropshire c1730, including much material on Shropshire churches (Finding No: MYT)

Shropshire Biography: volumes of press-cuttings, pamphlets, autograph letters, notes and other manuscript items concerning families connected with Shropshire, c1723-1874; compiled by Edward Edwards (Finding No: SHR)

Warwickshire, maps and surveys of farms and estates of W. A. Roberts in Packwood, Tanworth, Rowington and Hatton c 1808 (Finding No: MS650)

Small collections of deeds and other items relating to the West Midlands, including Finding No:MS40; MS253; MS489; MS627; MS653; HH)

Appendix: Published Resources

In addition to archive and manuscript material, the Cadbury Research Library holds printed material relating to Birmingham and the West Midlands. Items can be found via the Main Library catalogue FindIt.

As noted in the first paragraph of this Resource Guide, local authority archives and local studies libraries will hold a wider range of published material and researchers should investigate these holdings elsewhere for a comprehensive view of material.



Archival resources for the history of the West Midlands

The list below gives some examples at CRL which relate to Birmingham:

General histories

Antiquities of Warwickshire by William Dugdale, 1730, f DA 670.W3D9-1730 History of Birmingham to 1780 by William Hutton, 1781 (DA 690 B6H8)

A History of Birmingham, William Hutton (2nd edition, 1783), classmark: BVT DA690 B6H8; r DA690 B6H8

An appeal to the public on the subject of the riots in Birmingham by Joseph Priestley, 1791, DA690.B6

The London and Birmingham Railway Companion, 1838, HE 3020 L61

A Century of Birmingham Life 1741-1841 by John Langford, DA690 B6L3C4

The Birmingham Improvement Act, 1851, DA 690.B6

Staffordshire and Warwickshire Past and Present by John Langford, c 1875, q DA 670.S69.L3 Publications of the West Midland Group on Post-War Reconstruction and Planning, 1944-1948 (BVT)

Britain's first Municipal Savings Bank: the romance of a great achievement by J.P. Hilton (London, 1927), classmark BVT HG 1928.B6H55

The City of Birmingham Official Handbook 1928-1929, compiled by W.S. Body (Birmingham 1929) classmark: BVT p DA690 B6 C58

Allday's Dictionary of Birmingham: a complete guide for citizen and stranger with maps, street index and illustrations (Birmingham, Allday, 190?) classmark: r DA690 B6

Directories and gazetteers

Directories of Birmingham, 1815, 1823, 1835, 1847, 1852/3, 1861 (DA 690 B6) A Pictorial Guide to Birmingham by William Bates, 1849 (DA690.B6)

Maps

Birmingham before 1800 (facsimile maps of 1553, 1731, 1750, 1778, 1781, 1797; published 1968), Planfile (G5754.B5S4)

Picture Map of the City of Birmingham in 1730 imagined by B.Sleigh in 1924, f DA 690.B6 S54 Plans of Birmingham and Vicinity, 1884, (ff G 1859.B5)

City of Birmingham illustrated plan, 20th cent, Plan chest DA690 B6

Newspapers

Aris's Birmingham Gazette, 1821-1835, port AN 4.A7 Birmingham Advertiser, 1834-1837, port AN 4.B4 Birmingham Daily Post, 1861-1909 (7 issues only), (port AN 4.A1)