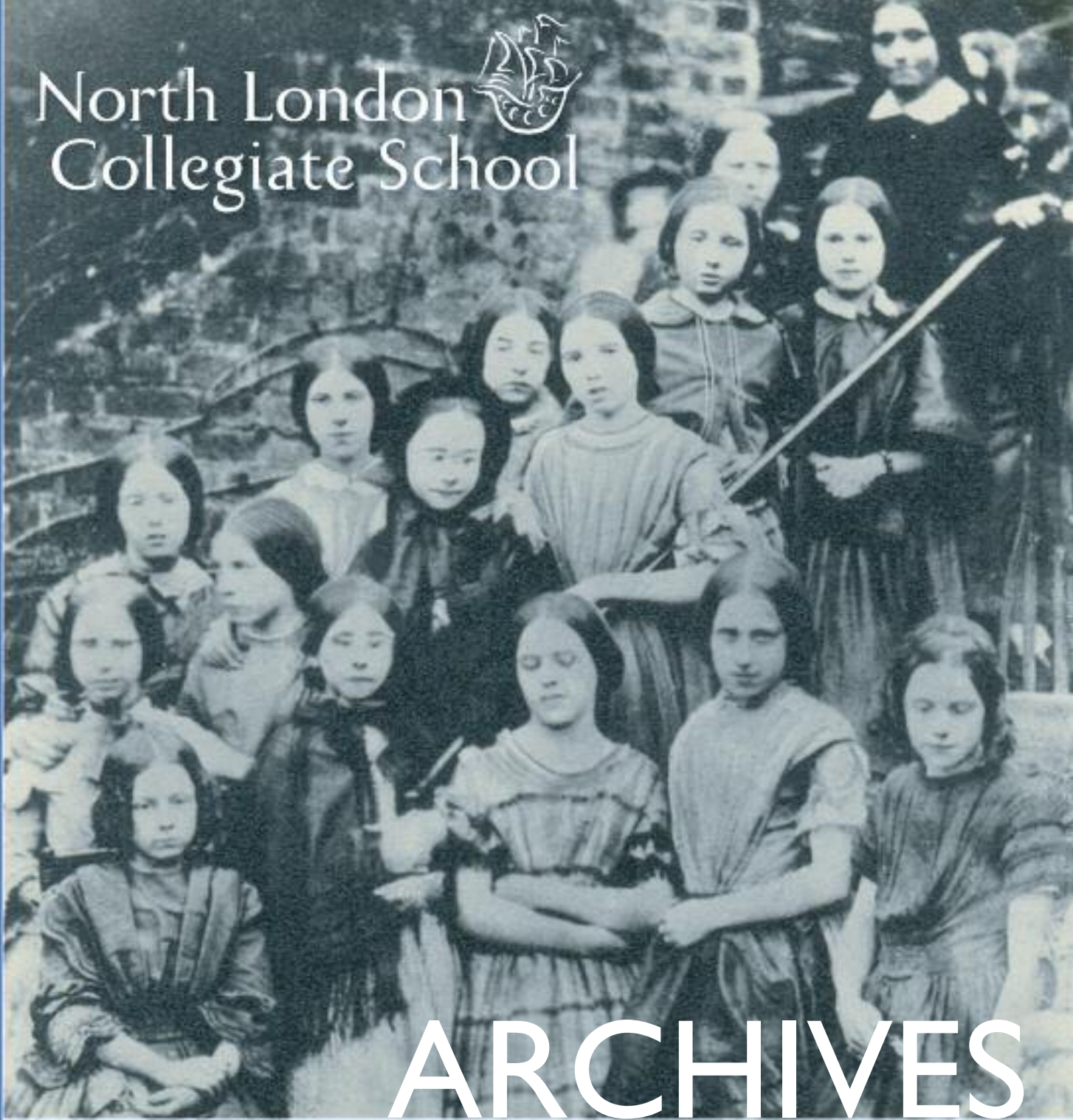


North London Collegiate School



ARCHIVES



North London Collegiate School buildings in Sandall Rd



Miss Buss and her Staff, 1890



The Science Vith taking weather observations for the Air Ministry, 1922



Girls on the 'Giant Stride' apparatus in the gymnasium, 1882



Painting of the School Crest by Septimus Buss



Junior School lesson, Sandall Road, 1933

Main image: Print of Canons at the time of William Hallett

History of North London Collegiate School

North London Collegiate School was founded in 1850 by Frances Mary Buss at 46 Camden Street, Camden Town. All the family assisted in the school including her brother Septimus and her father, R.W. Buss, who illustrated Dickens' novels and whose paintings now hang at Canons. Miss Buss was Headmistress for 44 years and was a notable figure in the struggle for the education of girls, also establishing Camden School for Girls in 1871, for those families unable to pay the higher fees of North London Collegiate.

The school, as it grew, moved to Camden Road and then to Sandall Road. Canons in Edware was bought in 1929, and the school moved there fully in 1939, with a new building designed by Sir Albert Richardson. Landmark dates from this and other significant eras are given in the centre pages.

History of Canons

Prior to the Norman conquest Canons was owned by the abbey of St. Albans and in 1086 by Roger de Rames. His descendants gradually gifted land to the Augustinian priory of St. Bartholomew Smithfield until, in the 13th Century, they were the main land owners in the area. Used from 1501, the name Canons, or Cannons as it was once spelt, derives from these Augustinian cannons. At the dissolution of the monasteries the manor passed into the hands of Sir Hugh Losse in 1544, then to his son Robert, who sold the estate to Sir Thomas Lake, James I's Chancellor of the Exchequer. He replaced Losse's manor house with a mansion on a grander scale. Lake's great-granddaughter, Mary Lake, inherited Cannons and brought it in a dowry on her marriage to James Brydges in 1697.

Brydges became MP for Hereford, rising to the rank of Paymaster General to the Forces, a post which he left in 1713 having accumulated a fortune. Mary died in 1712, and in 1713 Brydges married his first cousin, Cassandra Willoughby. They began to enlarge Canons, and in 1714 the couple and Brydges' two sons moved into the first completed part of their palatial new home.

In October 1714 Brydges inherited the earldom Caernarvon. He was created first Duke of Chandos in 1719 having appointed George Frederick Handel his composer in residence at Canons in 1717. Handel wrote both The Chandos Anthems and Concerti Grossi at Canons, and his opera Acis and Galatea was first performed in the gardens. He remained at Canons until 1720.

In that same year, when the building of the palace was completed, Chandos lost his fortune in the South Sea Bubble financial disaster. Cassandra died in 1735, and a year later Brydges married a wealthy widow, Lydia, Lady Davall. Chandos eventually died in 1744, and Lydia in 1750.

Canons was demolished in 1747 after the second Duke had sold off the great house to pay family debts, and the materials were auctioned for architectural salvage. The estate and remaining materials were bought by William Hallett, a cabinet-maker turned gentleman, who built a relatively modest country house in 1760.



Opening of the Frances Mary Buss House, 1927



Evacuation to Luton, 1939



James Brydges, first Duke of Chandos



Our Magazine, the school's magazine, 1894



An example of a pupil's art work



Cyclists leaving school, 1940s

Hallett died in 1781 and his grandson and heir sold the property in 1786 to 'Captain' Dennis O'Kelly, an Irish racehorse breeder, who made a fortune from putting the great race-horse, Eclipse, to stud.

After O'Kelly's death Sir Thomas Plumer, Master of the Rolls, bought the estate and in 1860 it was acquired by Dr David Begg. Around 1896, Sir Arthur du Cros, tyre magnate, purchased the mansion and gardens. He commissioned Charles Mallows to design his gardens, considered amongst the greatest of the Edwardian era. The rest of the estate was sold as building plots by the Canons Park Estate Company.

After the First World War, Du Cros put the house on the market and it was eventually bought by the North London Collegiate School in 1929 for £17,500.

The North London Collegiate School Archives

The Archive consists of records relating to the school's history from 1850 onwards. It includes many items regarding the Buss family, including Frances Mary, and on the development of the school, women's education and teacher training. Miss Buss was central to the establishment of the Association of Head Mistresses, and she and her successors were also important influences in establishing numerous schools, and in the wider world of education.

The Archive contains many books, letters, journals, photographs, admission records, prize lists, personal papers and reminiscences. There is information on all headmistresses and on eminent Old North Londoners, as well as administrative records such as governors' minutes.

There are many items of local history, too, including material on Canons from the 17th century onwards and on James Brydges, 1st Duke of Chandos. An important item in the collection is the letter book of Cassandra (née Willoughby), second wife of the Duke.

The richness of the collection is due in part to the generosity of Old North Londoners (ONLs), who have donated documents, artefacts and other materials.

The school community enjoys access to primary material from the 17th-20th centuries. It is used in lessons, in displays and for individual research by pupils, and is central to Founder's Day celebrations and other events. It is also often used by academics, authors, the media and family historians.

Access Arrangement

Access to the Archive is by appointment on weekdays in term time.



For an appointment or further information please contact the Head Librarian/Archivist (nlcslib@nlcs.org.uk).

For some digitised material see www.nlcsarchives.daisy.websds.net

TIMELINE

Landmark Dates in North London Collegiate School History

Miss Frances Mary Buss

(Headmistress 1850 – 1894)



- 1827** Birth of Frances Mary Buss
- 1845** Frances Mary Buss and her mother start a school in Kentish Town for boys and girls
- 1850** Foundation of North London Collegiate School in Camden St (4th April)
- 1863** First experimental public exams for girls
- 1867** Report of Schools Inquiry Commission, to which Frances Mary Buss gave evidence in 1865, recommending higher education for women
- 1869** Establishment by Emily Davies of Hitchin College, which becomes Girton College in 1872, moving to Cambridge in 1873
- 1870** Formation of Trust to change North London Collegiate School' status from a private school to a more financially secure public one
- 1870** North London Collegiate School moves from Camden St to Camden Rd, leaving old premises for establishment of lower school
- 1871** Camden School established in Camden St, 1st Head Miss Marion Elford
- 1873** Girls Public Day Schools Trust founded
- 1874** Founding of the Association of Head Mistresses, Frances Mary Buss first President

- 1874** Association of old pupils formed
- 1875** North London Collegiate School granted the status of an endowed public school by Queen Victoria, with funding supplied by private donors as well as such City Companies as the Clothworkers and Brewers
- 1876** First inspection of North London Collegiate School, by Philip Magnus, under auspices of London University
- 1878** Camden School moves to Prince of Wales Rd
- 1878** All London University degrees opened to women
- 1879** North London Collegiate School moves to new building in Sandall Rd, opened by the Princess of Wales
- 1884** Sophie Bryant the first woman to become a Doctor of Science
- 1894** Frances Mary Buss dies aged 67

Dr Sophie Bryant

(Head 1895 – 1918)



- 1900** 50th anniversary of North London Collegiate School, St Paul's Cathedral
- 1909** Bryant Wing of Sandall Rd opened
- 1909** Sophie Bryant closely involved with the planning and establishment of the Henrietta Barnett School

Miss Isabella Drummond

(Head 1918 – 1940)



- 1922** Sophie Bryant dies, lost on a mountaineering holiday in the Alps
- 1926** Cow shed in Bromley is purchased to commemorate 100 years since Frances Mary Buss' birth and is converted for social services / club premises for local people - Frances Mary Buss House
- 1926** Introduction of Direct Grant system
- 1927** Commemoration service at Southwark Cathedral to mark 100 years since Frances Mary Buss' birth



- 1927** FMB House opened
- 1927** Canons “discovered” by Miss Drummond
- 1929** Purchase of Canons, in Edgware, as a new home for the school

1930s North London Collegiate School pupils travel from Camden one day each week for sport and other activities

1939 Evacuation to Luton

1940 Whole school moves to Canons and Isabella Drummond retires

Miss Eileen Harold

(Head 1941 – 1944)

North London Collegiate School settles into Canons during the difficult days of World War II



Dr Kitty Anderson

(Head 1944 – 1965)

1945 North London Collegiate School becomes Direct Grant grammar school

1948-9 Ludwigsburg link established by Miss Caroline Senator

1950 Centenary of North London Collegiate School, St Paul's Cathedral

1952 Opening of the Parents' Centenary Gates

1955- Several new school

1965 buildings constructed and opened

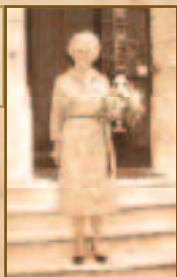


Miss Madeline McLauchlan

(Head 1965 – 1985)

1967 Decision taken to close FMB House, eventually leased to various organisations

1976 Direct Grant withdrawn, and North London Collegiate School becomes an independent school with charitable status



Mrs Joan Clanchy

(Head 1986 – 1997)

1987 Junior School opened

1988 First awards of GCSE examinations

1989 Beginning of the National Curriculum, following the Education Reform Act of 1988

1995 First School opened



Mrs Bernice McCabe

(Head 1997 -)

1998 End of the Assisted Places Scheme

1999 North London Collegiate School named Independent School of the Year by *The Sunday Times*

1999 McLauchlan Library opened

2000 North London Collegiate School celebrates sesquicentenary (150th anniversary) with a service at St Paul's Cathedral and a wide range of other events

2002 First Prince of Wales Education Summer School established

2004 Introduction of International Baccalaureate

2005 Visit from the HRH The Prince of Wales

2006 North London Collegiate School named Independent School of the Year by *The Sunday Times*

2007 Opening of the Performing Arts Centre (below)

2010 Founding of North London Collegiate School Jeju

2013 Additional teaching areas constructed

2015 Founding of North London Collegiate School Dubai



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Dame Elizabeth Cadbury



Stella Gibbons



Dame Evelyn Sharp



Dame Helen Gardner



Jessie Millward



Stevie Smith



Maisie Gay



Lilian Lindsay



Marie Stopes

Famous ONLs

Pupils of North London Collegiate School have distinguished themselves in many areas of life. The following is just a small selection of famous names:

Peggy Angus - artist, wallpaper & tile designer

Agnes Arber - botanist

Alice Beer - television presenter

Eleanor Bron - actress and writer

Sara Burstall - educationalist and head mistress

Tanya Byron - psychologist

Dame Elizabeth Cadbury - philanthropist

Clara Collet - one of the first female civil servants

Gillian Cross - author

Dame Helen Gardner - academic

Maisie Gay - actress

Stella Gibbons - author

Eleanor Graham - publisher

Frances Mary Hamer - chemist

Edith How-Martyn - feminist activist

Molly Hughes - author

Lilian Lindsay - dentist

Jessie Millward - actress

Susie Orbach - writer

Myfanwy Piper - art critic and librettist

Esther Rantzen - television presenter

Dame Evelyn Sharp - civil servant

Stevie Smith - poet

Marie Stopes - birth control pioneer

Netta Syrett - novelist

Grace Toplis - educationalist

Judith Weir - composer

Rachel Weisz - actress

Anna Wintour - journalist/editor

Mary Hay Wood - educationalist

Main image: A class using archive material



North London Collegiate School

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