**A new home for the National Brewing Library**

**Article accepted for Brewer & Distiller International Sept 2016**

Earlier this year the National Brewing Library was successfully moved at Oxford Brookes University from the Buckley Building to the new multi-award winning John Henry Brookes Building (JHBB).  Speaking at the opening event (21/01/16) Vice Chancellor Alistair Fitt highlighted the importance of key special collections such as the National Brewing Library to researchers and students at Brookes and beyond in many fields of study. Food and drink is one of the major themes for the special collections at Brookes with catering, cookery and gastronomic literature found in the John Fuller Collection, Jane Grigson Collection and the Ken Hom library. The Michael Jackson (“The Beer Hunter”) collection, which is also held at Brookes in the JHBB alongside the NBL, is also often also of particular interest to visitors to the National Brewing Library, with its archive of over two hundred books on beer and whisky plus material including notebooks and cuttings. The National Brewing Library is particularly rich in material concerning the manufacture, technology and product aspects of the brewing industry. Researchers interested in both historical and current aspects of beer, spirits, maltings, breweries, pubs, cooperage, transport, bottle labels and inn signs find a visit to the National Brewing Library and parallel collections of interest. The collection continues to grow, filling gaps and including newly published materials, through donations and purchases.

Photo:

**A brief history and scope of the collection**

            The National Brewing Library is an amalgamation of a number of key UK collections. These include the libraries of: The Institute of Brewing, The International Brewer’s’ Guild, The Brewers and Licensed Retailers Association, and the libraries of a number of defunct UK brewing companies. Ongoing donations and acquisitions ensure the National Brewing Library is the largest UK brewing library with the widest subject base. The scope of the collection is much wider than its name would suggest, covering not just beer and brewing, but all alcoholic drinks, ancillary trades and pubs. It also contains a substantial amount of temperance literature. The Library is jointly managed by the Institute of Brewing and Distilling and the Oxford Brookes Learning Resources Directorate. More than 6500 items including runs of over 200 beer and brewing journals (28 current) and a small amount of audio visual material are held (films, CDs) providing a unique English language collection. Approximately a quarter of the items do not appear in the catalogues of the British library or any other major collections. Most of the major scarce historic brewing texts are included in the collection including numerous editions of William Ellis’s “London and Country Brewer” first published in 1735, through to late Victorian classic major works such as Alfred Barnard’s “Noted Breweries of Great Britain and Ireland” and “The Whisky Distilleries of the United Kingdom”.   Key journals which often contain many period advertisements and illustrations, include the “Country Brewers’ Gazette” (1877-1904) and the “Brewers’ Journal” (1865-1967). The National Brewing Library catalogue, contact and access details are available on line at:

<https://www.brookes.ac.uk/library/special-collections/food-and-drink/the-national-brewing-library/>

*Robert Curry/ Ray Anderson September 2016*