

P/ARB	<p>Fonds</p> <p>Title: <i>Papers of Mr Gary Arber [W.F.Arber and Company]</i></p> <p>Extent: 1 folder</p> <p>Description: Family history papers</p> <p>Admin History: Mr Gary Arber is the proprietor of W.F. Arber & Co. Ltd, a manufacturing and commercial stationers business based at 459 Roman Road, London E.3. To date he has run this business for 58 years.</p> <p>The business W.F. Arber & Co. was founded in 1897 by Mr Arber's grandfather, Walter Francis Arber, in the newly built shop at (what was then) 159 Roman Road. Originally Mr W. F. Arber made and sold paper bags but due to demand the business diversified into printing bags and subsequently, general printing. The business later extended into book binding and manufacturing stationery. The shop, which was run by Emily Arber (Mr W.F. Arber's wife and Gary Arber's grandmother), sold stationery and toys. Emily, an active suffragette and friend of the Pankhursts, arranged for Arber & Co. to actively assist the movement by undertaking a lot of the suffrage printing.</p> <p>It was a family business and the majority of W. F. Arber's children worked for the company, including Leonard Arber, Gary Arber's father. Gradually the family members who ran the business reduced in number and when, in 1954, Leonard Arber died, it was necessary for Gary Arber to buy himself out of his career in the R.A.F. and take over the running of the company. In the 1960s Gary's aunt Emily Ives ran the shop but it was necessary for her to leave the business for personal reasons and Gary's wife, Ruby Arber, was required to step in as her replacement at this point.</p> <p>Mr Gary Arber charts the decline of the family business from this period and considers this to be a result of factors such as, the demolition of old houses and factories in the area in the 1960s, which in turn reduced the amount of trade for Arber & Co. Subsequently, in the 1970s, the British toy trade ran into decline and Arber & Co. closed its toy shop. At this point the staff reduced to a single person - Gary Arber. In 2012 the business is struggling to survive in the current economic environment with trade for such businesses as Arber & Co. in decline but business rates in the area rapidly increasing. Mr Arber no longer sees a future in the area for W.F. Arber & Co., and consequently in due course</p>	1914-2012
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	<p>he is planning to sell the premises and close the family business.</p> <p>This basic summary about W.F. Arber & Co. Ltd was informed by information supplied by Mr Gary Arber in his family history account, dated October 2012, which forms part of this collection (P/ARB/1/1). Please consult this document for a much fuller description of the key events in Mr Arber's family and business history and to read the fascinating anecdotes throughout.</p> <p>Related Material: Material within Tower Hamlets Local History Library collections under the subject areas of: Commerce (ref: 650); Printers (ref: 651.4) and in the London Trade Directories. Interview with Mr Arber by Helena Ben-Zenou (ref: LC585, subject: 651.4 BEN). Photographs of Mr Arber in his shop premises in 2012 (refs: P33768-P33771).</p> <p>Request: NO - This does not represent a physical document. Please click on the reference number and view list of records to find material available to order at file or item level.</p>	
P/ARB/1	<p>Series</p> <p>Title: <i>Family History records</i></p> <p>Extent: 1 folder</p> <p>Description: Folder containing 18 laminated pages, mainly copies of records, compiled and collected together by Mr Gary Arber. These materials relate to Mr Arber's family history and the family business, W. F. Arber & Co., in Roman Road, Bow, E3. The copies of photographs, press cuttings and cheques have explanatory labels/descriptors on them which provide useful context to the material.</p> <p>Request: NO - This does not represent a physical document. Please click on the reference number and view list of records to find material available to order at file or item level.</p>	1914-2012
P/ARB/1/1	<p>file</p> <p>Title: <i>Family history material</i></p> <p>Extent: 1 folder</p>	1914-2012

	<p>Description: Contents:</p> <p>Three page laminated personal history (including a history of the family business, printing company W. F. Arber & Co.) written by Mr Gary Arber in October 2012.</p> <p>Four laminated A4 size colour photographs of printing machinery, equipment and storage facilities used by Mr Arber and family members in the printing business. 2012.</p> <p>Two laminated copies of A4 size photographs (one black and white, one in colour) of views from the rear window of the W. F. Arber & Co. business premises at 459 Roman Road. 1927 and 2012.</p> <p>Two laminated A4 size black and white family wedding photographs: a wedding photograph of Albert Arber in 1939 and a photograph of W.F. Arber Senior at his daughter's wedding in the 1920s (the latter was taken in the garden at the rear of the shop premises).</p> <p>One laminated press cutting from the East London Advertiser regarding a plaque in memory of Albert Arber, commemorating his work as a fireman during the Second World War.</p> <p>One laminated page containing two Barclays Bank cheques signed by W. F. Arber and dated May and August 1928.</p> <p>Two laminated pages about Canvey Island: general visitor information and price lists for Admiral Fellicoe Hotel, Canvey Island.</p> <p>One laminated page of information which, according to Mr Arber, was included on the reverse of a 1914 map. The information is a listing which would originally have come from a London Trade Directory, it includes the following entry for 159 Roman Road: 'Arber Walter Francis & Co. paper bag makers'. The shop was at 159 Roman Road when it was originally built in 1897 but was renumbered to 459 in the 1940s when the then Green Street was absorbed into Roman Road.</p> <p>Two laminated pages of text (pages 286-287) from the publication 'The East End then and now' by Winston G. Ramsey (1997). These pages contain information relating to Arber & Co. and its role as the printer who produced much of the suffragettes' literature.</p> <p>Request: YES - You can order this material to consult in our</p>	
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