

Institute of Education Archives Subject Guide No. 12

Teacher Training



History of teacher training in the UK

The first government qualifications were linked to the Pupil-Teacher Scheme which began in 1846. Previous to this there was no systematic training, and qualifications were not required, although some denominational colleges existed. Pupil-teachers completed a five-year apprenticeship in teaching and learning within a school context, and were then allowed to sit the annual Queen's Scholarships examination, which qualified the scholarship holders for places in recognised teacher training colleges. At

this time a pupil-teacher who did not take the Queen's Scholarship examination could still teach in a grant aided elementary school as an 'Uncertificated Teacher' (or 'Assistant Teacher'). The Queen's Scholarships were abolished in 1863 as a result of the Revised Code.

The College of Preceptors was founded in 1846, as the Society of Teachers, by a group of private schoolmasters from Brighton. Three years later it was incorporated by Royal Charter as the College of Preceptors. The College pioneered a system for the formal examination and qualification of secondary school teachers (mainly in private schools) and many teachers have acquired the qualifications of the College: ACP (Associate); LCP (Licentiate); and FCP (Fellow). The college still exists and its name was changed to the College of Teachers by Supplemental Charter in 1998.

The Elementary Education Act of 1870 transformed teacher training. The Act meant that many more teachers were needed, yet the local School Boards did not have powers to train them. The Committee of Council restored the title 'Queen's Scholars' and allowed colleges to pass out students after one year's training. It gave HMI (Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Education) powers to recommend, without examination, serving teachers for the Certificate and it lowered the pass standard for the Certificate. Between 1870 and 1880 the number of certificated teachers rose from 12,467 to 32,128 and the number of pupil-teachers more than doubled. The fastest growth was of 'Assistant teachers' – ex-pupil-teachers who did not have the Certificate.

Universities became involved in teacher training from 1890 when 'day training colleges' began to be established as recommended by the Royal Commission on the Working of the Elementary Education Act. The Colleges were not to admit more than 200 students, their curricula had to be approved by the Education Department, and they would be inspected by HMI. Most importantly, students could, if they wished, take an undergraduate course instead of Part II of the Department's course.

In 1902 the training of teachers became established as a form of higher education, enabling the new local education authorities (LEAs) to make secondary schools available for the training of pupil

teachers. It was simultaneously recognised that intending teachers should receive a complete course of education in secondary schools. The pupil-teacher system was, therefore, supplemented in 1907 and gradually replaced by the bursar system, under which an intending teacher attended school until 17 or 18 and then either proceeded to a training college or became a student teacher at a public elementary school. Many pupil-teacher centres became secondary schools. By the early twentieth century there were two forms of teacher training institutions working parallel: the teacher training colleges resulting in the Teachers' Certificate and the emerging University Training Departments (UTDs) which provided training for university graduates.

The Fleming Committee was set up in 1943 to consider how to meet the urgent need for teachers in the post war period. A scheme drawn up by the committee was piloted at Goldsmiths' College in September 1944 and the first emergency training college opened in 1945. By December 1947 55 colleges were in operation, administered by local Councils. The scheme ran until 1951 and during this time 35 000 teachers were trained through the emergency scheme.

The McNair Report 1944 addressed the long-term post-war requirements for the supply, recruitment, and training of teachers. Under its recommendations Area Training Organisations (ATOs) were formed to develop closer links between universities and teacher training colleges, leading to the establishment of Institutes (or Schools) of Education at various universities. This increased cooperation between the various training agencies and resulted in the formation of Joint Examination Boards (JEBs). The JEBs consisted of representatives from a combination of universities, training colleges and LEAs, and, with HMIs in attendance, devised and conducted the Final Examination for students in academic subjects. A McNair Report recommendation that the course be lengthened to three years was finally implemented in 1960. This scheme ran until the 1980s when the ATOs were disbanded and teachers increasingly studied for the one year Postgraduate Certificate in Education (PGCE), although a BEd degree was also available. At this point many colleges were absorbed into polytechnics and colleges of higher education.

Where to find records about teachers

As there was no systematic teacher training until the nineteenth century, the training of teachers can be a difficult subject to research.

Things to consider:

- If you are searching for someone who trained under the pupil-teacher scheme you will need to know the name of the school they worked in
- If you are searching for someone who trained more recently you will need to know the name of the college they trained at
- Unlike some other professions, there is no one register for teachers.

If you know the name of a particular college you are researching you should contact the local Record Office or University to which the College was attached and they will be able to provide you with further information. Full details of archive services nationwide can be found on the National Archives website at: www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/archon. If the college was in London you can also check the AIM25 (<http://www.aim25.ac.uk/>) website.

The original registration records of the **Teacher's Registration Council** are searchable online on a subscription basis at British Origins (<http://www.origins.net>). Although registration began in 1914, and

was not compulsory, people who were already teaching registered, so the records cover teachers who started their careers from the 1870s onwards. The registers contain nearly 100 000 names; and entries provide the date of registration, professional address, teacher training qualifications and experience.

The **British and Foreign School Society** (<http://www.bfss.org.uk/>) was founded in 1808 as the Society for Promoting the Lancastrian System for the Education of the Poor to support free schools and teacher training. The archive, located at Brunel University, is fully catalogued and records date from the Society's establishment. The collection includes the papers of the teacher training colleges associated with the BFSS, including Borough Road College, founded in 1798 and Stockwell College.

The Church of England Record Centre

(<http://www.cofe.anglican.org/about/librariesandarchives/recordscentre/index.html>) has the records of the National Society for Promoting Religious Education which was established in 1811 to provide education to pupils, in addition to training teachers for working in their schools. The collection includes papers relating to the work of the central Society and the majority of their schools, including indexes of school teachers (1812-1855).

There are also a number of web pages on the history of teacher training:

History of teacher training in Bedford

<http://www.beds.ac.uk/departments/primary/history>

A history of teacher training at the University of Cambridge

<http://www.educ.cam.ac.uk/about/timeline/>

A history of teacher training at the University of Edinburgh

<http://www.education.ed.ac.uk/aboutus/morayhouse/history/index.html>

Also, **The National Archives** have a very comprehensive subject guide on teachers:

<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/records/research-guides/teachers.htm>

Related collections at the IOE

[Architects' and Buildings Branch \(DC/ABB\)](#)

The Architects and Building Branch was formed in 1949 by the merger of the Architects Branch and the Buildings and Priority Branch of the then Ministry of Education. This photographic collection contains a number of examples of accommodation in teacher training colleges.

[Papers of Gene Adams \(DC/GA\)](#)

Adams was the Museum Education Adviser for the Inner London Education Authority (ILEA) from the 1960s. Her papers, [1966-1996], relate to her work and the use of museums by teachers, including papers relating to the training of teachers in museum based teaching.

[College of Preceptors, later College of Teachers \(DC/COP\)](#)

Established in 1846 as the Society of Teachers the organisation pioneered the system of the examination and qualification of teachers in secondary education (mainly in private schools) and many teachers have acquired the qualifications of the College: ACP (Associate); LCP (Licentiate); and FCP (Fellow). The collection includes membership records; subscription registers; diploma examination registers (1881-1962); photographs; pupil register (1866-1875); Calendars (1880-1925) and the journal 'Educational Times' (1847-1923) containing lists of Councillors and Officers, pupil prize winners and individuals' examination results.

Records of the Institute of Education (IE)

The Institute was founded as the London Day Training College in 1902 by the London County Council and University of London. In 1932 it became the Institute of Education when it was transferred wholly to the University of London. Of particular interest may be the papers relating to the ATO (**IE/ATO**); papers relating to the Joint Professional Committee (**IE/JPR**), a committee established in 1977 to advise on the professional aspects of courses; papers relating to the London Day Training College Local committee and Council (**IE/TCC**); papers on the University of London Training College's Delegacy (**IE/TCD**); and the limited amount of student records the Institute collection includes (**IE/STU**). The Institute collection also includes the Records of the Islington Day Training College (**IE/ISL**).

Girls' Day School Trust (DC/GDS)

The Girls' Day School Trust was created in 1872 to advance the education of women, opening independent academic high schools for girls throughout England and Wales. The collection includes papers on the training of teachers in Trust schools. The records of current GDST schools are maintained by the individual schools.

DC/GTC Records of the GTC (England and Wales) and the GTC (England and Wales) Trust

The GTC (England and Wales) was the culmination of a series of initiatives intended to push for the creation of an English General Teaching Council (1970-2000).

Records of the National Union of Women Teachers (DC/NUWT)

The NUWT was a teachers' union whose main aim was to achieve equal pay for women teachers but was also interested in various subjects related to education. Their records, 1904-1961, include a number of publications relating to teacher training.

Special Collections

There is some material in the library's special collections relating to teacher training. For further information please ask the Archivist.

Further reading

Berry, M. (1973) *Teacher Training institutions in England and Wales: a bibliographical guide to their history*. London: Society for Research into Higher Education

Dent, H C. (1977) *The training of teachers in England and Wales, 1800-1975*. London: Hodder and Staughton

Cunningham, P and Gardner, P (2004) *Becoming teachers: texts and testimonies, 1907-1950*. London: Woburn Press.

Cruickshank, M. (1970) *A history of the training of teachers in Scotland*. London: University of London Press

Edwards, E. (2001) *Women and teacher training colleges, 1900-1960: a culture of femininity*. London:

Routledge

Henke, D. *Colleges in crisis: the reorganisation of teacher training, 1971-7* (1978). Harmondsworth: Penguin

Ogren, G (1953) *Trends in English teachers' training from 1800*. Stockholm: Esselte Aktiebolag

Rich, R W. (1933) *The training of teachers in England and Wales during the nineteenth century*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press

Warren, W J. and Cantu, D A (editors). (2008) *History education 101: the past, present, and future of teacher preparation*. Charlotte NC: Information Age

This guide is also available in large print format. Please contact the Archives for assistance.