



## The Common Room Library and Archives

### Environmental humanities resources

The Library collection is obviously mostly concerned with mining and engineering so has a restricted view of environmental matters. There is much on accidents and safety and rather less on health, pollution, sanitation, etc.

Online access to archives and other digitised material will shortly be made available on The Common Room website at <https://thecommonroom.org.uk/collections/>. Historically, different collections and materials have been listed separately in a variety of formats so work is ongoing to bring all listings and digitised images together in one freely available portal.

#### **LIBRARY CATALOGUE**

The catalogue lists books, reports, pamphlets and some journal articles. It is a starting point but does not cover everything held at The Common Room.

#### **BOOKS**

Some books deal directly with environmental matters, but in many books only parts would be relevant. These are examples.

##### History of mining

Ashworth, W. & Pegg, M. *The history of the British coal industry. Vol. 5: 1946-1982: the nationalized industry.* 1986. Includes accidents, housing, health.

Benson, J. *British coalminers in the nineteenth century.* 1980 Includes housing, sanitation

Bryan, A.M. *The evolution of health and safety in mines.* 1975

Emery, N. *The coalminers of Durham.* 2nd ed. 2009 Includes housing and sanitation

Flinn, M.W. & Stoker, D. *The history of the British coal industry Vol. 2: 1700-1830: the Industrial Revolution.* 1984 Includes health, accidents, housing

Mining Association of Great Britain *Historical review of coal mining.* 1924 Has chapters on legislation, explosions and health and safety.

Pollard, M. *The hardest work under heaven: the life and death of the British coal miner.* 1984

Supple, B. *The history of the British coal industry. Vol. 4: 1913-1946: the political economy of decline.* 1987. Includes housing, sanitation, health.

[Volumes 1 and 3 of *The history of the British coal industry* are not in stock – available in Newcastle University Library.]

##### Contemporary books

Bulman, H. F. *Coal mining and the coal miner.* 1920 Includes diseases, housing

Gillanders, Peter *The polluted Tyne.* 1974

Glaister, J & Logan, D.D. *Gas poisoning in mining and other industries.* 1914

Oliver, T. *Dangerous trades: the historical, social, and legal aspects of industrial occupations as affecting health, by a number of experts.* 1902

Oliver, T. *Diseases of occupation : from legislative, social and medical points of view.* 1908

Stuart, D.M.D. *Origin and rationale of colliery explosions.* 1895.

Watkins, H.M. *Coal and men: an economic and social study of the British and American coalfields.* 1934 Includes housing.

##### Environment and mining

Hester, R.E. & Harrison, R.M. (eds) *Mining and its environmental impact.* Royal Society of Chemistry, 1994

Institution of Mining and Metallurgy *Minerals and the environment: proceedings of an international symposium*. 1974.  
Institution of Mining and Metallurgy *The legacy of mineral extraction: conference papers*. 2000  
Rainbow, A.K.M. (ed) *Reclamation, treatment and utilization of coal mining wastes*. 2nd conference 1987; 3rd conference 1990.  
Say, P. J. and Whitton, B.A., *Heavy metals in Northern England: Environmental and biological aspects*. 1981.

## JOURNAL TRANSACTIONS

These are the proceedings and transactions of professional institutions. They have the text and the - often extensive - discussion of papers presented to meetings of the particular institution, as well as news and details of their activities.

There are name and subject indexes covering various periods for some of these. Environmental content is limited, other than that concerning accidents and safety.

### Mining

#### Local

*North of England Institute of Mining and Mechanical Engineers, Transactions*. 1852-1920.  
<https://mininginstitute.org.uk/transactions/transactions-1852/>

#### National

*Federated Institution of Mining Engineers, Transactions*. 1889-1898 (Formed from regional mining societies and including their proceedings.)  
*Institution of Mining Engineers, Transactions*. 1899-1960. The renamed Federated Institution.  
*Mining engineer* 1960-1994 Successor to the Transactions  
*National Association of Colliery Managers – Minutes of Proceedings* 1889-1967

#### Other regional

*Chesterfield and Derbyshire Institute of Mining, Civil and Mechanical Engineers, Transactions* 1871-1889  
*Manchester Geological Society, Transactions* 1841 - 1914  
*Mining Institute of Scotland, Transactions*. 1880/81 – 1922-23; 1927-28 – 1928-29  
*North Staffordshire Institute of Mining and Mechanical Engineers. Transactions*. 1878-79 – 1899  
*South Wales Institute of Engineers, Transactions*. 1857-59 – 1981

### Other engineering institutions

*Institution of Civil Engineers, Proceedings*. 1837-1935.  
*Institution of Mechanical Engineers, Proceedings*. 1847-1971.

## JOURNALS AND SERIALS

Titles which may be of interest include:

Health and Safety Reports: Industrial Air Pollution, Research, and Manufacturing and Services Reports.  
Industrial Air Pollution: 1975, 1979-1981; Research: 1975-1982, 1989-90; Manufacturing and Service Industries 1975, 1977-1984. (LP10 Bay1)

Smokeless Air: Journal of the National Society for Clean Air / The Smoke Abatement Journal. Vol 13 No 53 - vol 19 no 68; vol 19 no 70; vol 21 No 75- Vol 40 No 156. (1943-1970) (LP10 Bay5)

Coke and Gas (Incorporating Coal Carbonisation and Coke and smokeless fuel age). Vol 9, vol 10 unbound pts feb-jun, aug, sept oct; vol 11 unbound pts Jan-Nov; vol 12 bound ; vol 13 unbound , vols 14 – 24. (1947 – 1962) (LP5 Bay3)

## WEEKLY JOURNALS/NEWSPAPERS

These contain news, meeting reports, government activity, letters, illustrations.  
*Colliery guardian*. 1858-1988.

*Mining journal*. 1835-1985.

The *Colliery Guardian* is being digitised by the Library and will be available on The Common Room website.

## GOVERNMENT COMMITTEES

Provide a detailed examination of problems, with evidence from people such as owners, managers, engineers, miners. There is much on contemporary practice. They may have subject indexes to the evidence.

Some examples:

1843 *Report of the South Shields Committee appointed to investigate the causes of accidents in coal mines : containing an examination of safety lamps; ventilation; scientific instruments; infant labour in the mines; plans and sections; scientific education of officers of mines; government inspection; and medical treatment after explosion. With plans and appendix.* (Tracts **216**, 5- 107)

1849 *Report from the Select Committee of the House of Lords appointed to inquire into the best means of preventing the occurrence of dangerous accidents in coal mines*

1864 *Report of the commissioners appointed to inquire into the condition of all mines in Great Britain to which the provisions of the Act 23 & 24 Vict. Cap. 151 [Mines Act 1860] do not apply, with reference to the health and safety of persons employed in such mines; with appendices.* Mines other than coal.

1908 *Cost of living of the working classes.* Report of an enquiry by the Board of trade into working class rents, housing and retail prices, together with the standard rates of wages prevailing in certain occupations in the principal industrial towns of the United Kingdom.

1918-19 *Royal Commission on the coal industry* [Sankey Commission], 3 vols. (Cmd. 359-361)

1938 *Royal Commission on safety in coal mines.* Cmd 5890

See the Library resource guide *Government and Mining: Legislation, Inspection, Enquiries* for a fuller list of reports.

## LEGISLATION

Legislation - often following from the activities of government committees - was enacted to deal with safety, health and working conditions as well as education, inspection, financial matters and so on.

Outlines of the development of legislation are in

Bryan, A.M. *The evolution of health and safety in mines.* 1975

Mining Association of Great Britain *Historical review of coal mining.* 1924, 301-320

Sinclair, J. *Coal mining law.* 1958, 79-97

Contemporary law textbooks show the law as it was at particular times. For example:

Bainbridge, W. *Law of mines and minerals.* 2nd ed 1856, 3rd ed 1867, 4th ed 1878, 5th ed 1900

Home Office *The law relating to mines under the Coal Mines Act 1911.* 1914

A list of mining related Acts of Parliament, with brief notes, is in the Library publication *Government and Mining: Legislation, Inspection, Enquiries: a resource list*

## MINES INSPECTORS REPORTS

The Mines Inspectorate was formed in 1850.

Inspectors were mining experts with the power to inspect mines above and below ground for all matters related to safety and for compliance with appropriate legislation. They had to be notified of all fatal accidents and would gather various statistics. Inspection could be following an accident, on invitation or following a complaint. As the number of inspectors increased over the years routine, unplanned inspections began and became the dominant part of their work. Each inspector was responsible for a geographical region of Britain - and for some years Ireland too. These regions changed over time.

Their annual reports, especially in the 19th Century, provide detailed and important descriptive and statistical information on accidents and working practice.

Changes over the years in the organisation and content of the reports is discussed in some detail in the Library publication *Mines Inspectors reports: a guide*

## ARCHIVES

The archives collection contains documents collected by, or relating to the work of, various mining engineers from the late 17th century until recent years, together with records from a small number of companies. Document types include surveys, reports, minute books, plans, newspaper cuttings, personal journals, deeds, letters.

Details of the various parts of the collection are at <https://mininginstitute.org.uk/collections/archives/>

There are some items of environmental relevance.

Examples include:

NEIMME/Wat/3/68

Correspondence of John Watson mainly re Mostyn Colliery including personal letters from John Maughan re the death of Sir Thomas Mostyn, the provisions of his will and the political implications of his death, 8 May 1831, the illness of John Watson's children, 3 Nov 1831 reference by John Watson to the cholera epidemic in Newcastle 16 Jan 1832, Nov 1830 - 22 Feb 1832

Reference: NEIMME/Wat/1/27/10

Creation dates: nd [c.1832]

Physical characteristics: 22 x 28cm

Broadsheet entitled Table of Advice. How to Guard Against the Cholera. extracted from Dr White's pamphlet

Reference: NEIMME/Wks/1/1b

Creation dates: April 1882

Prescription for a cure for choleraic diarrhoea and cholera, received from Miss J.D. James

NEIMME/WA/52/5

1932 1947

Ouston Royalty Housing correspondence, plans. 1 file. Refs to housing, sewage.

NEIMME/Wks/34/25/1-3

Creation Date: 18 October 1892 and 20 October 1892

Scope and Content: from William Hornsby (clerk Cramlington Local Board) to J.G. Weeks. Regarding East Northumberland Water Supply. Includes population of the urban districts and parts of rural sanitary districts in East Northumberland. (Figures extracted from the census returns of 1891).

NEIMME/Wks/34/35/1-23.

Collection of correspondence between J.G. Weeks, R.W. Cooper (Cooper & Goodger), Joseph Elliot Builder & Contractor, C.D. Forster & Co., Robert J. Aynsley & Thos. Kershaw, E.B. Sharpley (County borough of Tynemouth). Regarding Newcastle & Gateshead Water Bill.

Creation Date: 10 February 1904 to 30 August 1905

Reference: NEIMME/ZB/12/279

Creation dates: 14 30 Aug 1876

2 Letters from W.W. Procter, Laboratory and Assay office, to S.B. Coxon re analysis of drinking water Samples

Reference: NEIMME/ZB/12/331

Creation dates: 14 June 1877

Scope and Content

Letter from D. Balfour to Sir George Elliot re the supply of water to Penshaw Township including estimates of costs and analysis of water samples

## PHOTOGRAPHS

The Library holds photographic material both as prints and negatives. Collections which may be of interest include:

Coal News: 1950-1970s images taken by NCB photographers showing wide range of subjects.

Stobswood: images from the open cast

Dawdon beach: conveyors, waste heaps

Ian Day Collection: includes pit ponies

## **TRACTS**

The Common Room Tracts Collection comprises nearly 300 volumes of miscellaneous, mainly printed, items on mining and related subjects covering a wide period but mainly from the 19th century.

They comprise: pamphlets, books, articles, professional society papers, newspaper cuttings, manufacturers catalogues, price lists, patent applications, accident and inspection reports, government enquiry reports and other publications, local Acts, national legislation, case law, letters, maps, plans, diagrams, and even cartoons.

Topics concern mainly coal and metalliferous mines & mining - including safety, health, ventilation - and other areas of engineering including pollution, water supply and fire. Some volumes are themed, others are completely mixed. Volumes which particularly focus on health/disease are 139 and 207.

Some examples:

NEIMME/Tracts 139/p1 National Disease. Remarks upon the prevailing Epidemic of Small Pox, its causes and prevention, with notes on Public Health, Eruptive Disease, &c. (Amongst Mankind and the Animal World). 1871

NEIMME/Tracts 139/p95 Is Vaccination Injurious? A popular Essay on the principles and practices of practices of Vaccination / Henry Alleyne Nicholson. 1869

NEIMME/Tracts 139/p135. On the diseases of Miners. Being a paper read at The sixteenth Ordinary Meeting of The Society of Arts, April 4, 1855 / Herbert Backworth

NEIMME/Tracts 139/p155 The effects of High Atmospheric Pressure, including The Casson Disease / Andrew H. Smith. 1873

NEIMME/Tracts 139/p207 On the Geological distribution of Endemic Goitre in England / G.A. Lebour

NEIMME/Tracts 140/p184a. The use of Rubrite in Mines. Report of a Committee of Experts on an investigation made in Lancashire into the effects of the Fumes on Health. (reprinted from the "Wigan Observer" / Harold B. Dixon, Chas. J. Mouncey, Nathan Hannah

NEIMME/Tracts 141/p199 Experiments with Exhaust Ventilators at the Health Exhibition, London, 1884. A Protest.

NEIMME/Tracts 207/p1 County Council of Durham. Report of the Medical Officer of Health on, Ankylostomiasis (Miners Worm) T. Eustace Hill.

NEIMME/Tracts 61/p151 Observations on Gas-Lights: being an impartial inquiry concerning the injurious effects on the health of the community, from the use of Coal-Gas for lighting The Metropolis / Candidus. 1817

NEIMME/Tracts 85/p138 Ankylostomiasis (Miners Worm). Northumberland County report of The Medical Officer of Health. 06/04/1904

NEIMME/Tracts 85/p141 Mining Association of Great Britain. Ankylostomiasis / A.E. Boycott, J.S. Haldane. 1904

NEIMME/Tracts 127/p101. Letter on The Public Health of Newcastle and the removal of The Cattle Market and Erection of Abattoirs / Richard Cail. 24/11/1891

NEIMME/Tracts 11/p450d Prospectus of an intended Joint Stock Company, to be called Whittle Dean Water

Company, and to be formed for the purpose of supplying the towns of Newcastle Upon Tyne and Gateshead, and the respective environs thereof with Pure Water / Whittle Dean Water Company. 1845

NEIMME/Tracts 32/p307 Report on the Water supply of Newcastle-upon Tyne and District / W. Geo. Laws, H.E. Armstrong. 1884

NEIMME/Tracts 120/p475 Report on the Main Sewage and Sewage Disposal Works, proposed at Town of Chester-Le-Street, also on proposed and current works for water supply, sewerage & house drainage, for Washington, Usworth, and Barmston Townships, for the Chester-Le-Street union Rural sanitary Authority, County Durham, (Second Edition) / D. Balfour. 1877

NEIMME/Tracts 141/p633 Laying Coal Dust and purifying the atmosphere of Mines / J.A. Ramsay 1891.

The Tracts have been digitised and will soon be available to search and browse on The Common Room website.

## RESEARCH REPORTS

Research reports in the Common Room collection were published mainly between the 1950s and the 1990s. Some are included in the Library catalogue, for others there are lists online.

Technical research reports include those from

British Carbonisation Research Association

(Currently listed at: <https://mininginstitute.org.uk/collections/archives/british-carbonisation-research-association-and-british-coke-research-association/> - moving to catalogue soon)

Examples include:

NEIMME/BCaRA/PR/13a Amendments to Progress Report 13 agreed by the air and river pollution committee 1974

NEIMME/BCaRA/ARPC/2 A note on the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974

British Coal Utilisation Research Association

(Currently listed at: <https://mininginstitute.org.uk/bcura-reports/> - moving to catalogue soon)

Examples include:

NEIMME/BCURA/CS/2 The British Coal Utilisation Research Association - Sulphur and Atmospheric Pollution J.M. Horspool and E.M. Norcross 1956

NEIMME/BCURA/C/4398 Dust sampling from power station flues - Report No. 5 - Discussion of future programme. 1950

British Coke Research Association

(Currently listed at: <https://mininginstitute.org.uk/collections/archives/british-carbonisation-research-association-and-british-coke-research-association/> - moving to catalogue soon)

Examples include:

NEIMME/BCRA/IR/33 The nature, treatment and disposal of sludge in the carbonization industry: analytical and disposal considerations 1976

NEIMME/BCRA/SpecPub/5c Practical suggestions for the reduction of the emission of smoke, dust and grit at coke ovens 1974

NCB Coal Research Establishment

(Currently listed at: <https://mininginstitute.org.uk/collections/archives/coal-research-establishment/> - moving to catalogue soon)

Examples include

NCB/CRE/DR/PC120 Smith, B. Monitoring of solids deposition from the air at Coal Research Establishment April 1984 - March 1985. 1985

NCB/CRE/DR/EC/263 Sage, P.W. Greenhouse effect briefing documents. 1989

NCB/CRE/DR/EC/245 Ford, N. Review of the control of pollutant emissions from stoker fired coal combustion. 1989.

## NCB Mining Research Establishment

Examples include:

Thomas, V. M. The design of intrinsically safe apparatus for use in coal mines. A review of data and techniques. Mining Research Establishment Report 2215. 1962  
Hamilton, R.J. Membrane filters : a review of their applications for airborne particle collection. Technical memorandum 64. 1961

## Safety in Mines Research Establishment

Examples include:

Grice, C.S.W. Rat extermination in mines. Research report 16, 1951  
Coward, H.F. Research on spontaneous combustion in mines: a review. Research report 142, 1957  
Widginton, D.W. Ignition of methane by electrical discharges. Research report 240, 1966

## European Commission

(Currently listed at <https://mininginstitute.org.uk/collections/archives/european-commission-reports/> - moving to catalogue soon)

Examples include:

EUR11086 Identification and quantification of atmospheric emission sources of heavy metals and dust from metallurgical processes and waste incineration Christopher F. P. Bevington 1987  
EUR17939 Coal-based emissions of environmental concern M. Dorrington 1998

## International Energy Agency

(Currently listed at: <https://mininginstitute.org.uk/collections/archives/iea-reports/> - moving to catalogue soon)

Examples include:

NEIMME/IEA/DR/05 Nox control installations on coal-fired plants A. K Hjalmarson Hermine. N. Soud May-90  
NEIMME/IEA/DR/06 Air pollution emission standards for coal-fired plants Hermine. N. Soud May-91  
NEIMME/IEA/DR/24 CO2 reduction--prospects for coal I. M Smith Aug-99  
NEIMME/IEA/IEACR/05 Particulate control for coal combustion J. S. Klingspor J. L. Vernon 1988

## United States Coal Research Board

Examples include:

NEIMME/US/CRB/115 Literature survey - coal associated wastes (1900-1972) Jerry L. Coalgate  
NEIMME/US/CRB/172 Overview of coal refuse disposal in the United States David J.Akers c.1980

## US Bureau of Mines Information Circulars

Examples include:

Respirable dust control. Breslin, John A. Information Circular 8753.1977  
Minerals health and safety in-house research, development, and demonstration in fiscal year 1980. Information Circular 8817. 1980

## STATISTICS

Statistical information relating to mining health and safety appears in the Mines Inspectors reports.

## SOME BIBLIOGRAPHIES/GUIDES

Benson, J., Thompson, C.H. & Neville, R.G. *Bibliography of the British coal industry*. 1981.  
Burt, R. & Waite, P. *Bibliography of the history of British metal mining*. 1988.  
The content also at <https://projects.exeter.ac.uk/mhn/bibliography.html>

Common Room Library resource guides (<https://mininginstitute.org.uk/resource-guides/>)

As well as some mentioned elsewhere there are

*Miners housing: a resource guide*

*History of mining in the UK - some useful books*