Security Heritage

SUCCESSFUL TEST
OF
PRICE'S
FIRE-PROOF
SAFES.

"WHAT CAN'T SPEAK CAN'T LIE."

The two Wrought Iron Fire-proof Safes which were subjected to such a Severe Test on Saturday, August 26, 1854, in the Lion Hotel Yard, North Street, Wolverhampton, in the presence of the MAYOR, ALDERMAN LANGMAN, and other Gentlemen, may be inspected, and the contents examined, any time at the Works, Cleveland Street. Testimonials referring to the facts, and to the success of the tests, from gentlemen quite as respectable and disinterested as Mr. Thomas Turner, Locksmith, Brickkiln Street, Agent for Messrs. Thomas Milner and Son, Liverpool, can be seen at the same time.—(*See Mr. Turner's letter, in the Wolverhampton Journal of this day.*)

GEORGE PRICE,

MANUFACTURER OF

WROUGHT IRON FIRE-PROOF BOOK SAFES, PLATE CHESTS, DEED BOXES,

IRON DOORS & FRAMES, LOCKS,

IRON BEDSTEADS, HURDLES, GATES, &c.,

CLEVELAND WORKS, CLEVELAND STREET, WOLVERHAMPTON.

SEPTEMBER 2nd, 1854

[HINDE, PRINTER.

Security Heritage: Making Use of the Past in the Security Sector

RINGABEL
COMPOSITE FIRE ALARM UNIT

This unit comprises a 6" diameter Alarm Bell with "break-the-glass" type Fire Alarm Contact mounted on stove-enamel-finished metal case housing dry cell batteries. The batteries are capable of ringing the bell for a period of up to 12 hours. The size of the unit is 15"×12" and holes are drilled in the back to facilitate wall mounting.

The Ringabel can be wired to connect up to a total of six of these units and holes are drilled in the top of the case for cable entry. Operation of any one will then cause all the bells in the system to ring simultaneously. Ringabel is suitable for low or medium risk buildings.

MADEWEL *Products*

Manufacturers of High Grade Fire Alarm Equipment

MADEWEL PRODUCTS LTD
RAILWAY ROAD, URMSTON, MANCHESTER · URMSTON 7222

Above: safes salvaged from fire in City of London, 1897; opposite: Madewel fire alarm leaflet, 1960s.

What is security heritage?

Security is an ancient aspect of human society. Throughout recorded history, people have sought to safeguard life, property and information from harm. Equally, though, the specific forms security takes evolve with wider changes in economy, technology and society, illuminating the key forces and dynamics that shape successive eras. Security, then, has a very long history.

'Security heritage' refers to all the traces of security's past that survive to this day. From formal archives to private collections to the actual security installations, systems and paraphernalia that punctuate our everyday lives, everywhere there are traces of security's past to be found.

Security heritage is the raw material from which the history of security is reconstructed. It is invaluable data for historians and others interested in tracing the development of security over the long term and making sense of how security has evolved across time.

But security heritage is also a precious resource for the security sector. Heritage resources offer security organisations new ways to connect with external audiences, to foster strong organisational cultures and cohesion, to signal the value of security and to rethink present challenges in long-term perspective.

Security's past

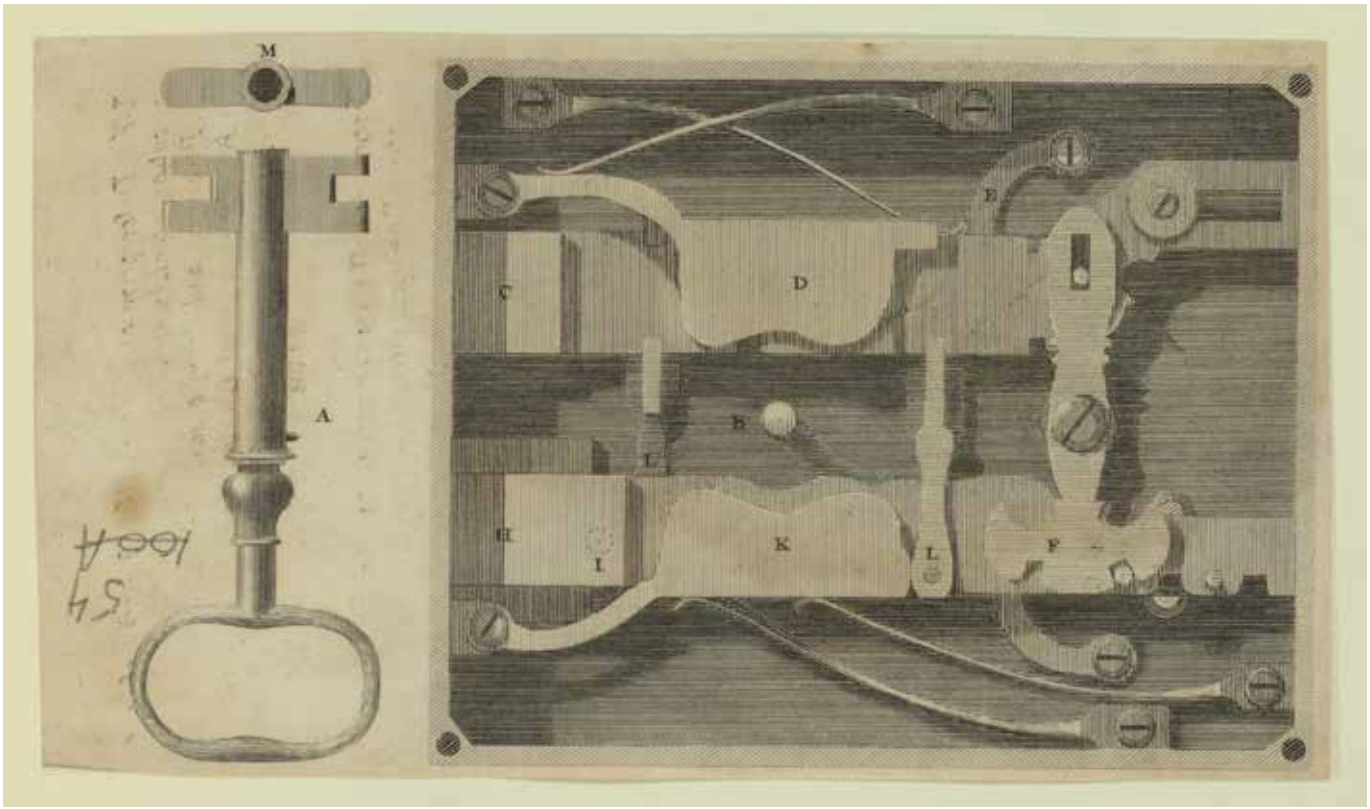
Across recent centuries, security in Britain has undergone several major shifts.

From around 1800, the idea that new technology could provide heightened security began to take hold. New patent locks promised 'perfect security'. The companies that made them originated the modern security industry. For the first time, brand-name companies were dedicated to protecting property and information from crime, fire and other risks.

After 1850, the promise of 'perfect security' increasingly gave way to the idea of continual improvement in security in response to changing conditions. This bred popular fascination with the 'arms race' between crime and security – a story that echoes through the ages, from lock-picking to forgery, safe-breaking to hacking.

From around 1950, there were the first steps towards recognising security as a profession and an aspect of management. Security associations and training programmes developed to raise standards, as numbers of security guards grew and organisations increasingly contracted out security functions.

In recent decades the security landscape has transformed once more. Security has become integrated with other operational systems; digitisation has fundamentally altered the form of property and information; and networked communications have exposed us to new kinds of risk. To this day, security continues to evolve to reflect changing conditions and circumstances.



Above: Thomas Arkwright's double-bolted lock and key, c. 1800; opposite: Chubb boudoir safe illustration, 1935.

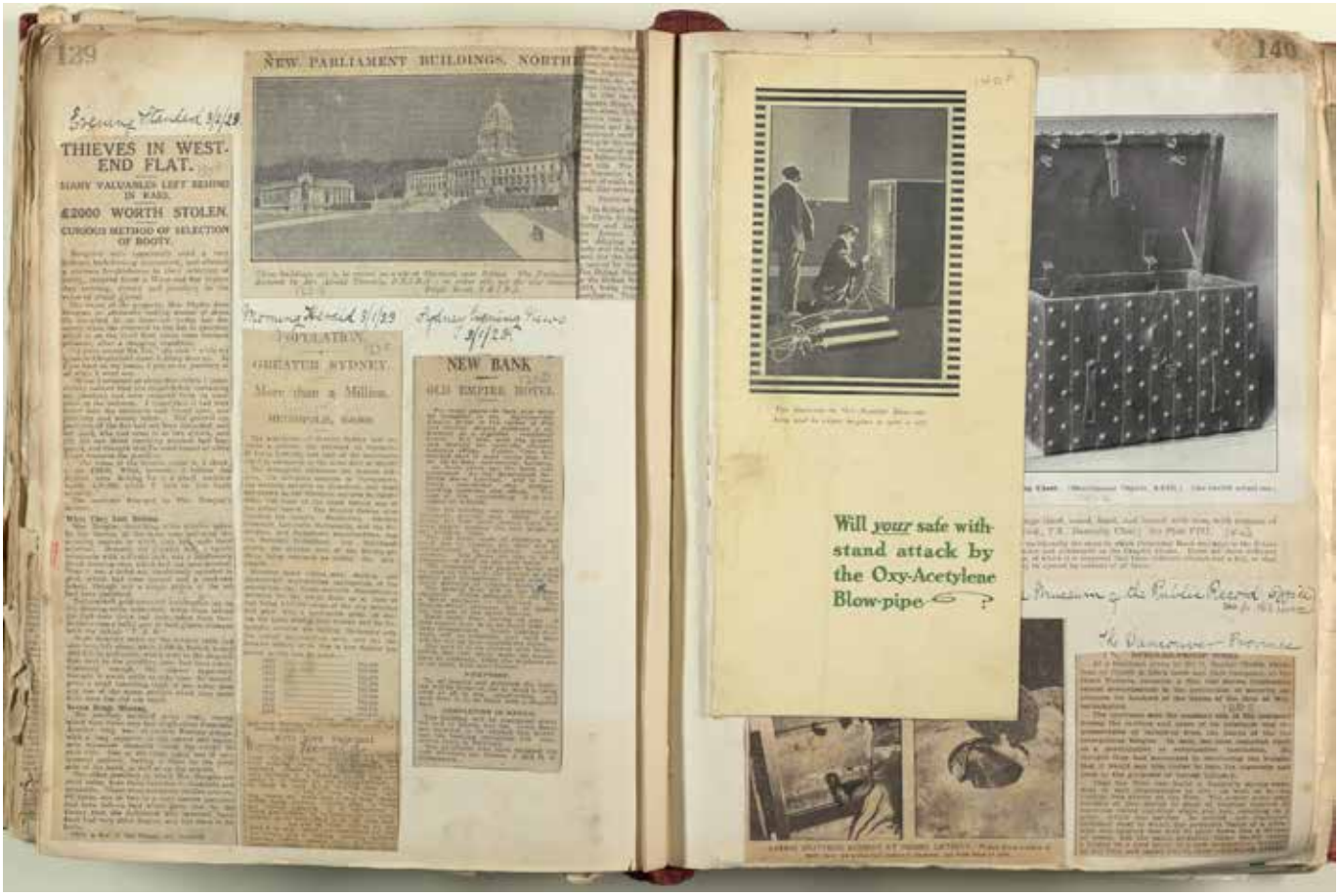
Safe
and
Secret
131A
The Chubb Boudoir Safe

Why security heritage?

For security organisations, security heritage offers several unique opportunities. It presents a refreshing way to engage with a range of external audiences. The history of security, and the longstanding contribution the security industry has made to British society, are little known. Security heritage is a largely untapped resource for connecting with people from all walks of life about security in a new way.

Security heritage provides a means of demonstrating the value of high-quality security. Security's past is littered with failures in security and their sometimes profound consequences. Heritage resources also speak to the security industry's long-term drive to assure quality and raise standards – whether through product testing and technical standards, or industry associations and regulatory procedures.

Security heritage also offers organisations new ways to connect with their members or employees. Heritage resources acquaint security professionals today with the experience of their predecessors, and invite reflection on continuity and change in the demands and challenges of contemporary security. They also demonstrate the longevity of the security industry and its core mission, in ways that might help foster identification with and commitment to the profession.



Above: Chubb & Son scrapbook volume, 1920s; opposite: Commissionaire standing guard, 1950s.

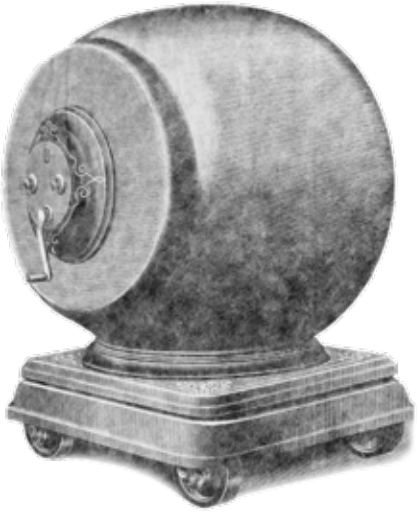
Dalton permutation lock, 1885

Dalton dual time lock, 1885

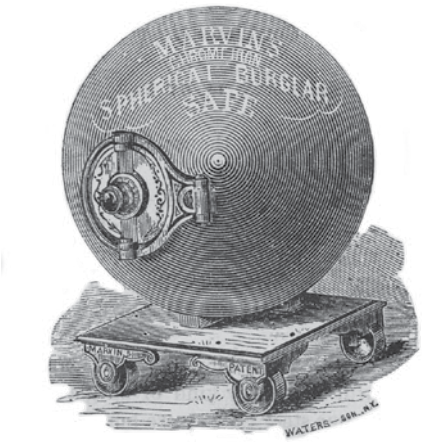
Bramah cabinet safe, 1880s

Chubb ‘automatic push and pull latch’, 1885

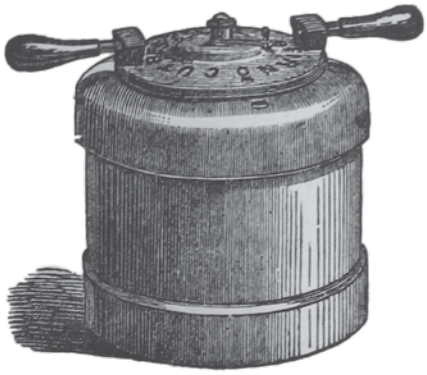
Hobbs Hart railway box, 1881



Corliss ‘burglar-proof’ safe, 1896

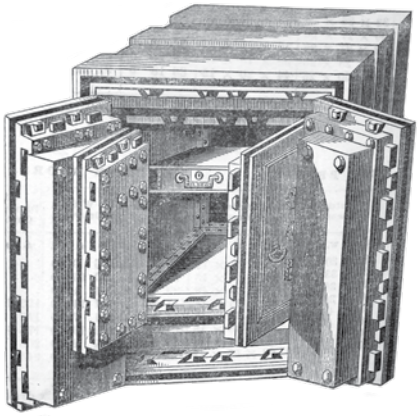


Marvin chrome-iron spherical safe, 1869

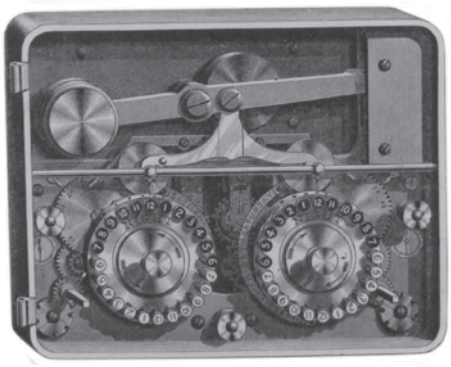


Turton ‘invincible’ safe, 1871

Chubb ‘revolving’ safe, 1924



Milner ‘double first-class extra strong holdfast’ safe, 1876



Yale time lock, 1878

Chubb ‘Queen’ padlock, 1883

Above: Chatwood bankers' strong room door, 1940s; opposite: Chubb fire-resisting cabinet leaflet, 1928.

Varieties of heritage

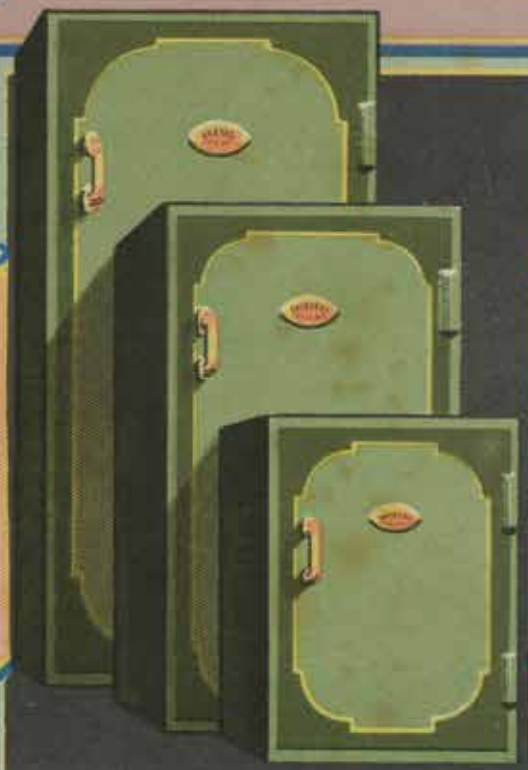
Security heritage comes in many shapes and sizes. Some of the richest collections come from longstanding security companies that collected and preserved impressive corporate archives. These archives contain plentiful marketing materials, correspondence, photographs and other documents illuminating both those particular companies and the wider industry of which they were part. The images shown in this brochure are drawn from such archives.

Security's past is also illuminated by a much wider range of archives. The papers of various organisations – including government departments, police forces, trade unions and insurance companies – preserve a wealth of insights into experiences of security across time. There is also a wealth of published material on security's past, including industry journals and magazines and successive editions of security manuals and handbooks.

Paper documents, though, are just the start. Museums and private collectors around the country have valuable collections of security devices and related objects, which can also be found in situ in private premises. And security heritage extends to the memories and recollections of longstanding figures in the sector, at all levels, whose testimony may illustrate aspects of security's past.

June 6th 1924

CHUBB



No.	Outside
801	24×18×18 in. £12 15 0
802	30×20×20 in. £15 0 0
803	36×22×22 in. £18 0 0
804	48×24×22 in. £24 0 0
805	60×25×24 in. £28 15 0
806	72×26×26 in. £32 10 0

No.	Inside
801	20×14×14 in. 2 Shelves
802	26×16×16 in. 3 Shelves
803	32×18×18 in. 4 Shelves
804	44×20×18 in. 5 Shelves
805	56×21×20 in. 7 Shelves
806	68×22×22 in. 8 Shelves

CHUBB
FIRE RESISTING CABINETS

Many papers and documents require protection from fire only, and to protect these the Chubb Cabinets have been produced. Made in six stock sizes. These Cabinets can also be built in any size, and with any desired fittings.
If fuller protection than from fire only is needed . . use a Chubb Safe.

EDINBURGH, 92 George St.

GLASGOW, 126 Buchanan St.

BY APPOINTMENT
TO HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN
INSTALLERS OF INTRUDER ALARMS
CHUBB ALARMS LIMITED
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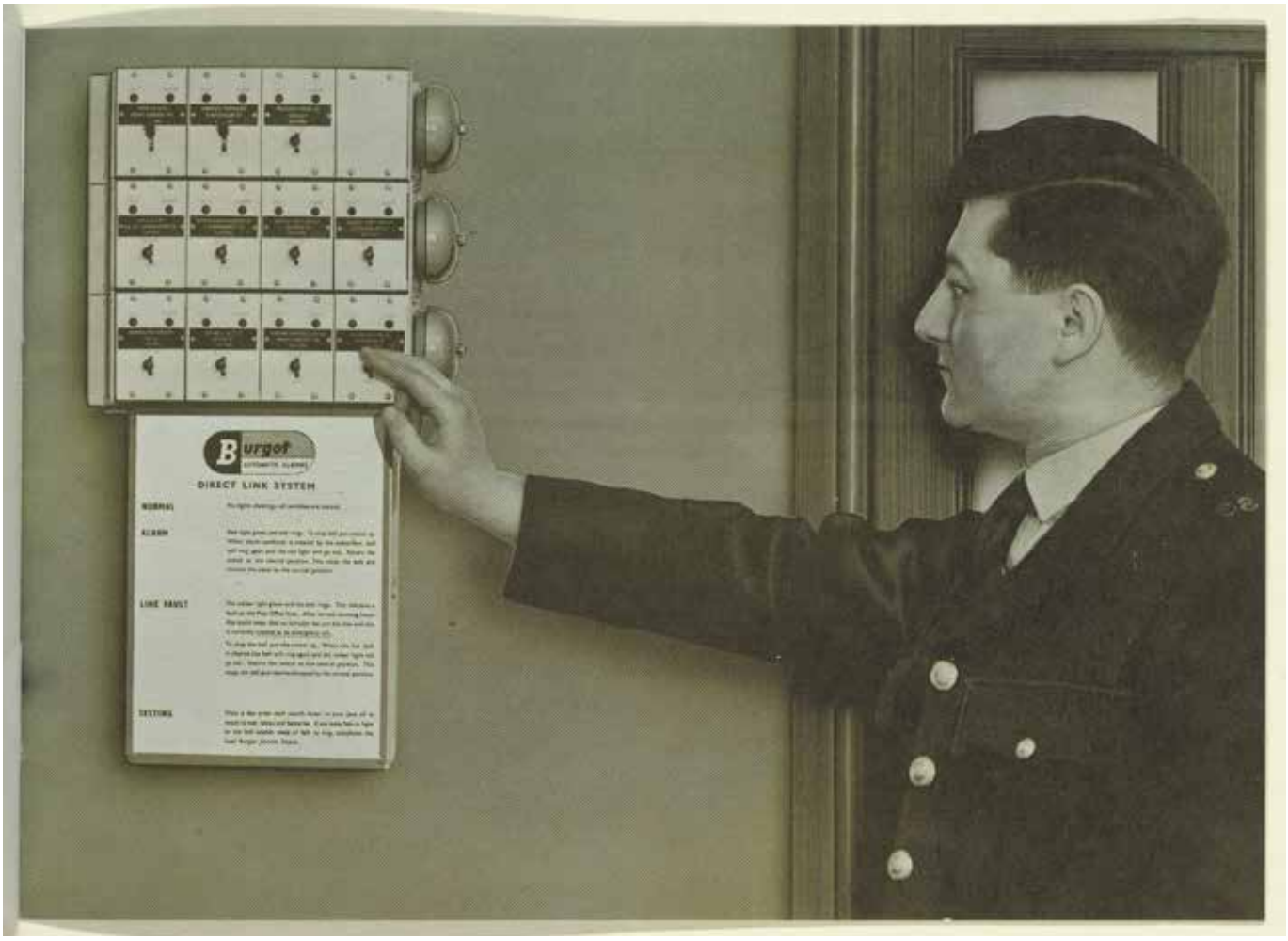


Above: Burgot alarms booklet, 1960s; opposite: Chubb Alarms booklet, 1980s.

The future of security heritage

Security heritage resources are unique and irreplaceable. Many are also at risk. Outside of specific, managed collections, the heritage material that exists today is not held under any plan for long-term preservation. It is therefore liable to be lost, along with the windows into security's past that it opens up.

The future of security heritage depends on preserving the historic material that we have before us. Beyond that, it depends on creating new collections of material to reflect the contemporary world of security and the changes the security sector is experiencing today. To sustain security heritage into the future, we must add new resources as well as preserve those we already have.

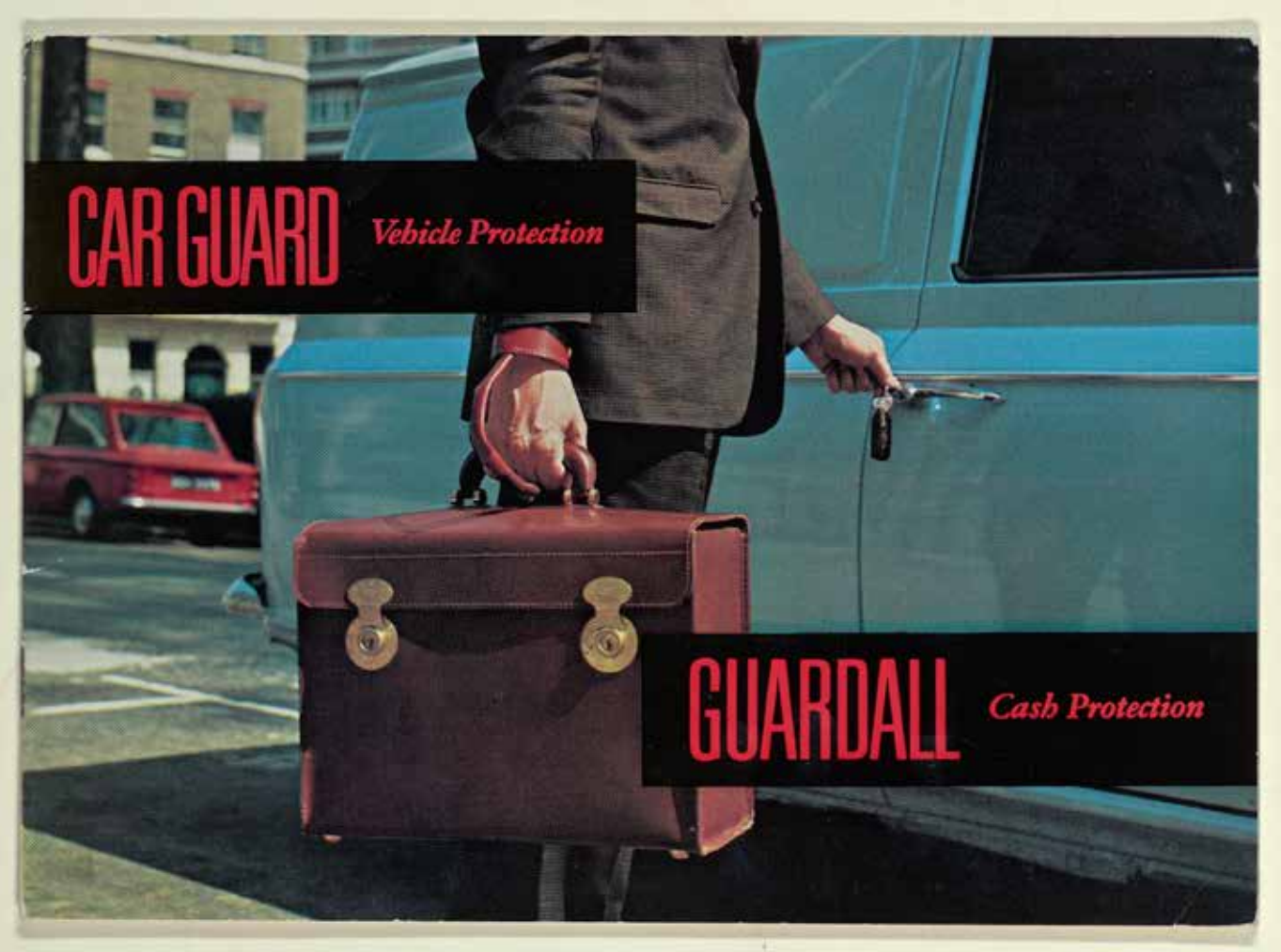
If security heritage is a potentially valuable resource for the security sector, then the sector has a role to play in preserving that resource into the future. There are roles too for archivists, museum professionals, collectors and academics in advising, managing, curating and advocating for the collection and preservation of security heritage.

Making the most of security heritage

For centuries, security companies and organisations have used the history and heritage of security to promote their products and services and to make sense of shifts and changes in the security landscape. While there are good examples of the use of heritage material today, it seems an under-utilised resource more widely. Contemporary security organisations may be missing valuable opportunities to advance their work and the interests of the sector as a whole.

Making the most of security heritage entails:

1. Appreciating the value of heritage – for connecting with external audiences, strengthening organisational culture and cohesion and highlighting the value of high-quality security.
2. Recognising heritage resources – from corporate archives to private collections, workplace memories to photograph albums.
3. Making use of heritage resources – as appropriate, and alongside contemporary content, in branding, marketing, communications, training, corporate social responsibility and more.
4. Preserving and perpetuating heritage collections – protecting resources that already exist and creating new resources for a richer heritage landscape into the future.



Above: Guardall cash protection and vehicle security booklet, 1960s; opposite: Chubb fire-resisting cabinet leaflet, 1930s.

Why Gamble with FIRE?
CHUBB gives you
FIRE RESISTANCE &
safety from terrible danger.
SEE OVER

Image references & attribution

Front Strong room door in Chubb works, c. 1920s: 1997/007/324 (uncatalogued);

p. 2 George Price safe test poster, 1854: CLC/B/002/10/01/005/023;

p. 4 Madewel fire alarm leaflet, 1960s: 1997/007/188/008 (uncatalogued);

p. 5 Safes salvaged from fire in City of London, 1897: CLC/B/002/10/01/052/108;

p. 6 Thomas Arkwright's double-bolted lock and key, c. 1800: CLC/B/002/10/01/005/054;

p. 7 Chubb boudoir safe illustration, 1935: CLC/B/002/10/01/070/131A;

p. 8 Commissionaire standing guard, 1950s: Corps of Commissionaires anniversary volume;

p. 9. Chubb & Son scrapbook volume, 1920s: CLC/B/002/10/01/068/139-140;

p. 10 Clockwise from top left: Dalton lock company leaflet, 1885: CLC/B/002/10/01/032/069; ditto; Chubb's 'Push and Pull Latch' leaflet, 1885: CLC/B/002/10/01/031/088A; 'Burglar-proof safes' article in Engineering, 1896: CLC/B/002/10/01/051/009; Hobbs Hart catalogue, 1881: CLC/B/002/10/01/033/004; Bramah (Needs and Co.) catalogue, 1880s: CLC/B/002/10/01/032/013;

p. 11 Clockwise from top left: Marvin's safe leaflet, 1869: CLC/B/002/10/01/011/094C; Turton's safe (H. G. Hall) leaflet, 1871: CLC/B/002/10/01/012/047E; Milner's Safe Co. price list, 1876: CLC/B/002/10/01/015/097A; Chubb 'Queen Padlock' newspaper advertisement, 1883: CLC/B/002/10/01/027/107A; Yale time lock leaflet, 1878: CLC/B/002/10/01/017/027; Chubb British Empire Exhibition booklet, 1924: CLC/B/002/10/01/068/198B;

p. 12 Chatwood bankers' strong room door, 1940s: 1997/007/313/003 (uncatalogued);

p. 13 Chubb fire-resisting cabinet leaflet, 1928: CLC/B/002/10/01/069/080B;

p. 14 Chubb Alarms booklet, 1980s: CLC/B/002/10/01/095;

p. 15 Burgot alarms booklet, 1960s: 1997/007/033/002/008 (uncatalogued);

p. 16 Guardall cash and vehicle protection booklet, 1960s: 1997/007/033/005/001 (uncatalogued);

p. 17 Chubb fire-resisting cabinet leaflet, 1930s: CLC/B/002/10/01/069/262C;

p. 19 Chubb & Son scrapbook volume, 1920s: CLC/B/002/10/01/068;

Back Milner jewel safe advertising card, c. 1900s: CLC/B/002/10/01/035/066B.

All images (except p. 8) are taken from the collection of Chubb and Son Limited (CLC/B/002). With the exception of p. 8, all images © London Metropolitan Archives (City of London).

Acknowledgements

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About the project

This brochure was produced as part of a research project on the history of security and the security industry: 'Security for Sale in Modern Britain: security provision, ensembles and cultures, 1785–1995'. The project aims to provide a long-term history of the development of the security industry and the evolution of protective security in nineteenth- and twentieth-century Britain, exploring how security commodities were designed, produced, marketed, consumed and used, and how they figured in wider culture. The research team – Dr David Churchill (principal investigator) and Dr Miranda Clow – are based in the Centre for Criminal Justice Studies, School of Law, University of Leeds. The research is pursued in partnership with London Metropolitan Archives, Corps Security and Chubb Fire & Security. It is generously funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council [grant number AH/T005998/1].

An online hub of information and resources relating to security heritage, developed through this project, is available here: https://essl.leeds.ac.uk/law-research-expertise/doc/security-heritage-hub

For more information, or to explore the potential contribution of security heritage to your organisation, please contact David Churchill: **d.churchill@leeds.ac.uk**

Chubb & Son scrapbook volume, 1920s.

Arts and Humanities Research Council

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