

SN 5454 - Women, Work and Trade in the English Industrial Revolution, 1773-1828

Study Documentation

This document has been created by AHDS History and is based on information supplied by the depositor

These data explore women's trade and business activities in Manchester, Leeds and Sheffield between 1773 and 1828. The records are drawn from trade directories and newspapers published between those years.

Two data formats have been prepared by AHDS History. A MSAccess 97/2003 which is a copy of the version of the data file originally deposited with AHDS History and a second data format which consists of 5 tab delimited files extracted from the original MSAccess version.

MSAccess 97/2003 versions

Files: women_work_trade_db.mdb

This file contains five tables and three queries:

Tables

- i) directories: contains the bibliographic details of the trade directories used, and details of the copies consulted.
- ii) directoryentries: contains the entries for women in the trade directories. The nature of directory listings, specifically the frequent absence of epithet or full first name, means that women may have been listed who were not identified during data selection.
- iii) newspapers: contains the bibliographic details for each of the newspapers used, and details of the copies consulted.
- iv) adverts: contains details of the newspaper advertisements in which women are mentioned, often including some of the text of the advertisements.
- v) advertpersons: contains entries for each of the women named in the newspaper advertisements.

Queries

'Qbe_Appending'
'Qbe_findUnmatched'
'Qbe_getting_extra'

AHDS-History note: Queries have not been exported as tab delimited files. The first and third queries above cannot be executed because the syntax in the original file specifies the source table's names incorrectly. Users wanting to query this dataset are advised to create/design their own queries.

Tab delimited files

Files: As the table names featured in the original MSAccess file plus the file extension *.tab

AHDS History note: a number of fields in the tables in the original MSAccess file were created automatically during the processes of database creation but do not contain useful information. They are marked with the prefix 's_' and they have been deleted either manually or automatically from the exported tab delimited files.

Notes on data input for files 'directories' and 'directoryentries'

- When two women are listed in one entry, two records were made on the database. The only exception is where the entry was for 'Misses X' and the number of individuals is unclear, in which case 'misses' was entered under the title in the record.
- When a woman was mentioned by name but listed under another entry, a record was created under her surname. For e.g., entryid.865 listed Miss Blinkhorn under 'library', but a record under 'Blinkhorn' was created.
- Directory entries which shared surname and address with those of women were entered in the note field of the woman's record.
- Geographical limitations were employed when inputting the data from Manchester trade directories, when addresses from Salford and Pendleton were excluded.
- Original trade labels have been kept in most cases. However, when a trade label begins with the name of a business, the business name is excluded from the trade field. For e.g., entryid.1597 gives trade as 'bottle warehouse', which was given as 'Hadfield bottle warehouse' in the directory. The complete entry was inserted in the notes field.
- Addresses often include what is almost certainly a pub or tavern. When this was the case but no trade was given, 'victualler' was entered as first word in the notes field.

Notes on data input for files 'newspapers', 'adverts' and 'advertpersons'

- Only adverts which related to the activities of women in one of the three towns of Manchester, Leeds and Sheffield were entered.
- As the project explores women in trade and business, not all women have been entered. For those women for whom no information pertaining to their trade or business interests was given in the advert, the relevant trade directory was consulted. If matching details (name and address) were found, records of the advert and the woman were entered. If no details were found in the directory, a brief record was made. However, when a woman was not in the corresponding directory but the advert is clearly pertaining to business, a full record was made.
- The spelling of some surnames in the 'advertpersons' table was changed. This occurred when the woman named in an advert matched a trade directory entry in name and trade and/or address. The surname was changed in the 'advertpersons' table (but not in the 'advert' table) to match the spelling in the trade directory. For eg., adverts were placed by the confectioner 'Mary Malham' of 22 Smithy

Door, Manchester, in 1804, but the entry in the Manchester directory of that year listed 'Mary Malam', confectioner of 22 Smithy Door. The entries in the 'advertpersons' table list this woman as 'Malam'.

- Font details of adverts were inserted in brackets in the text field. '[ital]' indicates that the word immediately preceding is italicized; '[elix.ff ital]' means that the text between 'elizabeth' and the brackets is italicized.
- In the 'advertpersons' table, a reference to a woman is categorized as being either an incidental reference or one in which the woman is the main subject. Egs. of incidental references include: the main event simply takes place in her property (an auction, for e.g.), the woman is one of a list of retailers of a product (e.g. medical products). If the woman seems to have enjoyed the exclusive financial dividend from the product or event, then the reference is deemed to refer to her as the subject.
- In addition to adverts, other notices were entered. These include legal notices of bankrupts, and marriages and deaths when the woman involved is given a trade. For marriage announcements, the woman was listed in the 'advertpersons' under her maiden name.
- When an advert gives details of the business activity of a woman but does not give a trade label, a 'project trade label' was entered in 'advertpersons'. An attempt was made to choose labels which were current, by using the corresponding trade directory as an index of possible trade labels.