

# **LAPPINGS, LEMEL & SWEEPS: STORIES FROM HATTON GARDEN**

**(Part of the Digital:Works Archive)**

**(DW/3)**

**Name of Creator:** Digital:Works, community history group; Various.

**Extent:** 18 mp3 files

**Administrative/Biographical History:** Hatton Garden is a street and commercial area in the Holborn district of the London Borough of Camden, close to the boundary with the City of London. Hatton Garden is famous as London's jewellery quarter and the centre of diamond trade in the United Kingdom. This specialisation grew up in the early 19th century, spreading out from its more ancient centre in nearby Clerkenwell. Today there are nearly 300 businesses here in the jewellery industry and over 55 shops, representing the largest cluster of jewellery retailers in the UK. The largest of these businesses was De Beers, the international family of companies which dominated the international diamond trade. Their headquarters were in an office and warehouse complex just behind the main Hatton Garden shopping street. In 1962 Lawrence Graff of Wittelsbach-Graff Diamond fame opened his first retail jewellery store here.

**Custodial History:** Deposited with Bishopsgate Institute by Digital:Works, December 2018.

**Scope and Content:** Eighteen interviews regarding working in, and the history of, Hatton Garden and the jewellery trade. Taken from the film 'Lappings, Lemel & Sweeps: stories from Hatton Garden', created by jewellery students from across London and Digital:Works, (2013).

**System of Arrangement:**  
No further arrangement required.

**Language/scripts of material:**  
English

**Access conditions:**  
OPEN

**Copying conditions:**  
Photocopying, scanning and digital photography (without flash) is permitted for research purposes on completion of the Library's Copyright Declaration form and with respect to current UK copyright law.

**Finding Aids:**  
Copy of handlist available in researcher's area.

**Rules and Conventions:**  
Compiled in compliance with General International Standard Archival Description, ISAD(G), second edition, 2000; National Council on Archives Rules for the Construction of Personal, Place and Corporate Names, 1997.

**DW/3/1                      Adam    2013**

Name: Adam

Brief descriptive note: Adam was interviewed for the film 'Lappings, Lemel & Sweeps : stories from Hatton Garden', created by jewellery students from across London and Digital:Works  
Recording length: 16 mins

Summary: Adam describes his business which is a family owned jewellers, owned by his wife's family for 25 years, had never been in a jewellery shop prior to working in the family business, learned how to buy diamonds, learned about other precious jewels and metals, more diversity in Hatton Garden jewellery shop owners, a wedding ring maker named Mitze who created them the old fashioned way by heating the metal on a steel draw plate and dragging the metal through, the effect of online shopping on jewellery shops, the need for good security in the jewellery industry

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**OPEN**

**DW/3/2                      Andrew English    2013**

Name: Andrew English

Brief descriptive note: AE was interviewed for the film 'Lappings, Lemel & Sweeps : stories from Hatton Garden', created by jewellery students from across London and Digital:Works  
Recording length: 24 mins

Summary: AE describes studying sculpture before attended a jewellery course at Coventry University, moved to London and got an apprenticeship with a jeweller, learning how to make a design on paper a physical reality, networking and working with different tradespeople in Hatton Garden, working with customers and their ideas, running a business without a shopfront, in person versus online shopping, the future of Hatton Gardens

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**OPEN**

**DW/3/3                      Daniel Cohen    2013**

Name: Daniel Cohen

Brief descriptive note: DC was interviewed for the film 'Lappings, Lemel & Sweeps : stories from Hatton Garden', created by jewellery students from across London and Digital:Works

Recording length: 13 mins

Summary: DC describes setting up his jewellery tool industry in 2005, his first impression of Hatton Garden compared to the current state, his sales background, his clientele, added security prescience in Hatton Garden, increased traffic wardens in the area which hampers deliveries, the future of Hatton Garden

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**OPEN**

**DW/3/4**

**Dave Merry**

**2013**

Name: Dave Merry

Brief descriptive note: DM was interviewed for the film 'Lappings, Lemel & Sweeps : stories from Hatton Garden', created by jewellery students from across London and Digital:Works

Recording length: 23 mins

Summary: DM describes the Association of Assaying Precious Metals of which he is employed, the legal need of any jewellery or metalware over a certain weight having a hallmark provided by the Association, how he clientele has changed over the years, traditional methods of testing metal, the tools assayers use now, dealing with fake hallmarks, modern day hallmarking laws

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**OPEN**

**DW/3/5**

**David Birchall**

**2013**

Name: David Birchall

Brief descriptive note: DB was interviewed for the film 'Lappings, Lemel & Sweeps : stories from Hatton Garden', created by jewellery students from across London and Digital:Works

Recording length: 9 mins

Summary: DB describes his early memories of

Hatton Garden, his jewellery apprenticeship at age 16, working for a company versus self-employment, how Hatton Garden has changed since he began work there, an earlier apprenticeship age 14

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**OPEN**

**DW/3/6**

**Edward Essien**

**2013**

Name: Edward Essien

Brief descriptive note: EE was interviewed for the film 'Lappings, Lemel & Sweeps : stories from Hatton Garden', created by jewellery students from across London and Digital:Works  
Recording length: 10 mins

Summary: EE describes his early memories of Hatton Garden, his apprenticeship, Hatton Garden then compared to now, the effect of the 2008 recession in the jewellery trade, his experience being a man of colour working in Hatton Garden, the specific jewellery techniques he's learned over the years

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**OPEN**

**DW/3/7**

**Harry Levy**

**2013**

Name: Harry Levy

Brief descriptive note: HL was interviewed for the film 'Lappings, Lemel & Sweeps : stories from Hatton Garden', created by jewellery students from across London and Digital:Works  
Recording length: 38 mins

Summary: HL describes his early memories of going to Hatton Garden in the 1940s with his father who worked with diamonds, the Diamond Trading Bourse, the London Diamond Club, Camden Council's involvement in Hatton Gardens including providing street security, changes in Hatton Garden from the time he was a child to present day, the Jewish refugees who fled the Nazis and ended up in London and set up the Bourse and/or worked directly with diamonds, the importance of De Beers on the industry of rough diamond trading, how De

Beers began, the Kimberley Process which was established to address blood diamonds, diamond-induced violence in different African countries, ethical diamonds and beneficiation, growing diversity in the jewellery industry, the honesty within the trade, his involvement with the Bourse from the beginning to now as the President, the future of Hatton Garden

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**OPEN**

**DW/3/8**

**Harry Pemit**

**2013**

Name: Harry Pemit

Brief descriptive note: HP was interviewed for the film 'Lappings, Lemel & Sweeps : stories from Hatton Garden', created by jewellery students from across London and Digital:Works  
Recording length: 30 mins

Summary: HP describes the difficulties of hand-making jewellery, how work has changed from the late 1950s to post-2008 recession, lack of apprenticeships now and lack of council involvement, designing on paper versus designing on metal, the kinds of jewellery he makes, influence of new technologies on his trade, his education in art school and subsequent apprenticeship, early memories of Clerkenwell and Hatton Garden

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**OPEN**

**DW/3/9**

**Just Casings**

**2013**

Name: Just Castings

Brief descriptive note: JC was interviewed for the film 'Lappings, Lemel & Sweeps : stories from Hatton Garden', created by jewellery students from across London and Digital:Works  
Recording length: 33 mins

Summary: JC describes how he learned his trade through his father and his uncles, how Hatton Garden has changed since he began work 30 years prior, how the internet has changed the industry, council closing workshops and turning them into flats, how technology has

affected jewellery manufacturing, making business deals, preparing to make a piece of jewellery, a day in the life of his work, the current state of British jeweller market and manufacturing, timeline of a piece of jewellery from idea to reality, his clientele, how his father started the business in 1964, the price of getting what you pay for

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**OPEN**

**DW/3/10**

**Kelvin Birk**

**2013**

Name: Kelvin Birk

Brief descriptive note: KB was interviewed for the film 'Lappings, Lemel & Sweeps : stories from Hatton Garden', created by jewellery students from across London and Digital:Works  
Recording length: 14 min

Summary: KB describes his training to be a gold and silversmith in Germany, moving to London and completing an MA in silversmithing and jewellery making, his first memories of Hatton Garden, being in the same workshop space for 15 years, the specific kind of jewellery he makes out of broken gemstones, the different professionals he works with such as stone dealers and polishers, the effects of mass-produced jewellery and new technology on the market, advice he would give to aspiring jewellers, his opinions of art schools teaching jewellery, his thoughts on the future of Hatton Garden

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**OPEN**

**DW/3/11**

**Len**

**2013**

Name: Len

Brief descriptive note: Len was interviewed for the film 'Lappings, Lemel & Sweeps : stories from Hatton Garden', created by jewellery students from across London and Digital:Works  
Recording length: 13 mins

Summary: Len describes being a mounted and designer for the jewellery trade, his beginnings

in the industry including his apprenticeship and having a 1:1 tuition at a big manufacturers - all based in Hatton Garden, early memories of Hatton Garden, what has changed in Hatton Garden and what has changed, how the internet has affected his trade, how Clerkenwell has changed over the years

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**DW/3/12**

**Michael Lynton**

**2013**

Name: Michael Lynton

Brief descriptive note: ML was interviewed for the film 'Lappings, Lemel & Sweeps : stories from Hatton Garden', created by jewellery students from across London and Digital:Works  
Recording length: 43 mins

Summary: ML describes coming into the jewellery business in 1964 beginning with an apprenticeship, family was also in the jewellery business, how the diamond industry fed the jewellery business in the 1960s, how European tools and goods were unavailable to the British after WWII, the Diamond Club, local known celebrities from his early working days, how jewellers used to be given fine jewellery to work on in the morning because they were too drunk in the afternoon after going to lunch at the pub to work on it, how the area of Hatton Garden has changed over the years, different consignments he worked on and clientele he worked for, the different bomb sites around Hatton Garden and Farringdon in the 1960s, the apprentices he took on, thoughts on the future of Hatton Garden

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**DW/3/13**

**Robert Acker Holt**

**2013**

Name: Robert Acker Holt

Brief descriptive note: RAH was interviewed for the film 'Lappings, Lemel & Sweeps : stories from Hatton Garden', created by jewellery students from across London and Digital:Works  
Recording length: 35 mins



Summary: RAH describes being born in Vienna and coming to London as a refugee aged 15, after the war attending a training course on cutting diamonds, his early days as a jewellery designer, his first shop at 97 Hatton Garden, forming a relationship with a gemstone supplier, learning how to cut gemstones, different clients he's had over the years, different gemstones he's worked with, the changes he's seen in Hatton Garden over the years, his early years as an apprentice

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**DW/3/14**

**Paul Podolsky**

**2013**

Name: Paul Podolsky

Brief descriptive note: PP was interviewed for the film 'Lappings, Lemel & Sweeps : stories from Hatton Garden', created by jewellery students from across London and Digital:Works  
Recording length: 30 mins

Summary: PP describes his early memories of Hatton Garden when he visited his father's workshop, the skills he learned from being in his father's workshop, early aspirations to be an artists thwarted by the outbreak of WWII, instead he joined his father at the workshop to become a jeweller, being called up to the army when he turned 21 and realising he was still a foreigner in the eyes of the government, how his father came to London from Antwerp and set up his workshop, the kinds of jewellery he made for decades until Thatcher introduced extremely high interests rates forcing him to retire, winning a De Beers designing competition, the different jewellers he knew, the importance of apprenticeships, the first piece of jewellery he made

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**DW/3/15**

**Rachel Lichtenstein**

**2013**

Name: Rachel Lichtenstein

Brief descriptive note: RL was interviewed for

the film 'Lappings, Lemel & Sweeps : stories from Hatton Garden', created by jewellery students from across London and Digital:Works  
 Recording length: 41 mins  
 Summary: RL describes her three generations of family who worked in Hatton Garden beginning with her grandfather, her early memories of Hatton Garden, where she would go with her father while he met different dealers, her parents setting up a business in Hatton Garden in the late 1980s and working there in the summers, meeting Mitzi - a well-known local jeweller, the history of Hatton Garden beginning with its Elizabethan roots to its becoming internationally known as the centre of jewellery manufacturing and trade to its current role in the trade, the River Fleet which is buried underneath Hatton Garden, her experience of researching Hatton Garden and her writing process, the history of Jewish people working with diamonds, the role of the Huguenots and Italians manufacturers in the area, her book 'Diamond Street', the importance of reputation, the nature of family businesses

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**DW/3/16**

**Ray Wells**

**2013**

Name: Ray Wells

Brief descriptive note: RW was interviewed for the film 'Lappings, Lemel & Sweeps : stories from Hatton Garden', created by jewellery students from across London and Digital:Works  
 Recording length: 46 mins

Summary: RW describes his job as a diamond miller, how he entered the jewellery industry in 1966 and what Hatton Garden was like then, his experience as an apprentice, the different companies he's worked for in his career, his social life relating to colleagues at Hatton Gardens, Hockley Centre in Birmingham, Mitzi - a well-known local jeweller, his feelings on the profession and Hatton Garden now

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**DW/3/17**

**Steven Knight**

**2013**

Name: Steven Knight

Brief descriptive note: SK was interviewed for the film 'Lappings, Lemel & Sweeps : stories from Hatton Garden', created by jewellery students from across London and Digital:Works

Recording length: 45 mins

Summary: SK describes his hand engraving career beginning in Hatton Garden in 1964, his early memories of Hatton Garden, his apprenticeship, different pieces he's created, not joining a guild, people he's trained

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**DW/3/18**

**Steven White**

**2013**

Name: Steven White

Brief descriptive note: SW was interviewed for the film 'Lappings, Lemel & Sweeps : stories from Hatton Garden', created by jewellery students from across London and Digital:Works

Recording length: 8 mins

Summary: SW describes early memories of Hatton Garden as an apprentice, building up different skills, the technological changes to his craft, the most unusual gem he's set, different gem setting trends

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