

## 3. Annals of Eugenics Archive, UCL

I joined Prof. Ruiz-Linares' team in 2009 and was soon involved in an exciting project to publish online the original *Annals of Eugenics (AE)*, 1925-1954. This journal had originally been founded by Karl Pearson at UCL in 1925 and continued under this name until 1954 when the title was changed to the *Annals of Human Genetics (AHG)* in order to reflect more accurately the work being published in the journal. Mid-way through this work, we also began sorting through our papers in preparation for the GEE (Genetics, Evolution and Environment Department) move to the newly refurbished Darwin building. Safely stowed away in the bottom drawer of my filing cabinet, I came across Galton's passport that had travelled with him through Germany and various drawings by him. This was something of a surprise and led me to speak with Sue Povey who first introduced me to the Annals of Eugenics archive. For someone with a background in ancient history rather than the history of genetics, some of the material was rather eye-opening.



When the original of *Species* was written

The archive room was filled with floor-to-ceiling rolling shelves which were stacked with many hundreds of volumes of UCL publications including, for example, *Annals of Eugenics*, *Treasury of Human Inheritance*, *Drapers' Company Research Memoirs and Questions of the Day and Fray*. There was also a considerable amount of original material, both documents and artefacts, associated with the eugenics and early genetics work that had been done in the Galton Lab. The documents

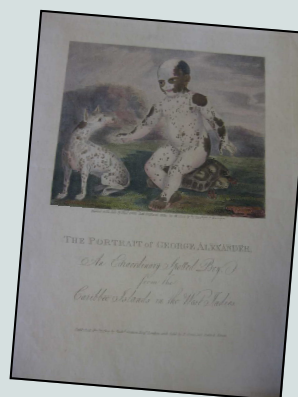
included photographs and hand-drawn pedigree charts associated with some of the *AE* articles.

Other extraordinary material ranged from an original photograph of Darwin's study that was taken by his son, Leonard, and which hung in Galton's study; a photograph of Galton lying on his deathbed; original portraits of Galton's family; to Julia Bell's consanguinity data cards and two of Karl Pearson's microscopes. One of the most moving finds involved a young boy named George Alexander Gratton who had been born on the Caribbean island of St Vincent and



who suffered from piebaldism – a rare genetic skin pigmentation condition. A large, rather innocuous, blue folder contained a print of George, two adverts describing him as the 'Spotted Negro Boy', an original legal document, dated 1810,

leasing the two-year-old George for seven years to a group of individuals for £200. After being displayed to a fee-paying public for some years, he tragically died at the age of four.



Three groups of material were identified and it was agreed that the contents of the archive would be split up. The most historically important material would be sent to UCL's Special Collections, under the care of Gill Furlong, and UCL's Galton Collection, currently Jayne Dunn's responsibility. The multiple copies of the various journals would be offered *gratis*, firstly, to institutions with strong links to the history of genetics where individuals could access the material, and, secondly, to individuals with an academic research interest in this subject.

**Sushma Jansari (UCL) [s.jansari@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:s.jansari@ucl.ac.uk)**