

## The Clementine

*The Rothschild Archive is from time to time called upon to provide historical background in support of organisations that were founded or supported by the Rothschild family. This year, the Archive supplied research material and images for a 125th anniversary book produced by the Clementine Children's Hospital in Frankfurt\**

The Rothschild family established and supported numerous medical, cultural and social foundations in their home town of Frankfurt. Few of them survived the crises of the 1930s and 1940s but some traces still remain. The most prominent of these is the Clementine Children's Hospital, established in 1875 by Louise (1820-1886), the wife of Mayer Carl von Rothschild and the mother of Clementine who had died in 1865 aged only twenty. The foundation, initially known as the Clementine-Mädchen-Spital, was established to provide free medical care for girls of all denominations between the ages of 5 and 15. It survived the period of inflation thanks to further donations by members of the family, in particular Emma, Lady Rothschild, and Clementine's other sisters, but had to be taken over by the German women's section of the Red Cross.

The hospital was totally destroyed by bombing in 1943. In 1974 it was merged with the Dr Christ'sche Stiftung, but it retains its own identity.

The board of directors of the hospital, headed by Dr Barbara Reschke, organised various celebratory events during 2000, including medical conferences, benefit concerts and special activities for children and their parents. The culmination was the Jubilee Celebration in the City Hall of Frankfurt hosted by the Lord Mayor and addressed by the Minister of Health and Social Welfare for Hessen. On this occasion the name of the Foundation was inscribed in the City's Golden Book.

The commemorative book, launched at the City Hall, records the short life of Clementine against the background of her faith and examines the principle of 'good works' – Zedaka – that motivated the family's charitable activities.



*Clementine von Rothschild, 1845-1865*

*\*Clementine von Rothschild: 1845-1865; full of talent and grace; zum 125-jährigen Bestehen des Clementine-Kinderhospitals, Barbara Reschke, ed., on behalf of the Board of the Clementine Kinderhospital (Frankfurt am Main: Societäts-Verl., 2000)*