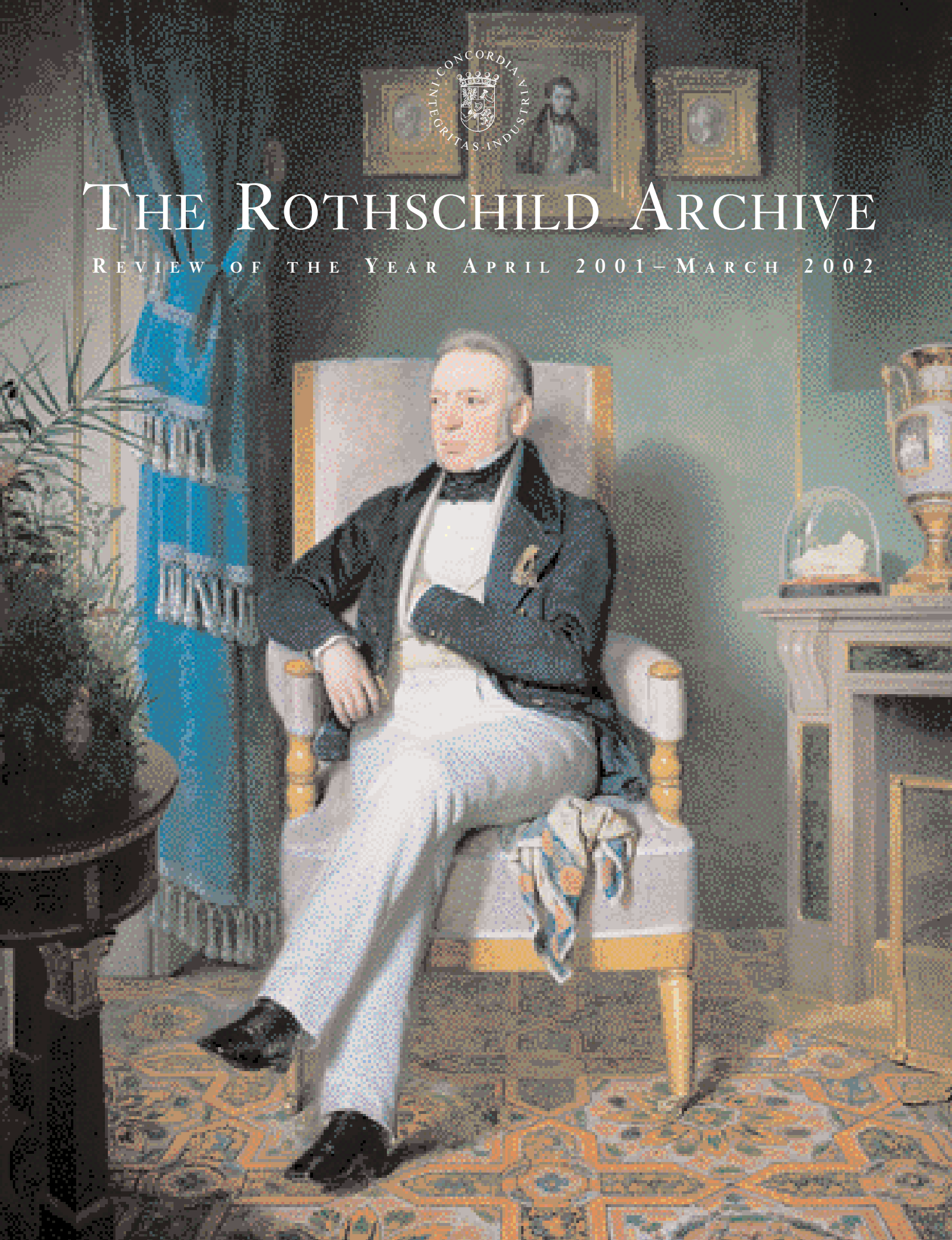




THE ROTHSCHILD ARCHIVE

REVIEW OF THE YEAR APRIL 2001 – MARCH 2002



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Introduction

Emma Rothschild, Chairman of the Rothschild Archive Trust

The third year of the Rothschild Archive Trust has been eventful, even dramatic. We have continued to build the collection, and are grateful for the arrival of important papers from both England and France, and especially from members of the Rothschild family: Evelyn, Miriam, Anita, Eric and Liliane. But the most spectacular arrival has come at the end of a much longer journey, in European history and European geography. This is the accession of the surviving archives of the Austrian Rothschilds. The story of their rediscovery, more than half a century after they were seized by the Nazis, is told elsewhere in this *Review* by Victor Gray. Their transfer to the ownership of The Rothschild Archive comes after ten years of negotiation, in which a number of people were closely involved. The Trustees are enormously grateful to them all, and particularly to Betty Looram, daughter of Alphonse de Rothschild, who generously donated the papers to The Rothschild Archive, and made the return possible.

The Moscow papers include a group of documents which Salomon himself identified in the 1840s as the most important archives in the history of the family, and the arrival of the collection has made it possible to reconstruct 'the first Rothschild archive', analysed and described by Melanie Aspey in another part of the *Review*.

The Archive has continued to attract a diverse and international group of scholars, and we hope over the coming months to develop the information available to researchers on our website, www.rothschildarchive.com. We are also pleased to be able to initiate a small programme of support to facilitate use of the Archive by research students. Details of this can be found at the end of the Director's Review of the Year's Work (p. 11).

The Archive Trust is enormously grateful, as in previous years, for the tremendous generosity of Evelyn de Rothschild and the Board of NM Rothschild & Sons in the support they provide to the Archive. The principal challenge for the Archive Trust is to establish a firm financial basis for the long term future of the Archive. We are particularly grateful to NM Rothschild & Sons for their contribution to our endowment fund, and to Château Lafite Rothschild and Rothschild et Compagnie Banque for generous contributions to the fund, which we greatly welcome, too, as evidence that the Archive really is once more, as the papers and other materials which constitute our collections once were, a European and a global resource.

The Archive was fortunate in May to be able to welcome David Cannadine, Professor of History and Director of the Institute for Historical Research, to deliver the third of our series of annual Rothschild Archive Lectures. Professor Cannadine's research interests have traversed the world, but he has never become bored by the history of money, and how it relates to the rest of life. Professor Cannadine's lecture on *The Embarrassment of Riches*, which we are pleased to publish here, is a timely contribution to the history of entrepreneurial values, and also to the wider debate on the place of economic history at the turn of the 21st century.