

# Introduction

Emma Rothschild, Chairman of the Rothschild Archive Trust

The Rothschild Archive Trust has made continued progress, in its fifth year of activities, towards its objective of serving as a major educational and research resource, in the United Kingdom and internationally. The millions of papers, photographs, books and other artefacts which constitute the Archive's holdings are increasingly known, and used, in the scholarly world.

The construction of the on-line Rothschild Research Forum ([www.rothschildarchive.org](http://www.rothschildarchive.org)) has played an essential role in this process. Researchers from more than a dozen countries, who are involved in economic, financial, social and political history, art, architecture and garden history, have a 'virtual meeting place' and an outstanding library of resources. The Archive team, as they have prepared content for the Forum, have become focused on the needs and priorities of researchers. This year's Review again bears witness to the diversity of the research going on in the Archive, including historical investigations of France, Germany, Hungary, Sri Lanka and the U.K., of finance and business, of photography and art.

The staff of the Archive are increasingly being called upon to deliver papers at academic and professional conferences, in a good indicator of the acceptance of the Archive and its work as a serious focus of research. The new research project on Jewish philanthropy, which has received generous funding from the Hanadiv charitable foundation has led the Archive for the first time to commission research in previously unexplored fields; the initial results of the project are presented in this Review (see page 12). With the Web publication, in the near future, of the first products of the Judendeutsch letters project and of the Bibliography project (see page 18) the Archive will be making a substantial contribution to historical research.

This year's Review is the last to be edited by Victor Gray, the founding Director of the Trust. We are delighted that Melanie Aspey, who has played such a major role in the development of the Archive, will succeed him as Director, in late 2004. Victor Gray will continue to be actively involved with the Archive's work, as a Trustee. The Rothschild Archive Trust is immensely grateful to him for his vision, commitment, and prodigious industry over the past five years. We are proud of his involvement in the larger national and European world of archives, and look forward to his continuing guidance in the years to come.