

Introduction

Eric de Rothschild, Chairman of The Rothschild Archive Trust

The Rothschild Archive Trust continues to pursue its objective of serving as a significant educational and research resource, not just for the United Kingdom, where the majority of the records are housed, but also for the international scholarly community. In this, the eighth issue of the Archive's *Review of the Year*, the scope of the collections is clearly demonstrated by the themes of the articles that have been written based on the material in London and in Roubaix. Financial, political, social and art historians will continue to find in the Archive much that is of value to them in their research.

The staff of the Archive have been working on a number of projects during the year which are designed to promote not only knowledge of the collections but also access to them, notably the preparations for the Brazil Online Archive Project, which is due to be launched in January 2008. Our London reading room was particularly busy during the year and our web-based Rothschild Research Forum attracted yet more use and development.

A particular highlight of the year under review was the joint colloquium, *The Rothschilds and Eastern Europe*, organised by the staff of the Archive and of the Archives nationales du monde du travail (formerly the Centre des archives du monde du travail) which houses the French Rothschild archives owned by the Trust. We are grateful to our generous hosts at the ANMT in Roubaix, especially Madame Françoise Bosman, directrice, for their warm hospitality and co-operation and thank Madame Martine de Boisdeffre, conseiller d'Etat, for addressing the colloquium. Professor Alice Teichova and Professor François Crouzet, the distinguished economic historians, headed the scientific advisory committee which assembled contributions from a multi-national group of scholars. Work continues on the preparation of the texts of their papers with a view to publication.

Baroness Benjamin de Rothschild joined the board of trustees this year, helping us to strengthen our links to all branches of the Rothschild family.

The trustees wish to record their thanks and appreciation to the director and staff of the Archive for their enthusiastic support of the objects of the Trust and for their dedication to the development of the Archive.

I welcome this opportunity to thank most warmly, on behalf of all the trustees of the Archive, our financial supporters: N M Rothschild & Sons (London), Rothschild & Cie Banque and Château Lafite (Paris).