



Introduction

Eric de Rothschild, Chairman of The Rothschild Archive Trust

On behalf of my fellow trustees I am pleased to welcome you to the fifteenth issue of The Rothschild Archive's *Review of the Year*. We are delighted to note that our collections attract the interest of a wide range of scholars from all over the world who find material relevant to studies ranging from banking and financial history to horticulture. The constant discoveries they make help us all to learn from the past, and also to appreciate the importance of primary sources. Two of our visitors have contributed to this issue of the *Review*: Brian Cathcart offers a carefully considered account of the first news of the Battle of Waterloo in which he examines many of the myths surrounding this event. Francesca Murray explores the role played by several members of the Rothschild family in the development of orchid trade. I am grateful to them both for sharing the results of their work with us.

The Rothschild business in London provides us with superb accommodation for the storage of our collections and for their consultation. The Trustees value this important relationship. The Reading Room, the work of the Yorkshire family firm of Robert Thompson's Craftsmen Ltd., continues to attract admiration from our many visitors. The Archive is also supported by Rothschild family banks, vineyards and foundations and I thank them all, on behalf of the Trustees, for their continuing generosity.

Additions to our collections this year have arrived from Rothschild businesses, from members of my family and from organisations with which they have historical associations. I draw your attention in particular to the happy collaboration between the Archive and The Wildlife Trusts, which has led to the deposit of papers relating to the first national survey in the UK of wildlife sites carried out by Charles Rothschild in 1912. This relationship was enhanced thanks to the Rothschild Scientists project which featured in previous issues of the *Review*.

Finally I thank the staff of the Archive for their continued dedication to their work and their enthusiasm in promoting the collection to our many users.

Orchis ericetorum (spotted)
growing at Ashton Wold,
the home of Charles
Rothschild, c.1905, from
an album of Charles'
own photographs.
RAL 000/1325/8/5