Principal acquisitions
1 April 2013 – 31 March 2014

This list is not comprehensive but attempts to record acquisitions of most immediate relevance to research. Some items listed here may, however, remain closed to access for some time and for a variety of reasons. Researchers should always enquire as to the availability of specific items before visiting the Archive, quoting the reference number which appears at the end of each entry.

The Rothschild Reserves Archive
The Archive of the survey conducted between 1914–19 by The Society for the Promotion of Nature Reserves (SPNR).
The SPNR, (founded by Charles Rothschild) conducted the first ever national survey of wildlife sites in England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland. The resultant documentation for 74 sites (which were to become The Rothschild Reserves) was stored in Rothschild Bank blue envelopes, usually contain a map showing the area in question and relevant correspondence. The archive remained in the offices of the SPNR (later renamed The Wildlife Trusts). In 2012, the survey papers were digitised and are available at: www.wildlifetrusts.org/aboutarchive.

Six books belonging to members of the Rothschild family, formerly in the collection at Ascott House, Wing. J.W. von Goethe, Il racconto, 1850, with an inscription. Name on verso is ‘Mrs N.M. de Rothschild’, Arthur de Rothschild, Historie de la poste aux lettres (Paris: Librairie Nouvelle, 1831); Hester Rothschild (trans.), Prayers and Meditations for every situation and occasion of life (London: P. Vallentine, 1849.) Inscription on flyleaf reads, ‘To Master Evelyn Achille de Rothschild with best wishes for many very happy returns of the day: From your father’s little friend Willie Tethth, January 1897.’

Photocopies of letters from the archives of The Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh.
The letters relate to Lionel de Rothschild (1842–1914) and his work with the Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh, when George Forrest died whilst on a plant hunting expedition in China. The letters refer to bringing back his seed collections to the UK.

A collection of papers concerning the Rothschild family and orchids, primarily 1917–55.
The papers document innovative experiments to cultivate orchids at the Royal Mint Reﬁnery and contain receipt books, lists of plants, correspondence, catalogues and display cards from flower shows. There is also a typescript headed ‘Copy of Baron Edmond de Rothschild’s procedures for the aseptic germination of orchids’.

Volumes of special instructions from the private accounts department of N.M Rothschild & Sons dated 1896–1915, 1920–30, 1938. These volumes contain pasted original and copy letters of instruction from members of the Rothschild family and other individuals concerning financial transactions on their Rothschild accounts, and other matters dealt with on their behalf by N.M Rothschild & Sons.

Rothschild family papers
Transferred from the custody of N.M Rothschild & Sons Limited
Artifacts and framed items from the offices of the late Lionel de Rothschild, (1917–1951) and items from the New Court vault. The items include framed photographs of yachts, chairs, Courtes of Directors of the Bank of England and other business affairs.

A collection of files from the Partners’ Room, New Court.
The files contain receipts for personal expenses of Lionel de Rothschild (1842–1914) for household goods and services (insurance, telephone, catering), utilities, food and wine, pharmacy supplies, clothing, motoring supplies, yachts, supplies, guns, gardening equipment, plants, flower, seeds, books, camera equipment, cigars, cigarettes, watches, jewellery etc. from 1913–41.

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The letters relate to Lionel de Rothschild (1842–1914) and his work with the Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh, when George Forrest died whilst on a plant hunting expedition in China. The letters refer to bringing back his seed collections to the UK.

Correspondence between Dame Miriam Rothschild and Professor Dianne Edwards, (then editor of the Botanical Journal of the Linnean Society) concerning the article ‘Cannabis sativa: volatile compounds from pollen and entire male and female plants of two variants, Northern Lights and Hawaiian Indica’.

Collection of books and exhibition catalogues relating to the life of Jacqueline Paturgosky (née Rothschild), her husband and son.

Estate records
Estate papers and deeds from Ascott House. An extensive collection of documents relating to the development of the Ascott Estate from the sixteenth to the twentieth century.

Printed materials
Broadsides issued by the Chief Rabbinate Palestine, in Hebre, exhorting the community to pray for Baron Edmond de Rothschild, 1914.
Getzfel Knesel, HaYehud [‘Father of the Yishuv’], Baron Edmond de Rothschild (1994) 000/2177

Barnard van Oeuv, Onget Broeke van Rothschild te sit in Parlement?: en imaginary conversation between Judas & Amici Nobili, (London: Effingham,Wilson, 1867). This pamphlet, arguing in favour of Jewish emancipation, was published in the year in which Lionel de Rothschild was elected as a Liberal representative of the City of London. 000/2150

Getzfel Knesel, HaYehud [‘Father of the Yishuv’], Baron Edmond de Rothschild (1994) 000/2177

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Artefacts

Two war memorials recording the names of the staff of N M Rothschild & Sons who served in World War I and World War II. The first memorial, in wood, was in place in the second New Court building, which was demolished in 1962. When the third New Court building was opened in 1965 a new memorial, in marble, was positioned in the entrance hall.

000/2157

Samples of plates and bowls from Rothschild family dinner services, many with the monogram RR (Robert de Rothschild, 1810–1846) or GR (Gustave de Rothschild, 1829–1911). Most of the plates are French porcelain, late nineteenth to mid-twentieth century, made by Jacquel in Paris and Pillivuyt, Meun sur Yevre, Cher and J V Heillard, Bordeaux and Sévres.

000/2164

Metal safe, formerly in the offices of de Rothschild Frères at rue Lafitte, Paris.

000/2165

Marble bust of Baron James de Rothschild (1792–1868).

000/2165

Two watercolours by Eugène Lami (1800–90), one left unfinished, featuring Gustave de Rothschild and his daughters Julie and Lucie. One of the watercolours was given to Lucie de Rothschild by the artist on the occasion of her wedding to Baron Lambert.

000/2168

Above left
James G. Mulliken (fl. 1826–72)
Portrait of Annie and Constance de Rothschild, 1856–57, oil on canvas. This painting has been placed with The Rothschild Archive on permanent loan by the trustees of the Anthony Hall, Aston Clinton, where it has been since the early decades of the twentieth century.

000/2168

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RHS awards won by Lionel de Rothschild for orchids and cymbidiums. 000/2167