

Introduction

Eric de Rothschild, Chairman of The Rothschild Archive Trust

In its second decade of existence The Rothschild Archive Trust continues to make progress towards its objective of serving as a major educational and research resource in the United Kingdom and internationally. Our reading room in London welcomed scores of researchers from all over the world, the staff of the Archive answered hundreds of enquiries, and thousands of documents were accessed via the website, www.rothschildarchive.org

2010 sees the 200th anniversary of the signing of the first partnership agreement, which underpinned the development of the Rothschild banks throughout the nineteenth century. The Trust itself has developed some important partnerships within the research community as it promotes the importance of the collection to the academic world. The research project, Jewish Philanthropy and Social Development in Europe, the progress of which has been reported in previous issues of the *Review*, was rated ‘outstanding’, the highest rate, by the Arts and Humanities Research Council, the major funder of the project. Partnerships with the AHRC are continuing through the Collaborative Doctoral Award Scheme, managed together with the Centre for Contemporary British History. Looking forward, we eagerly anticipate the Rothschild Archive Lecture by Emma Rothschild at the beginning of 2012, when the new Rothschild building is occupied.

The Archive continues to develop, thanks to the generous donations of material from members of the Rothschild family. The Trustees are enormously grateful to all donors, especially Sir Evelyn de Rothschild, Renée Robeson, Charlotte Lane, Charles Lane, Rozsika Parker, Nelly Munthe, Elisabeth de Rothschild and Nathaniel de Rothschild for their support in this way.

Rothschild Archive Bursaries are available for researchers engaged in full-time academic pursuits and committed to research projects which will involve substantial use of The Rothschild Archive. Two of the recipients have written about their research for this issue of the *Review*: Kathryn Boodry, who worked on the extensive records in our collections in London and Roubaix relating to business in America and the global trade in the nineteenth century, and Lisa-Maria Tillian, whose research was inspired by a recent acquisition of papers by the Archive. A further bursary was awarded to Simona Malá, who is basing her PhD on the German-language diaries of Charlotte, Baroness Lionel de Rothschild (1819–1884).

The richness of the archives of the Paris bank, de Rothschild Frères, continues to be uncovered, thanks to the work of our own staff and no less to the efforts of the archivists at the Archives Nationales du Monde du Travail, Roubaix, where our collection is currently housed.

Justin Cavernelis-Frost was appointed Archivist in June 2009, joining the Director, Melanie Aspey, and the small, dedicated and highly professional staff we have in the Archive. I wish to express my thanks to them for their invaluable contribution to the success of the Trust. In 2010 John Grimond accepted our invitation to join the board and we are grateful to him for his enthusiasm for the Archive and the objectives of the Trust.

A final recognition of invaluable partnerships must be to the supporters of the Archive: N M Rothschild & Sons Limited, Rothschild & Cie Banque, Les Domaines Barons de Rothschild (Lafite), La Fondation Maurice et Noémie de Rothschild and GFA (Château Mouton). I thank all of them most warmly on behalf of all the Trustees.

Lithograph of Moscow:
Vue des Cathedrales au Kremlin
from ‘Stray Leaves From
My Journey’ collected by
Leopold de Rothschild on
his summer travels, 1867.
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