

Review of the Year's Work

Melanie Aspey, Director of The Rothschild Archive

Research

Research lies at the core of the Trust's activities and during the year the staff of the Archive has continued to promote the collections to new audiences. In the current calendar year, the Archive has organised and hosted two special events: 'Meet the Archivists' and a workshop entitled 'Spreading the Net'.

'Meet the Archivists' is an initiative developed together with other City archivists to encourage students embarking on post-graduate degrees to find out more about potential archival sources, particularly those in the City and in the business sector in general. Over thirty participants attended the event which began with lectures from Professor Peter Scott of Reading University and Dr Valerie Johnson of The National Archives on research techniques. Students then had the opportunity to discuss their research plans with archivists representing banking, insurance, retail and communication business companies.

'Spreading the Net' brought together researchers who had worked at the Archive, all of them on different aspects of the collection but with similar research agendas. The German Historical Institute London and the University of Düsseldorf were partners in the organisation of this event.

Around one hundred individuals worked in the Reading Room in London on a broad range of subjects, including loan contracts with the Ottoman Empire and Egypt, Greek loans and trade with Greece, territory conflict in Brazil, the economic history of Mexico, the trade in US commodities in the nineteenth century, the collections of Max von Goldschmidt-Rothschild, Isaac d'Israeli's library, the history of Bapst jewellers, the dancing of Martha Graham, Béatrice de Rothschild and the Villa Ephrussi, and the plant hunters funded by Lionel de Rothschild.

Other researchers used the collections remotely, accessing the thousands of documents that have been published on the Rothschild Archive Research Forum. The use of the Forum continues to increase in line with the addition of more materials and greater awareness of this resource.¹

Collaborative Doctoral Awards

The Archive and the Centre for Contemporary British History (CCBH) were awarded funding under the AHRC's Collaborative Awards scheme for three PhD posts beginning in three years from October 2008. The first award was to Michele Blagg, who is working on the history of the Royal Mint Refinery, and who contributed an article to the last *Review* about her research. The second award has been made to Nicola Pickering, who will study the development of the Rothschild family's landholding, estate development and collections policy in the Vale of Aylesbury. She writes about her subject on pages 47–52.

Acquisitions

During the year under review, the Archive was again fortunate to receive a number of significant accessions of material from many sources including N M Rothschild & Sons Limited, members of the Rothschild family and other individual depositors. A small number of items were purchased at auction.

Volume containing the
City Elector's List, 1847,
From the Partners Room,
New Court.
RAL 000/2027

The accessions were varied in content and format. Notable items include a large transfer of family archives from Ascott House, the latest in a series of accessions arranged by Sir Evelyn de Rothschild and Mrs Renée Robeson which have featured in previous issues of this *Review*.

A weighty volume, formerly kept in the Partners Room of N M Rothschild & Sons and transferred to the Archive from the bank's Corporate Records Department, has proved to be a rarity. Its contents consist of printed sheets laid out to record in manuscript and in alphabetical order the names – 10,000 or so – of all voters in the parliamentary election for the City of London in July 1847. While electoral registers list the names of those entitled to vote, poll books (such as this) record how votes were cast. The 1847 election was the one in which Lionel de Rothschild (1808–1879) first stood as Liberal representative for the City, the beginning of a campaign which took eleven years to succeed. Research by Victor Gray has revealed how rare it is for poll books to survive. No parliamentary poll book for the City of London appeared until now to have survived after the 1832 Reform Act: the largest collection – of 800 – kept in the Guildhall Library, was destroyed by bombing in 1940. The new discovery is therefore important, first, as a unique survival, but also for the information it provides to political historians: its listing of every person entitled to vote in the City and what it tells us about how the support for Lionel and his Liberal colleagues was made up and how the political parties tried to make use of this information.

Register No.	NAME AND ADDRESS.	HUSBLE	PARTISON	LABYRE	JOHNSON	MATHEWS	BEVAN	FRESHFIELD	PAYNE
R 12311	Cockrell, Daniel 11 Crossway, Blackfriars	1	1	1	1				
R 17169	George 65 Fleet Street	1	1	1	1				
R 12417	Jos. Joseph 57 St. James Street					1			
R 35119	Jos. Miller 21 Whitehall Mansions							1	1
R 12215	John 8 Austin Friars							1	
R 2110	Cockerton, Christopher 15 Whitechapel Lane, Whitechapel								1
R 12219	Joseph Dow 2 Austin Friars							1	1
R 14200	Cockett, Charles 26 Aldermanbury							1	1
R 14123	Cockin, J. Baker 5, Milk Street							1	1
R 2169	Cockmans, William 17, Southview, Southview, South							1	1
R 144577	Cockle, Richard 6, 1/2 St. Christopher Lane								1
R 15498	Cockle, Joseph 23 Newgate Street							1	1
R 2113	Cocks, John 98 London Wall								1
R 15979	John 21 Wren C. Kelborn								em
R 12512	Cockworth, David Broadway, Blackfriars							1	1
R 3014	Codner, William Longspire Lane, Longspire Lane								1
R 15339	Coffey, Thomas 1 Warwick Square							1	1
R 15963	Cogger, John 61, 1/2 Farringdon Street							1	1
R 2522	Jos. Joyce 22 Lambeth Square								em
R 17056	Cotton, Barnett 11 Abchurch Buildings							1	1
R 1907	Barnett 6 Abchurch Lane							1	1
R 5815	Croftman 3 Church Alley							1	1
R 19058	Dan 113, Newmarket Street							1	1
R 52150	Elias 27 Burg Street							1	1
R 9566	Hyam 4, 1/2 Farringdon Street							1	1
R 30441	Thompson 48 Lime Street							1	1
R 19060	Saunders 21 Old Change Square							1	1
R 19061	Joseph 136, Newmarket Street							1	em
R 3279	Moses 42, Duke Street							1	1
R 19062	Howard 33, Cutler Street							1	1
R 15490	Coleman Samuel 4, New Court								
R 15491	Coleman Samuel 4, New Court								
R 15492	Coleman Samuel 4, New Court								
R 15493	Coleman Samuel 4, New Court								
R 15494	Coleman Samuel 4, New Court								
R 15495	Coleman Samuel 4, New Court								
R 15496	Coleman Samuel 4, New Court								
R 15497	Coleman Samuel 4, New Court								
R 15498	Coleman Samuel 4, New Court								
R 15499	Coleman Samuel 4, New Court								
R 15500	Coleman Samuel 4, New Court								



Portrait of Rozsika
Rothschild (1870–1940)
née Wertheimstein by
de Laszlo. Oil on board,
c.1910.
RAL 000/1983

The children of the late Miriam Rothschild, DBE, FRS, made a gift to the Archive of a painting of Miriam's mother, Rozsika, by the artist Philip de Laszlo.

Over sixty new publications were added to the Archive's library. A number of titles are pertinent to the theme of the research project on Jewish philanthropy, such as the account of the Rothschild sanatorium in Nordrach during the period of National Socialism (presented by the author Uwe Schellinger); the children's asylum in Göstling (presented by Julia Demmer, whose article about the subject of her book appeared in last year's issue of the *Review*) and publications about the Clementine hospital in Frankfurt and the Evelina hospital in London, both named after and founded by members of the Rothschild family.¹

Rothschild estates and collections were represented in a number of publications, among them the first volume of *Waddesdon Miscellanea* on the Duc de Choiseul, a guide to Ascott House in Buckinghamshire edited by John Martin Robinson and others and a description by Norbert Parguel of the Villa Victoria at Grasse, the estate of Alice de Rothschild, which appeared in *Nice Historique: Organe Official de l'Academia Nissarda*. All three publications appeared in 2009.

Visitors

A small number of visits to the Archive by special interest groups have taken place this year. In January 2010 the archivists hosted a seminar for students on an M. A. programme run by The Photographer's Gallery and Birkbeck School of Extra-Mural Studies as part of their 'Investigating the Archives' course. Members of the Judaica Libraries Group made a second visit to learn more about the Archive's collections.

Outreach

In conjunction with the Austrian Cultural Forum the Archive hosted an evening lecture by Professor Dr Rudolf Agstner on the Austrian and Austro-Hungarian consulates in the United Kingdom. Professor Agstner is an authority on the history of the development of the consular system on which he has written numerous articles and books. His lecture at the Archive and his account on page 27 of this *Review* reveal the extensive service of members of the Rothschild family and their circle in several European cities.

The Archive prepares regular small exhibitions based on its collections on topical and seasonal themes, which are on display in the Reading Room and the premises of the bank. Some of the themes this year were the banking houses of the five Rothschild brothers, the history of Rothschild business in Japan, collections of silver made by members of the Rothschild family, Rothschild estates in Europe, Austrian Consuls General, horse-racing, and the Rothschild family and businesses during the world wars.

Archive education

As in previous years the Archive arranged group visits for students on the postgraduate archive training courses at University College London and the University of Wales at Aberystwyth. As in recent years the Archive also hosted individual student placements from these courses. Natalie Broad, who took up a temporary post as Archive Assistant in November 2009, secured a place on the postgraduate training course at UCL beginning in September 2010.

Research projects

Dr Peter Mandler, one of the Trust's Academic Advisers and a member of the Academic Advisory Committee of the research project 'Jewish Philanthropy and Social Development in Europe 1800–1940: the case of the Rothschilds', was one of the organisers of the International Conference of the Council for European Studies which took place in Montreal in April 2010. At the invitation of Dr Mandler, members of the Philanthropy Project presented papers at the conference. Dr Klaus Weber and Dr Ralf Roth organised a session entitled 'European Jewish Entrepreneurs: Global Business and Local Charitable Commitment, 1860–1919' in which Dr Céline Leglaive-Perani spoke on *Men and Women in French and British Jewish Philanthropy 1860–1939*, Dr Roth on *All About Metal Trade, Railroads, and How to Solve the Social Question: Frankfurt's Global Players Wilhelm Merton and Charles Hallgarten, 1860–1916* and Dr Weber on *Diamonds and Hospitals: Imperial Dimensions of Anglo-Jewish Philanthropy, 1885–1920*. A paper by Dr Tobias Brinkmann, who participated in the project's conference in Cambridge in July 2009, also formed part of the session.

Dr Weber took part in two seminars in Japan also in April on the subject of 'Welfare and Philanthropy, Europe and Asia compared'. He presented papers entitled *Studies on the Western Welfare State: A Historiographic Overview* and *Mandatory Welfare and Private Charity in Europe: The Example of Jewish Philanthropy (19th & 20th centuries)*. The seminars were organised by Professor Shusaku Kanazawa, University of Kyoto, and supported by the Centre for International Research on the Japanese Economy (CIRJE), Faculty of Economics, University of Tokyo.

Dr Weber presented the collection of essays resulting from the project at a seminar held at the Institut für die Geschichte der europäischen Juden (Hamburg).²

Discussions have begun with colleagues at the Natural History Museum in London to consider future collaborative ventures on the collections of Rothschild scientists held by both institutions and elsewhere. Plans for a major research project based on the collections at the Archive in London and Roubaix which reveal the nature and extent of the involvement of the Rothschild banks in American trade and finance during the nineteenth century first took shape this year.³ Kathryn Boodry's article on page 13 analyses the approach taken by the Rothschild banks to this part of their business.

During the course of the coming year and into the summer of 2011 the staff of the Archive will be preparing to move into purpose-built accommodation on the site of New Court, the address first chosen for the bank in London by Nathan Mayer Rothschild in 1809. When the Archive settled into its current premises in August 1999, the Trust had just been established to care for the records of N M Rothschild & Sons and for the small number of collections that had been deposited with the bank's archive department by some members of the Rothschild family. Since then the collection has almost doubled in size, thanks in large part to the transfer of the records of the Paris bank, de Rothschild frères, from the family to the Trust although it remains housed in the Archives Nationales du Monde du Travail in Roubaix. The collection, which was always of interest to users beyond banking and financial historians, has become even more diversified with the acquisition of new material from many branches of the Rothschild family.⁴ The staff of the Archive is committed to making the collection relevant to a wide range of researchers and looks forward to the opportunities created by some of the partnerships formed over the last years – with colleagues, archivists, academics, researchers and friends – to fulfil this most challenging and rewarding task.

NOTES

- 1 Uwe Schellinger, Rolf Oswald, Egbert Hoferer, *Deportiert aus Nordrach. Das Schicksal der letzten jüdischen Patientinnen und Angestellten des Rothschild – Sanatoriums*; Julia Demmer, *Das Kinderasyl 1878–1945. Erziehung und Lebenserinnerungen ehemaliger Zöglinge an das Rothschild'sche Kinderasyl in Götting an der Ybbs*; Bürgerhospital Frankfurt, *Rund ums Uhr Türmchen und die Clementine Bürgerhospital Frankfurt*; Wendy Mathews, *My Ward: The story of St. Thomas, Guy's and the Evelina Children's Hospitals and their ward names*.
- 2 Rainer Liedtke & Klaus Weber, *Religion und Philanthropie in der europäischen Zivilgesellschaft* (Cologne: Ferdinand Schoeningh 2009.)
- 3 A joint conference with the Program in Early American Economy and Society will be held at the Library Company of Philadelphia in the Spring of 2012.
- 4 Further details of new acquisitions made each year will be found on the final pages of each issue of the *Review*.



Packets of files of N M Rothschild & Sons containing correspondence and telegrams with Kuhn, Loeb & Co, 1930s, awaiting appraisal.