



the copper plant was destined to be built on land purchased at Wembley. This solved another mystery over the purchase of the land. Rothschild decided, due to an economic downturn, not to proceed with the new venture and the site was later sold. The ‘find’ expanded both knowledge of the business activities and the decision making process of the Bank. This was just one of various discoveries made during the course of the move which, hopefully in time, will intrigue another researcher or inspire another project for the archive.

The new Reading Room, it is hoped, will be a space of inspiration to scholars, of interest to our patrons, and a secure place for the Archive’s collection to develop. As a team, we hope in the future to continue to receive and welcome researchers and enquiries so that we too can have the opportunity to investigate and learn about the collection further from the comfort of our new Reading Room. Robert Thompson’s own motto is quite pertinent for the space that now displays his company’s craftsmanship; ‘industry in quiet places.’ So remember, when you visit The Rothschild Archive Reading Room, see how many mice you can spot!

Natalie Broad joined the staff at The Rothschild Archive in 2009 as Archive Assistant. She assumed the role of Assistant Archivist in May 2011 after completing her Postgraduate Diploma in Archives and Records Management at University College London. She gained her Bachelor of Arts in Theology and Religious Studies from the University of Winchester and has a continuing interest in this area.

The table being set up in the Reading Room watched closely by members of the project team.

Below
One of the mice in the Reading Room.



NOTES

- 1 Clement Clarke Moore, *Twas the night before Christmas* (New York: New York Sentinel, 1823).
- 2 Ampleforth College was the first Robert Thompson commission thanks to the then headmaster, Father Paul Nevill. Father Nevill was a great patron of Mouseman, and asked Thompson for more works which now include the library, most of the main building and the College houses.
- 3 Robert Thompson’s Craftsmen Limited. (2012), *A Brief History*. Available: www.robertthompsons.co.uk/visitor-centre/history.html Accessed on 10 May 2012.
- 4 Forestry Stewardship Council International Centre. (2012). Homepage. Available: www.fsc.org/index.html Accessed on 10 May 2012.
- 5 Great Northern Books (ed.) (2012). *Newsletter No.7 Winter 2011*. Bruton, Somerset: ionriver design.
- 6 RAL 000/924 and 000/2019, The Ascott Collection.
- 7 Particular thanks must go to Jackie Cooper, our space planner, who worked tirelessly with us to optimise the space for both our current and future collections.
- 8 Michele Blagg is a PhD student at King’s College London. Her project is one of the Collaborative Doctoral Awards funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council in partnership with the Institute of Contemporary British History and The Rothschild Archive. The project charts the business history of the Royal Mint Refinery, a gold and silver refinery operated by N M Rothschild and Sons from 1852 to 1967.
- 9 RAL 000/2064.

Principal acquisitions

1 April 2011 – 31 March 2012

This list is not comprehensive but attempts to record acquisitions of most immediate relevance to research. Some items listed here, 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.

Business records

Files from the Administration and Staff Department of N M Rothschild & Sons, including ‘Staff Matters: Staff records pre-1914’ containing staff lists and salaries 1874–1915 and a number of staff lists from 1963 to 1992. (000/2067)

File from the Partners’ Room, relating to staff of New Court during their time in service, 1940–1946. It contains correspondence between staff members and Mr Bevington, head of staff at the bank. (000/2069)

Special correspondence of Edmund de Rothschild relating to the Royal Mint Refinery, 1947–1968. (000/2059)

Plans of the Royal Mint Refinery c.1914. (000/2064)

Correspondence and family history of the Belmont family. Presented by a descendant of the Belmont family, the collection consists of copies of a book entitled ‘Feist-Belmont History 1775–1877’ and letters between August Belmont, the Rothschild agent in New York from 1837, and members of the Rothschild family. (000/2086)

Family records

Papers and photographs of Pannonica de Koenigswarter. (000/2088)

Papers and artefacts relating to the family of Elie and Liliane de Rothschild. (000/2089)

Aston Clinton Estate sale particulars, 1932. (000/2090)

Artefacts and illustrations

Ivory statuette of Don Pedro II of Brazil. (000/2078)

Commemorative metal cup for the Rio-Niteroi Bridge 1974, financed by N M Rothschild & Sons. (000/2078)

Mounted engraving of *The chain bridge of Pesth*, by W H Barlett. Captioned on reverse in pencil ‘Stahlstich von Wallis nach Bartlett, um 1854’. (000/2060)

Library

The following are some of almost fifty publications, books, pamphlets and off-prints added to the Archive’s library during the year.

David de Rothschild, *Plastiki: Across the Pacific on Plastic: an adventure to save our oceans* (San Francisco: Chronicle Books, 2011)

Emma Rothschild, *The Inner Life of Empires: an eighteenth century history* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2011)

Philippe de Rothschild, *Paris-Paris: Instantanés d’Amérique* (Paris: Cahiers Libres, 1931)

Jean Porcher, *La Bibliothèque Henri de Rothschild* (Paris: Bibliothèque nationale, 1949)

Pascal Torres Guardiola, *The Edmond de Rothschild Collection at the Musée du Louvre* (Paris: éditions du Louvre, 2010)

John Cooper, ‘Nathaniel Mayer Rothschild (1840–1915) the last of the shtadlanim’ in *Transactions of the Jewish Historical Society of England*, vol. 43 2011 (London, 2011)

Paul Blanc, *Jockey chez Rothschild* (Paris: Seplo, 1965)

Colin Amery, *Windmill Hill, Waddesdon, Architecture, Archives & Art* (Waddesdon: The Rothschild Foundation, 2011)

[Anon.], ‘L’atelier et le laboratoire de photographie de Mme la Baronne Ad. de Rothschild’ in *Prestige de la photographie* no. 3, April 1980 (Paris: Editions e.p.a., 1980)

Victor Gray, *Sotheran’s of Sackville Street* (London: Henry Sotheran Ltd, 2011)

Stella Tillyard, *Tides of War* (London: Chatto & Windus, 2011)

Charles Lyte, Frank Kingdon-Ward, *The last of the great plant hunters* (London: John Murray, 1989)