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 ‘Bird’ 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 work 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 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 1904–1947 containing staff lists and salaries 1874–1913 and a number of staff lists from 1863 to 1932. [eon/1090]
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. [eon/1099]
Special correspondence of Edmund de Rothschild relating to the Royal Mint Refinery, 1947–1956. [eon/1099]
Plans of the Royal Mint Refinery c.1914. [eon/1094]
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’ containing staff lists and letters between August Belmont, the Rothschild agent in New York from 1874, and members of the Rothschild family. [eon/1080]

Family records
Papers and photographs of Panonneic de Koenigswarter. [eon/1089]
Papers and artefacts relating to the family of Elie and Liliane de Rothschild. [eon/1095]
Aston Clinton Estate sale particulars, 1952. [eon/1095]

Artefacts and illustrations
Ivory statuette of Dom Pedro II of Brazil. [eon/1098]
Commemorative metal cup for the Rio-Niteroi Bridge 1974, financed by N M Rothschild & Sons. [eon/1097]

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)


NOTES
1 Clement Clarke Moore, ‘Take the left before Christmas’ (New York: New York Sentinel, 1843).
2 Ampthill College was the site Robert Thompson commisioned thanks to the then headmaster, Father Paul Neville. Father Neville 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.
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 Michelle 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 drags the business history of the Royal Mint Refinery, a gold and silver refinary operated by N M Rothschild and Sons from 1840 to 1867.
9 NRM 2011/2014.