

and a talented artist. Constance ('Connie') de Rothschild (1843–1931) spent much of her early life with her sister in Paris, marrying the politician Cyril Flower, (1st Lord Battersea) in 1877. Annie de Rothschild (1844–1926) was briefly married to Eliot Yorke. All three women were noted for their charitable works for the causes of women and education.

6 Anthony was a hereditary baron of the Austrian Empire through the title bestowed upon his uncle Salomon von Rothschild (1774–1855) in 1822. In 1847, Queen Victoria created Anthony de Rothschild the 1st Baronet de Rothschild. On his death the title went to his nephew, Nathaniel Mayer Rothschild who was subsequently created 1st Lord Rothschild in 1885, with which title the baronetcy remains merged.

7 Letter from Frankfurt to Mayer de Rothschild from Lionel de Rothschild, 23 September 1849. RAL XI/109/72/3.

8 Henry Stokes, architect (1827/8–1874). 'The late George Henry Stokes', obituary. *Building News*, 10 July 1874, p.57.

9 Draft Indenture and Specification between Sir Anthony de Rothschild and George Myers, 1855, RAL 000/891 and Myers Accounts 1856–1857, RAL XI/2/0 and XII/41/1.

10 George Devey, architect (1820–1886). Devey was later to transform Ascott House, Bucks into an Old English style house Leopold de Rothschild (1845–1917).

11 Archibald Philip Primrose, 5th Earl of Rosebery, 1st Earl of Midlothian, (1847–1929), British Liberal statesman and Prime Minister 1894–1895. In 1878, Rosebery married Hannah de Rothschild (1851–1890), who had inherited the Mentmore Estate from her father, Mayer de Rothschild (1818–1874).

12 Diana Gulland, *Aston Clinton House, Buckinghamshire*, The Rothschild Archive *Review of the Year* April 2002–March 2003 (London: The Rothschild Archive, 2003), pp.32–7.

13 Bound typescript volume entitled Selections from the *Journals of Lady de Rothschild* by Lucy Cohen. 1932. RAL 000/297.

14 Constance had taken 'The Pledge' in 1884 and there was a Temperance hotel in Aston Clinton called 'The Swan'. Constance, Lady Battersea, *Reminiscences* (London: Macmillan, 1922), p.16.

15 Louise was granted a life interest in the estate, in accordance with an agreement arrived at between Lionel and Anthony on 1 August 1875: RAL 000/53/1, RAL 000/107. Upon Louise's death in 1910, Aston Clinton reverted to the Rothschild Estate and the three sons of Anthony's

brother Lionel de Rothschild (1808–1879) jointly inherited the interest. By 1918, these three sons (Nathaniel, 1st Lord Rothschild (1840–1915), Alfred de Rothschild (1842–1918) and Leopold de Rothschild (1845–1917) had died, and the estate passed to Charles Rothschild (1877–1923).

16 During the First World War, the house was used by the Commanding Officer of the Twenty First Yorkshire Division, then encamped on the nearby Rothschild estate at Halton. Andrew E. Adam, *Beechwoods and Bayonets: The Book of Halton* (Whittlebury: Baron, 1992), p.80.

17 For a full account of the history of the estate after The Rothschilds sold it in 1923, see Diana Gulland, *Aston Clinton House 1923–1932*, Records of Buckinghamshire, vol.48 (2008).

18 Anthony was active in the Jewish community, supporting the Jews' Free School in London, and serving as presiding warden of the Great Synagogue, and President of the United Synagogue. Louise became president of the Jewish Ladies' Benevolent Loan and Visiting Society, established a convalescent home, and oversaw the direction of the education of the girls of the Jews' Free School. Constance was actively involved with the prison visitors of Aylesbury Women's Prison and Annie later became a member of the Education Committee of Hampshire County Council.

19 From the diaries of Lady de Rothschild, 15 May 1853. Lucy Cohen, *Lady de Rothschild and her daughters, 1821–1931* (London: John Murray, 1935), p.73.

20 Constance, Lady Battersea, *Lady de Rothschild 1821–1910: extracts from her notebook by her daughter Constance Battersea* (London: Arthur L. Humphreys, 1912), p.17.

21 Battersea, *Reminiscences*, p.11.

22 John Taylor (1823–1896), Mr Warren's predecessor, served as Landscape Gardener and Land Steward to the Rothschilds at Aston Clinton for 43 years.

23 The Head Gardener's Cottage still stands and is now the West Lodge Hotel.

24 Obituary of Mr W.H. Warren, *The Bucks Herald*, Friday 16 March 1928. Centre for Buckinghamshire Studies.

25 Photographs in the album dated 1901 show Mr Warren with 18 staff. At the nearby Rothschild estate of Halton the garden staff numbered over sixty, c.1900. Adam, *Beechwoods and Bayonets*, p.62.

26 Idem.

27 Battersea, *Reminiscences*, p.17.

28 Notebook of Thomas Hobbs, Gardener to Leopold de Rothschild at Gunnersbury Park, covering the period 1893–1899. RAL 000/296.

29 Plants include the exotic *Passiflora princeps*

(passionflower), the Australian *Grevillea robusta elegantissima* (silk oak), *Calla e Elliottiana* lily and the hybrids (probably created by Hobbs and Leopold), named after Leopold's wife, Mrs Leopold de Rothschild (née Marie Perugia). The Cattleya House was an orchid house.

30 Adam, *Beechwoods and Bayonets*, p.62.

31 Aston Clinton Estate. Catalogue of mansion and estate by direction of N. Charles Rothschild, 1923.

32 *Particulars, Plan, Views & Conditions of Sale of the attractive Freehold Estate known as Aston Clinton Park*, Horwood & James, Aylesbury, 1932, RAL 000/2090.

33 Verbatim report of the *Minutes of Important Parish Meeting, held Aston Clinton, June 26th 1896*, printed in the *Bucks Herald*, Saturday 4 July, 1896. Centre for Buckinghamshire Studies.

34 Earlswood Lunatic Asylum Patient records, 1919. Surrey History Centre.

35 In the 1840s, Ann Serena Plumbe began a campaign to support the learning disabled. In association with Dr Conolly (of the Hanwell Asylum) and Rev Dr Reed (a philanthropist) they determined to educate such people, and in October 1847 the project to found 'The Asylum for Idiots' began. Lord Palmerston, Sir Anthony de Rothschild and Lord Ashley became officers of the charity. Financed entirely by public subscription, the Royal Earlswood Asylum opened in 1855, finally closing in 1997.

36 Obituary of Mr W.H. Warren, *The Bucks Herald*, Friday 16 March 1928. Centre for Buckinghamshire Studies. The events must have been a great success, for in 1911, Mr Warren was invited by the Parish Council to serve as secretary to manage the village festivities for the Coronation of George V. Minutes of Aston Clinton Parish Council, 1894–1915, Centre for Buckinghamshire Studies, PR829/1.

37 Jane Ridley, *Bertie: A Life of Edward VII* (London: Chatto & Windus, 2012), p.363. Two days before the Coronation was due to be held, Edward was diagnosed with appendicitis. Sir Frederick Treves and Lord Lister performed a then-radical operation of draining the infected abscess through a small incision. Two weeks later, it was announced that the King was out of danger.

38 Electoral roll records show that all but one of the cottages (including the Head Gardener's Cottage) were immediately vacated. The estate was sold to Dr Albert Bredin-Crawford, who intended to establish a school; the project was not a success and following the school's closure in 1931, and Bredin-Crawford's bankruptcy, a much reduced Aston Clinton estate was again sold in 1932.

## 'The book that started it all': art, archives and Austria

Melanie Aspey explains how a recent acquisition provides a valuable link in the chain of research into looted art and the collections of the Austrian Rothschilds.

A selection of over 3,000 cards documenting the objects looted from the family of Alphonse von Rothschild and identifying the place from which the object was retrieved. The index was compiled in the years after the end of World War II. 000/2135

One of the earliest issues of the Archive's *Review of the Year* brought news of the recovery of significant archives from Moscow, archives relating to the earliest history of the Rothschild family and businesses which had been 'twice looted', in the words of an expert in the field of restitution.<sup>1</sup> The first recipient of these papers was Mrs Bettina Looram, née Rothschild, who immediately transferred the entire collection to The Rothschild Archive Trust. A small but highly significant group of papers was missing from this collection: a correspondence between Salomon von Rothschild and Prince Metternich, the Austrian Chancellor, from the years 1848–1849. Readers will see elsewhere in this *Review* that these documents have themselves been recovered, thanks to the remarkable tenacity of archivists and colleagues from the Austrian National Archives.



During the negotiations for the return of the papers from Moscow, Mrs Looram had been engaged in an ultimately successful campaign to alter Austrian law, so that those individuals and families who had surrendered to the Austrian state elements of their collections of art in order to secure the return of other pieces looted by the Nazi regime could finally recover the entire collection.<sup>2</sup> 'I thought, oh gosh. I wonder whether it's worth having a go,' Bettina Looram recalled. 'So I rang the minister's office. And in 10 minutes she rang back.'<sup>3</sup> Many of the pieces returned to the Rothschild family were placed for sale with Christie's in London in 1999.<sup>4</sup> Supporting documentation about the items in the sale was transferred to the Archive, and has been consulted frequently by researchers, curators and dealers since then.<sup>5</sup>

Bettina Looram died at her home in Austria on 10 November 2012. Thanks to the generosity of her family, further collections of archives have been deposited with the Archive, which document the intricate history of the looting and recovery of the collections of art.

The papers were just one element in a systematic exercise in expropriation that involved the Viennese business house of S M von Rothschild, real estate and works of art. Immediately after the Anschluss in March 1938 the Vienna business house was put into the hands of administrators and traded under the name of E von Nicolai. The real estate was occupied and variously used by the National Socialist regime. The works of art were earmarked for distribution among leading Nazis, Hitler included, and were stored in salt mines at Alt Aussee for the duration of the war.







Even a cursory reading of the papers chills the spine as familiar names emerge from the pages: the signature of Martin Bormann on a document authorizing a step in the expropriation; the careful annotation of the inventories of the Rothschild collections, noting which of the pieces has been chosen by Göring, which by the Führer himself. Nothing, it seems, is too small to be overlooked. An inventory of the Rothschild bank at Renngasse, 3 dating from 1940 notes the location of the offices, their contents, and even a complete list of the typewriters owned by the bank, together with details of the operator. The bizarre routine of recovery of property in the post-war years is documented too. Ferdinand Maier, a senior member of the Rothschild staff, made regular requests of the Viennese police that they return, for instance, the lamps that were formerly in the bank house but which, as of Spring 1947, were to be found in a private apartment in Vienna's Fourth District. Maier drew up and signed a declaration acknowledging that the residence of the Russian captain Miroshnichenko, at 20–22 Prinz Eugen Strasse in Vienna had been returned to the property owner (the Rothschild family) with no cause for complaint about its condition. The property was subsequently demolished in the 1950s and the spot is now occupied by the Arbeiterkammer of Vienna.<sup>6</sup>

The material is a rich resource for historians of art, documenting the collections during and after the war. The extent of the sales of family material that took place is revealed: at the Dorotheum, silver and porcelain in 1941; art in 1953; books (from the collection of Louis von Rothschild) between 1949 and 1954. There are inventories in varying format and detail of the family properties at Enzesfeld, Schillersdorf, Plösslgasse, Hohe Warte and Theresianumgasse and extensive lists of items donated to museums around Austria.

A substantial part of the collection consists of a card index of the collections of Alphonse von Rothschild, identifying each piece and its place of deposit during the war. A familiar item emerges from a folder of lists and photographs relating to the collections of Louis von Rothschild: a portrait of Salomon von Rothschild, more recently to be found on the walls of the Rothschild bank at New Court. This is without doubt one of the pictures referred to in a letter to Louis from Anthony de Rothschild in 1951, in which the writer thanks his Viennese cousin for the gift of family portraits. 'While I was on holiday the pictures which came from the Renngasse were hung in the hall and look very well...'<sup>7</sup>



One of the many files recovered by the Rothschild family from the office of Dr Britsch of the German Ministry of Economics detailing the treatment of Rothschild assets.

Anzahl	Photographie oder Zeichnung, Marke.	Beschreibung des Gegenstandes.	Provenienz; Zeit d. Erwerb. Schätzwert, Erwerbspreis, etc. Aufbewahrungs-ort.
		Uebertreg	8 2,060,000.-
1		van de Capelle: Seeetück	" 15,000.-
1		de Kayser: Familienbild	" 30,000.-
1		Wouerman: Reiterstück	"
1		Holbein: Männerportrait	" 300,000.-
10	<u>Stoffe:</u>		
1		Chasel	
1		Indischer Stoff	
		Uebertreg	8 2,420,000.-

Schreibmaschinen nach dem Stande vom 26. September 1940

Underwood	74311	Depot
"	267849	Kassa
"	331688	Depot
"	388393	Kassa
"	432284	Häuser
"	550756	Frl. Klingenberg
"	618241	Kontrollabtlg.
"	679967	II. Stock
"	826341	Frl. Hoyos
"	943430	Mat. Verwltg.
"	945828	Fr. Fuchs
"	998089	Frl. Spenner
"	1836550	Herr Knauer
"	1836557	" Weiss
"	1836586	Buchhaltung
"	2502969	Frl. Klingenberg
"	4756880	" Hain
A.E.G.	10013	Depot
Smith Bross	18061	Pers. Abtlg.
Continental	805069	Frl. Wagner
"	805089	Depot
"	807412	Frl. Spenner
"	807081	Korrespondenz
"	880441	Frau Grafenberg
"	881190	Buchhaltung
"	882424	Depot
"	883465	Frl. Fuchs
"	Silento	" Schmidt

*Opposite*  
This collection contains a number of photographs of the works of art belonging to Louis von Rothschild as well as illustrated inventories, such as the one pictured here.

The level of detail of the inventories of the Rothschild bank made in 1940 makes it possible to recreate the contents of every single office. On this page the precise details of every typewriter in the bank and its user are meticulously recorded.  
000/2135

And of course there is ‘the book that started it all’, in the words of Nina Burr, Mrs Looram’s daughter, who made the gift of the papers to the Archive. The bound typescript list of the ‘Sammlung Alphons Rothschild’, the inventory of confiscated objects that Mrs Looram used as the starting point in her campaign to recover the family’s art.

As the archivists work more on this collection a full listing will be made available for researchers in the Reading room and on the Archive’s website.

*Melanie Aspey is the Director of The Rothschild Archive.*



One of three boxes of cards itemising the collection of Alphonse von Rothschild.  
000/2135

## NOTES

- 1 Victor Gray, ‘The return of the Austrian Rothschild Archive’, and Melanie Aspey, ‘Salomon’s Archive’ in *Review of the Year 2001–2002* (London: The Rothschild Archive, 2002). See also Victor Gray *The Return of the Austrian Rothschild Archives* in Patricia Kennedy Grimsted et al. (eds.) ‘Returned From Russia: Nazi archival plunder in Western Europe and recent restitution issues’ (London: Institute of Art and Law, 2007).
- 2 Thomas Trenkler, *Der Fall Rothschild: Chronik einer Enteignung* (Vienna: Molden, 1999).
- 3 Obituary notice for Bettina Looram, *Daily Telegraph*, 30 November 2012.
- 4 *The Collection of the Barons Nathaniel and Albert von Rothschild* (London: Christie’s, 1999).
- 5 RAL 000/793. The collection consists of a number of inventories of the collections of members of the Viennese family.
- 6 I am grateful to Roman Popov of the Rothschild bank in London for his assistance in interpreting some of this material.
- 7 Anthony de Rothschild, London, to Louis von Rothschild, South Royalton, Vermont, copy letter, 28 September 1951, RAL XI/35.

## Principal acquisitions 1 April 2012 – 31 March 2013

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.

### Business Papers

An agreement between Alexandre Baring, Jacques Laffitte and James de Rothschild, and the Minister of Finance, Joseph de Villèle, Paris, 22 March 1824. The agreement was for the conversion of state bonds from 5 to 3%, which was made possible by the general prudence of Villèle’s administration under Louis XVIII. With the accession of Charles X to the throne in 1824, a series of measures were taken in favour of the nobility. Villèle suggested that the funds generated by the conversion be used to indemnify by a billion francs (le milliard des émigrés) those whose possessions had been confiscated during the Revolution.

000/2136

A collection of letters, 46 items in total, mainly in the hand of James de Rothschild (1792–1869) and his immediate family. The majority of the letters are addressed to administrators and board members of la Compagnie du Chemin de fer du Nord, of which James de Rothschild was a founder member.

000/2125

Plans, correspondence and other papers concerning the redevelopment of the premises of the Bank of de Rothschild Frères, rue Laffitte, Paris, 1956–1965.

000/2112

### Right

Gardeners by the fountain in the Kitchen Garden, Aston Clinton, 1897.

000/2126

Volumes of accounts from various series kept by N M Rothschild & Sons including American Accounts, series 11/3, 1921–1945; General and Home Ledgers, series VI/10, 1915–1953. A total of 205 volumes.

000/2107

Mounted list of New Court staff serving in the Great War, entitled ‘New Court – 1914 – In His Majesty’s Service.’ The list comprises 29 names, plus two members of staff ‘Serving in the French Army’. Members of the Rothschild family serving with the Royal Bucks Hussars are Lionel de Rothschild MP, Major; Evelyn de Rothschild, Captain; Anthony de Rothschild, Lieutenant.

000/2102

### Family papers

Additional items from the estate of Baron and Baronne Elie de Rothschild, supplementing the major accession made in February 2012.

000/2089

Papers of Leopold de Rothschild, CBE (1927–2012). The collection includes records of his business activities, musical interests, charitable activities and personal papers.

000/2093; 000/2094; 000/2096

Papers from the estate of Bettina Looram, née Rothschild. The collection includes numerous files from the Nazi administration relating to the collections of art looted from the Rothschild family; lists of pensioners and rules of pensions funds for the Viennese bank and for

estates in Austria and Schillersdorf; complete description of the works of art in the collection of Louis von Rothschild in the form of schedules, inventories and index cards; photographs of the items in the collection; sample share certificates.

000/2135

### Estate records

Photograph album of Aston Clinton: Mr Warren’s photograph album, compiled c.1897–1903 by William Hedley Warren, head gardener at Aston Clinton. It includes photos of the exterior of the house, grounds and gardeners. Most are uncaptioned, giving only the date or brief indication of the location. The album includes photos of the village, including the church and gardener’s cottage and views taken of the locality.

Other photographs show members of the Warren family. Also included in this accession is a folder of research notes by Rosemarie Storr of Aston Clinton, detailing her research into the Warren family.

000/2126

