

THE ROTHSCHILD ARCHIVE

REVIEW OF THE YEAR APRIL 2012 TO MARCH 2013

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The Rothschild Archive Trust

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Front cover

Baron James Mayer de Rothschild (1792–1868), unattributed but probably English school, oil on canvas. The image is a detail from a portrait of the founder of the Rothschild bank in Paris. The sitter wears a dark blue coat with decorations, white waistcoat and cravat. He is seated with paper in right hand, against a red background with a fragment of landscape showing. Several versions of this picture are known to exist in family collections.

Frontispiece

Celebrations for the Coronation, 26 June 1902. Entrant in the ‘Grand Illuminated Cycle Parade’. From an album of photographs of the former Rothschild property at Aston Clinton.
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Endpiece, page 36

Order of Commander of the Order of St Maurice and St Lazarus bestowed on James de Rothschild. James may well have received this for his role as one of the administrators for the financing of the Lombardy and Central Italian Railway, which opened in the 1860s.
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PHOTOGRAPHS

© Photography by Ardon Bar-Hama, Ra’anana, Israel, pages 32, 34, 35

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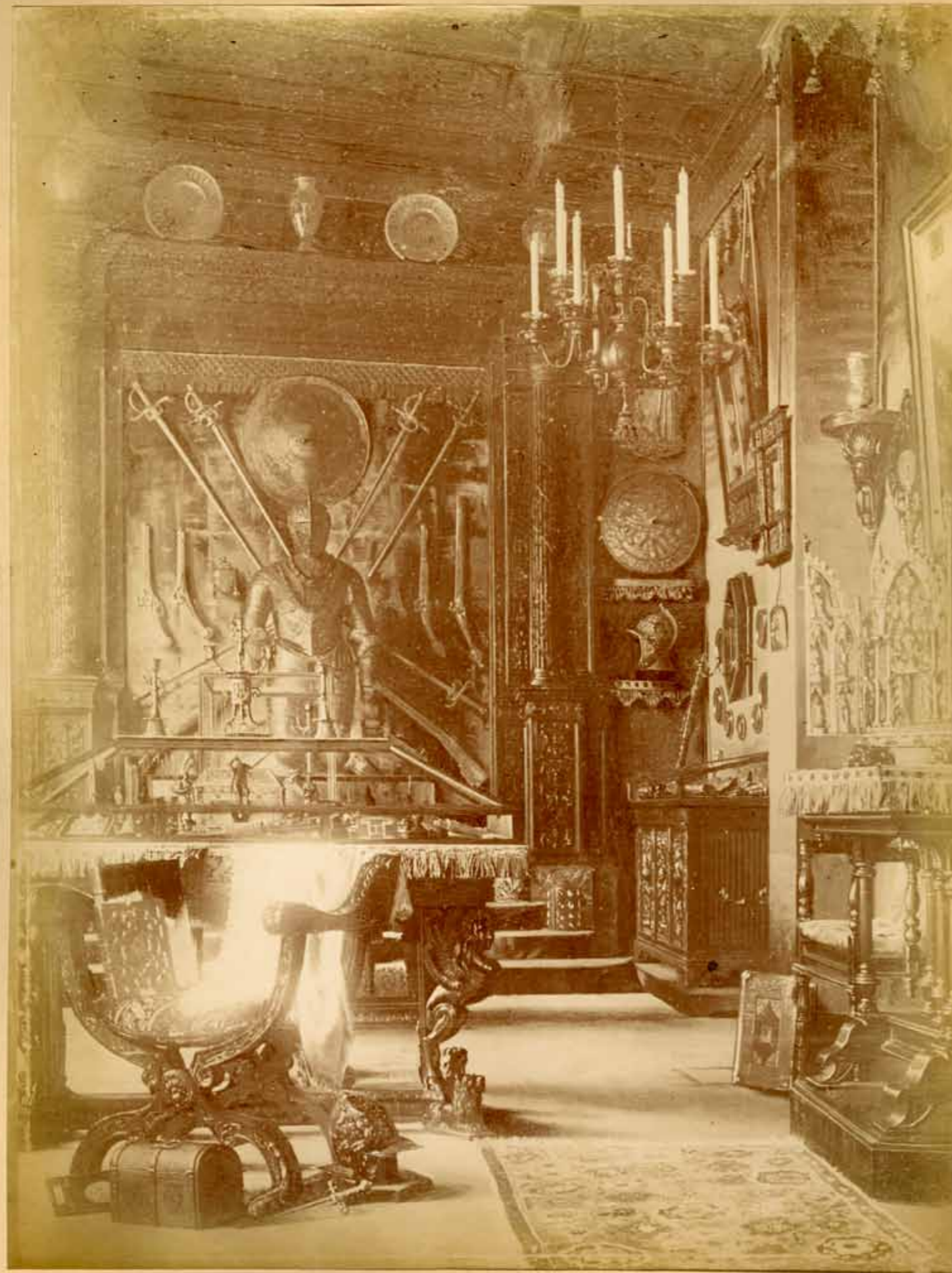
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Interior of 47 rue de Monceau, the home of Adolphe de Rothschild (1823–1900) and his wife Julie (1830–1907).

Introduction

Eric de Rothschild, Chairman of The Rothschild Archive Trust

On behalf of my fellow trustees I am pleased to welcome you to the fourteenth issue of The Rothschild Archive's *Review of the Year*. After fourteen years of activity, it is gratifying to see that the level of interest in our collections is as high as ever. This year we have welcomed visitors from across the globe studying subjects as diverse as banking systems, technological innovations, Jewish textiles, decorative arts and political biography. Two of our researchers, Evelyn Cohen and Hassan Malik, have contributed articles about their research to this *Review*.

Following the exhibition at the Bibliothèque Nationale de France – *Les Rothschild en France au XIXe siècle* – more French scholars have become aware of our collections in London and in France, at the Archives Nationales du Monde du Travail, Roubaix.

My cousin, Evelyn de Rothschild, is responsible for creating The Rothschild Archive Trust, which became a model for some other family businesses. His interest in the Archive has never waned. This year in particular we thank him warmly, as chairman of The Eranda Foundation, for generous support of the *Rothschild Scientists* project. As the Project's Director, Dr Jenni Thomas, notes elsewhere in this *Review* the activities of many members of the Rothschild family are being acknowledged in the form of publication, exhibition, and collaborative research projects.

We remain enormously grateful to the Rothschild business in London for its continuing support of the Archive by providing excellent accommodation and resources for the Archive's staff and visitors. It was particularly rewarding for the Archive to see how positively the relations between the Trust and the Bank evolved since the opening of the new building. Its permanent position on its entrance terrace has certainly been instrumental in this development. The Archive is used both for the entertainment of clients and for preparing documents for them. It is also a very useful tool for staff training. It has become an integral part of the life of the bank. The Trustees value this important relationship.

The Archive Trust is also supported by Rothschild family banks, vineyards and foundations and I thank them all, on behalf of the Trustees, for these continued relationships. Members of my family have made many gifts of papers to the Archive this year. The Trustees are indebted to Nina Burr and Nathaniel de Rothschild as well as to Charlotte de Rothschild, executrix of the estate of our dear cousin, Leopold de Rothschild.

The staff has been as busy as ever supporting the work of visiting researchers, cataloguing collections and answering hundreds of enquiries addressed to our website www.rothschildarchive.org. The Trustees very much appreciate their enthusiasm and expertise and I wish to thank them all, and more particularly Melanie Aspey, for the great job they are doing and also because they are very much responsible for the flourishing of good relations with the bank.

Finally, I welcome two new Trustees, Nigel Higgins, CEO of the banking group, and Dr David Todd, of King's College London.