



The National Archives

**Press release**

5 August, 2009

## **£1.5m reveals Florence Nightingale's point of view**

A vital programme that helps open up archive collections for research, the National Cataloguing Grants Programme for Archives, welcomes the generous award of £150,000 from The Monument Trust, bringing its total funding up to an impressive £1.5m over five years.

The scheme, administered by The National Archives and the Pilgrim Trust, distributes funds donated by charitable organisations to archives. Funding is specifically channelled to those archives that house the most interesting collections, which are most in need of external financial assistance to make them available.

One of the biggest dilemmas for charitable organisations is how best to support a cause. Joining the scheme ensures that limited funds are distributed in a strategic and impartial manner.

Nick Kingsley, Head of Archives Sector Development at The National Archives comments on The Monument Trust joining the scheme: *"This is fantastic news for the cataloguing grants scheme. Cataloguing is vital for the information it provides about the contents of archives. Hidden gems are unearthed, which would have otherwise lain undiscovered."*

In 2008, West Yorkshire Archives Service was awarded nearly £38,000 to catalogue the Harewood Family and Estate Archive, a collection of international significance, which included correspondence from Florence Nightingale on military hospitals in the Crimea, the West Indian slave trade and the birth of the British Raj.

Georgina Nayler, Director of the Pilgrim Trust, says, *"The Pilgrim Trust is delighted that The Monument Trust is joining in the coalition of funders who are supporting the cataloguing of important heritage archival collections. The Pilgrim Trustees are committed to caring for these collections and enabling them to be used. The Monument Trust's generosity will mean that more of this material will be accessible in the future."*

The Monument Trust joins the Pilgrim Trust, the Foyle Foundation, the Wolfson Foundation, the Gladys Kriebel Delmas Foundation, the Mercers' Company Charitable Foundation and the Goldsmiths' Company who collectively support the scheme. The National Archives provides expert advisory and secretariat support.

The 2009 round of the Cataloguing Grants Scheme is now closed and the successful archives will be announced in December. For information on the successful bids in 2008, please see the Cataloguing Grants page on The National Archives website: [http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/archives/cataloguing\\_grants\\_scheme.htm](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/archives/cataloguing_grants_scheme.htm).

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Contact me via the means above if you would like to run features on the interesting finds unearthed by the scheme.

**Notes to Editors**

The National Archives, [www.nationalarchives.gov.uk](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk), is a government department and an executive agency of the Ministry of Justice (MoJ). As the official archives of the UK government, it cares for, makes available and 'brings alive' a vast collection of over 1000 years of historical records, including the treasured Domesday Book.

Not only safeguarding historical information, The National Archives also manages current digital information and devises new technological solutions for keeping government records readable now and in the future. It provides world class research facilities and expert advice, publishes all UK legislation and official publications, and is a leading advocate for the archive sector.

At the heart of information policy, The National Archives sets standards of best practice that actively promotes and encourages public access to, and the re-use of information, both online or onsite at Kew. This work helps inform today's decisions and ensures that they become tomorrow's permanent record.

The National Archives brings together the Public Record Office, Historical Manuscripts Commission, the Office of Public Sector Information and Her Majesty's Stationery Office. See also [www.opsi.gov.uk](http://www.opsi.gov.uk)

**Partner websites**

The Pilgrim Trust: <http://www.thepilgrimtrust.org.uk/>

The Monument Trust: <http://www.sfct.org.uk/monument.html>