

“To Her Most Excellent Majesty”**- Rarely-seen jubilee records showcased in online resource –**

To mark Queen Elizabeth II's Diamond Jubilee, The National Archives has digitised a unique and beautiful collection of congratulatory addresses presented to Queen Victoria at her Golden Jubilee in 1887, and Diamond Jubilee in 1897, for a new online exhibition: www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/jubilee

Sixty of the most visually stunning Jubilee addresses sent to Queen Victoria, preserved in the rarely-seen Privy Purse record series (PP1), are now available to view for free on The National Archives' website, on [Flickr](#) and [Historypin](#).

The records are highly decorative messages of congratulations and good wishes sent to Queen Victoria from organisations throughout the United Kingdom, as well as countries around the world from Canada and Mexico to China, Malaya, Samoa and Australia. The images have been tagged on Historypin's map to show the distribution of nations across the globe that sent Jubilee addresses.

The presentation folios are artworks in their own right, composed of a range of creative media and materials including calligraphy, illuminated manuscripts, watercolours, photographs, woodwork and textiles. The online showcase enables visitors to browse high-resolution images of the artefacts and to zoom in to see the intricate detail and artistry that went into creating each jubilee message to the Queen.

Highlights from the Jubilee addresses include:

- An ornate illuminated carved gilt cabinet from the City of Adelaide containing several painted images and a message from the Mayor pledging continued allegiance to the throne (PP1/636)
- A parchment scroll, with calligraphy and ink drawings, sent by The National Society for Women's Suffrage signed by renowned suffragist and feminist, Millicent Fawcett (PP1/349)

- A message from the Emperor of China written on paper wrapped in yellow silk complete with an English translation (PP1/222/4)
- Decorated wooden covers of native design from British subjects resident in Samoa (PP1/362)
- A beaded cushion in the design of the Union Jack sent by the 'Boys on board the reformatory ship Cornwall' (PP1/47)

Gary Thorpe from The National Archives said:

“These extraordinary Jubilee addresses provide a unique snapshot of society during Queen Victoria’s lengthy reign. The Victorian era was a period of significant industrial, cultural, political, scientific and military change within the United Kingdom. It was marked by a great expansion of the British Empire which can be seen in the diverse content of these records and the countries and societies they came from.”*

The senders of the artefacts are many and varied, from local institutions, schools and societies to trade associations, religious organisations and companies. They are a vivid reminder of how Queen Victoria was viewed by her subjects, with some choosing to praise her personal qualities as a mother and others asserting their continued loyalty to crown. The messages make much of the social and material progress achieved during her reign and reflect common themes of liberty, morality and patronage.

The PP1 addresses are the only records of the Privy Purse Office held at The National Archives. As many of the records are around 125 years old, a conservation specialist at Kew has used techniques such as mechanical cleaning and pigment consolidation to prepare the delicate records for digitisation. A videocast showing some of the conservation work being carried out can be viewed [here](#).

Notes to Editors

*Queen Victoria remains the only previous Sovereign who also celebrated a Diamond Jubilee. Her reign of 63 years and 7 months is longer than that of any other British monarch and the longest of any female monarch in history.

Full list of senders:

England

South Manchester Habitation of the Primrose League
City of Worcester

Guardians of Kingston-upon-Hull
Fifty English school girls, The Beehive, Windsor
Women Subject and Servants in the UK
Boys on board the reformatory ship Cornwall
Residents of Sutton Coldfield
Women of England
Liverpool School of Indigent Blind
Borough of Ipswich
City of Manchester
Widow of Admiral Sir Thomas Symonds
Borough of Todmorden
Borough of East Retford
Township of Stourbridge
Borough of Gateshead-on-Tyne
Fellows & Scholars of Winchester College
Royal Albert Hall Corporation
Scholars of Eton
Beaumont College musical review
Independent Order of Good Templars in Jersey
Mayor, Aldermen of City of Hereford
Corporation of Brighton
Borough of Basingstoke
Darleston Urban District Council, Staffordshire
Wolverhampton Orphan Asylum
Moss Side School Board
City of Birmingham
Borough of Bury
City of Norwich
Newbury Corporation

National societies and clubs

Royal College of Music
Royal Society of London
Royal Astronomical Society
The Children's Orchestra
The National Society for Women's Suffrage
Royal Institute of Painters in watercolour
British & Foreign Anti-Slavery Society
Girls Friendly Society

Wales

Commissioners for Sewers for hundreds of Caldicott and Wentlodge, Monmouthshire
University College of South Wales & Monmouthshire
School Board of Newport School District
Anglesey County Council

Northern Ireland

Franklin Street Collar Company, Belfast

Scotland

Convener, master etc of seven incorporated trades in Aberdeen
Royal Medical Society, Edinburgh

Dundee and District Mill and Factory Operatives Union

Overseas

Carlo Bajona

English Literary Club, Dusseldorf

British Consulate of Frankfurt-am-Main

Sheik Nazeer Hussain of Delhi

Tradesmen of Perak District of Malaya

Emperor of China

Wentworth Historical Society, Hamilton, Ontario

City of Adelaide

Children and teachers of the Public School of Brunswick, Western Australia

Residents of Horetuduwa Panadure, Ceylon

British subjects resident at Samoa

British subjects resident at Mexico

Citrus Colony Club of California

| Honourable Artillery Company of Massachusetts