



The National Archives

Embargoed until 00:01 hrs Wednesday, 23 December

Christmas comes early to archives across UK - £300,000 in grants to catalogue priceless collections -

The first Director of The National Portrait Gallery, a Glaswegian carpet firm, and Poet Laureate Alfred Tennyson don't have much in common at first glance. However, these are among the eleven unique archival collections that have been awarded grants by the National Cataloguing Grants Programme for Archives, 2009.

Administered by The National Archives, the scheme will distribute over £300,000 to eleven archives in the first national round of the programme. The grants provide essential funding for cataloguing without which archive collections would be inaccessible to the public.

Grants were awarded to archives across the UK: from the West Country and Wales to Central England and Southern England to Scotland, specifically including:

The Sir George Scharf Papers - the National Portrait Gallery (£17,909)

Sir George Scharf (1820-1895), first Secretary, Keeper and Director of the National Portrait Gallery, ran the institution almost single-handedly. The papers making up the collection document the birth and establishment of the Gallery and comprise institutional, personal and family records. Highlights of the collection include journals recording day-to-day Gallery business; personal diaries from 1845-95; research papers for Scharf's publications and catalogues of collections, and some 230 notebooks and sketchbooks, in which he made detailed notes and meticulous drawings, all within the context of recording life in the high Victorian period.

The Stoddard-Templeton Design Archive - the University of Glasgow (£39,990)

James Templeton & Co and Stoddard International, Scotland's most successful carpet manufacturers, supplied carpets for a host of historic buildings and occasions such as Westminster Abbey; Windsor Castle; the Whitehouse, the Titanic;

coronations since the mid-19th century and the parliament buildings in London, Canberra, Wellington and Cape Town. The archive comprises 3,800 design drawings and patterns; 2,000 design sketches; a design library of 1,500 titles, including books and journals; 226 carpet pieces and numerous albums of photographs, encapsulating the history of Scottish carpet manufacturing. The larger Stoddard-Templeton Collection, held across the University, Glasgow Museums and Glasgow School of Art, also incorporates complete carpets displayed at major international exhibitions, such as the Twelve Apostles carpet made for the Paris Exhibition of 1867.

The Macmillan and Longman Archive of British Publishing (£38,165)

The University of Reading recently transferred ownership of the correspondence and business papers of the two major publishers, which enhances their already extensive archive of British publishers. Letters from Alfred Tennyson, Thomas Hardy, Rudyard Kipling, Hilaire Belloc and W.B. Yeats illustrate the importance of these records in understanding the complex relationship between author and publisher.

On the awards, **Melinda Haunton, Programmes Manager, The National Archives** said, *“Cataloguing is a vital but often under-resourced archival practice. Addressing this priority is the origin of the grants programme. Without cataloguing, the rich potential of archives can be lost, not only to the public but also to archives themselves, as they won’t know what information is in their collections. Cataloguing is the crucial first step to open up the nation’s history for all to enjoy.”*

Each individual grant is estimated to last for between six and eighteen months. The projects will explore and describe each collection in full. Once completed, they will be publicised by exhibitions, community and media events, to ensure that the collections become well known and subsequently extensively used.

The Pilgrim Trust, the Foyle Foundation, the Wolfson Foundation, the Gladys Kriebel Delmas Foundation, the Mercers’ Company Charitable Foundation, the Monument Trust and the Goldsmiths’ Company collectively support the programme whilst The National Archives provides expert advisory and secretariat support.

- Ends -

Notes to editors

For more information about specific grants, images from the collections please contact Frances McDarby, Press Officer at The National Archives, 020 8392 5277, frances.mcdarby@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk.

For further information about The Sir George Scharf Papers at the National Portrait Gallery please contact Eleanor Macnair, Press Officer, National Portrait Gallery, 0207 321 6620, emacnair@npg.org.uk

Grants by county:

Gloucestershire - "From the Cotswolds to Westminster" - Hicks Beach family, Earls St Aldwyn *Gloucestershire Archives (£37,074.74)*. An important local landowning family, the Earls of St Aldwyn were also concerned with national affairs.

Lancashire - "Close Relations": Bealeys of Radcliffe - *Bury Archives Service (£15,782)*
The Bealey family business and personal papers have potential for study of local, industrial, travel and Methodist history.

"The Female Pepys": Mary Hamilton papers - *John Rylands, University of Manchester (£22,728)*. The Mary Hamilton papers represent the very substantial residue of the papers of this noted courtier, diarist and bluestocking, who corresponded with the highest members of eighteenth century literary and political society.

Hertfordshire -Unlocking the Past: Hawkins & Co of Hitchin - *Hertfordshire Archives and Local Studies (£29,673)*. Hawkins & Co is the second-oldest solicitors surviving in England, and the richness of its archive lives up to this heritage.

Wales - Dolgarrog Aluminium Works archive - *Conwy Archive Service (£14,526)*.The collection documents the rise and fall of a unique industry in North Wales, and the community it created.

Warwickshire - Willes family archives - *Warwickshire County Record Office (£32,701)*.The Archive consists of the records of a major Warwickshire landed family, extending over 800 years.

Yorkshire - Crowns, Colonies and Countrymen: the Calverley-Rudston archives - *East Riding of Yorkshire Archives Service (£23,739)*. The Calverley-Rudston family archive dates from the 14th-20th century. In addition to its local significance it contains material relating to issues as diverse as the Mole of Tangiers, an 1851 journal of New Zealand life and the Dublin warrants of Thomas Wentworth (1633-34).

"All Human Life": North Riding Quarter Sessions - *North Yorkshire County Record Office (£41,527)*.This project aims to create a complete structure for Quarter Sessions cataloguing in the area and to open up this core resource for the history of the North Riding.

About The National Archives

The National Archives, 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