

For immediate release

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**ARCHIVAL HERITAGE GIVEN A BOOST
Grants set to unearth thousands of valuable archives**

Archive collections across the UK will benefit from grants of almost half a million pounds from the National Cataloguing Grants Programme, to make archives more accessible.

The scheme, funded by a range of charitable trusts, will distribute over £400,000 to fourteen projects across the country. Collections include the Sadler's Wells Theatre Collection, The Children's Society 1889 to 1979, and the papers of the Earls of Derby particularly those of the 14th Earl, who was Prime Minister three times in the mid-19th century.

The grants distributed by The National Archives are being awarded to archives rich in heritage and value which without financial help, were at risk of remaining hidden forever. As a result, the collections and archives can tackle the challenges such as poor or non-existent cataloguing, limited resource and expertise; enabling them to deposit collections and provide access to wider audiences.

Melinda Haunton, Programmes Manager, The National Archives comments:

“This grants programme provides essential funding for cataloguing without which archive collections would be inaccessible to the public. Cataloguing uncovers unknown treasures and makes the documentary heritage available to everyone. Once archive collections are fully understood, they

become available for a huge range of uses, such as community partnership projects, research and education work".

Other important archival collections awarded grants include:

- **Rutland Phoenix, the Noel family archive**
The archive of the Noel family was believed to have been lost in a fire but was discovered almost two centuries later. It covers the family's estate papers from the 14th century onwards. Highlights of this rich collection include the family's colonial ventures in Ireland, Guyana and the Caribbean as well as its business interests from the property acquisitions of the seventeenth century tycoon, Baptist Hicks. The collection also features nineteenth century banks, railways and canals plus information on military, art history, English Catholicism, antiquarianism and travel.
- **The Hackworth family papers**
Timothy Hackworth (1786-1850) of County Durham was engineering manager of the Stockton & Darlington Railway before forming his own engineering firm. He was a colleague of and a rival to George Stephenson. When the two men entered their locomotives in the Rainhill Trials, Hackworth's 'Sans Pareil' suffered a failed cylinder and was outperformed by Stephenson's 'Rocket'. The archive details a history of jealousy, with the famous Stephensons getting all the attention, while the Hackworths considered themselves just as significant in the early history of Britain's railways.
- **Father of Co-operation, the Robert Owen papers**
Robert Owen, described by his contemporaries as the father of socialism, is also credited with instigating the co-operative movement, the trade union movement, factory legislation, corporate responsibility, infant schools, the UK secular movement and the International Labour Organisation. The papers in the collection document his involvement with

the chartist movement and numerous other labour movements in the UK and abroad. The collection highlights his revolutionary ideas on fair working conditions, education for workers, reducing working hours and sick pay.

The grants will fund projects to explore and describe each collection in full and are part of an ongoing commitment to help museums, universities, local authorities and charitable institutions to catalogue their collections and open them up to the public. Once completed, they will be publicised by exhibitions, community and media events to ensure that the collections become well known and subsequently extensively used.

- Ends -

For media enquiries please contact The National Archives Press Office on 0208 392 5277 or press@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk

Note to Editors

The Pilgrim Trust, the Foyle Foundation, the Wolfson Foundation, the Monument Trust, J Paul Getty Jr Charitable Trust, the Gladys Krieble Delmas Foundation, the Mercers Company Charitable Foundation and the Goldsmiths Company collectively support the programme. The National Archives provides additional funding, together with expert and secretariat support for the programme. Final decisions on the allocation of grants are made by an independent expert panel.

A further round will open for applications in spring 2011. For more information see

<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/information-management/our-services/cataloguing-grants-programme.htm>

Full list of archives receiving grant awards in 2010 Grants by region

London

Sadler's Wells Theatre Collection *Islington Local History Centre (£32,723.85)*

The project will work with Islington Arts and Media School as the first step in developing education work around the collection.

National Union of Women Teachers archive London University: Institute of Education (£34,986)

The collection contains correspondence with well-known figures in the women's movement, including Millicent Garrett Fawcett, Christabel Pankhurst and Eleanor Rathbone, as well as the papers of organisations and individuals who were central to these movements but have since disappeared from history. In addition, the records of the NUWT map the key issues in twentieth century social history in Britain.

"Including the Excluded," Disability, Children and The Children's Society 1889 to 1979 Church of England Children's Society Record Office (£40,506)

The collection documents the history of The Children's Union and its inter-relationship to The Children's Society's care of children with disabilities. The Children's Union was an innovative fundraising initiative which ran from 1889 until 1979, whereby children aimed to support individual beds for disabled children in The Children's Society's care homes. Its remit gradually extended to the funding of specialist homes and hospitals nationwide. Several hundred local branches were established, and children were actively involved in both fundraising and branch organisation. The records are thus valuable resources for the history of disability, but also for the little-known history of children's charitable efforts.

Yorkshire

The North East's Other Railway Family, Hackworth family papers National Railway Museum (£12,800)

The collection comprises the surviving papers of the engineer Timothy Hackworth (1786-1850) of Shildon, County Durham. Hackworth was engineering manager of the Stockton & Darlington Railway before forming his own engineering firm. He was a colleague of and a rival to George Stephenson. Hackworth is often described as belonging to an older school of engineering that the Stephenson family were rapidly rendering obsolete. The Hackworth family made repeated efforts to counter this allegation. The collection also gives a rare example of an attempt to boost the reputation of an engineer through biography in the late 19th century, in the style of Samuel Smiles' *Lives of the Engineers*.

North East

We mak'em, the Sunderland shipbuilding archives Tyne and Wear Archives and Museums (£38,800)

This project relates to the records of eight companies, interconnected by a complex history of merger, disaggregation, nationalisation and privatisation. The Archives is a partner in the outreach programme "Parliament & People" led by the Parliamentary Archives. The local proposal is to work with a group of former shipbuilders in Sunderland to particularly look at the influence of legislation on the closure of the industry.

North West

Personal and political papers of the Stanley family, Earls of Derby Liverpool Record Office (£43,708.87)

This project concerns the papers of the 13th, 14th and 15th Earls of Derby, among whom the 14th (Prime Minister on three occasions) is the most prominent, though the 15th Earl

also played a highly significant role in public life. The papers of the 14th Earl of Derby include extensive correspondence with leading figures including Disraeli, Gladstone, Palmerston, and many others. The collection comprises Cabinet memoranda and confidential printed papers and notebooks ranging from the political at the highest level, to personal and family matters. His political papers include material relating to Government business such as trade, customs, defence, the slave trade, poor law, burials, transportation, parliamentary reform and applications for honours.

Father of Co-operation, the Robert Owen papers Co-operative Heritage Trust (£31,122)

The collection consists of 3000 manuscript letters to and from Robert Owen covering the period 1821-1858. Robert Owen is of great significance to the social and political history in the mid-19th century, in the UK and throughout the world. *The archive* gives a fascinating insight into the life of a man who has been described by his contemporaries and followers as the father of socialism. Owen pioneered ideas such as fair working conditions, education for workers, reduction in working hours and sick pay. *The correspondence shows how his ideas originated and were developed.* Owen was a pioneer of model, utopian communities in Scotland and America, a subject which features highly in his correspondence.

South West

The Langton Inheritance Bath Record Office (£4,475.50)

The collection is a small and complex set of papers relating to the Langton family of Ireland, Cadiz and Bath. In 1809, fleeing the Peninsular War, some of the family came to England and settled in Bath. The head of the family, Miguel Langton, remained in Cadiz, intending to join his relatives later. However he died before he could do so. Major problems over the execution of his will followed, complicated by the hostilities which saw Cadiz, where much of the family's property lay, under siege, whilst several of the heirs trapped in various locations in revolutionary France and war-torn Spain. Miguel Langton's son – Miguel Theobald – was executor, and had the task of winding up his father's complicated business affairs, assessing the family's Spanish property, and sharing the proceeds according to the will. The letters Miguel wrote from Bath provide a unique insight into the political and financial consequences of the Peninsular war and have already been used for academic research into the financial and accounting complexities of the war.

From Salisbury to Tobago, the Pleydell-Bouverie family, Earls of Radnor archive Wiltshire and Swindon History Centre (£22,702)

The Radnor records comprise a full range of personal, political, and Wiltshire and London estate records for this family. These include sections relating to the Levant Company, 18th century correspondence over parliamentary reform by the 2nd Earl of Radnor (notable is a run of correspondence with William Cobbett), the log books of Admiral Bouverie (early 19th century), records of Sir William Young as Governor of Tobago (1807-15) and architectural records relating to Coleshill House.

The History Centre will create a themed online exhibition highlighting aspects of the Radnor collection including politics, overseas trade and the estate. The project will also work with volunteers for transcription, indexing and creating new development and promotion activities for the service around this rich collection.

East of England

Paths to Crime, Bedfordshire Quarter Sessions Rolls 1832-1900 Bedfordshire and Luton Archive Service (£38,702)

The collection [is] *comprises* the core Quarter Sessions records of the county (19th century records from Bedfordshire). This project will be completed during the archive service's centenary year and will feed in to celebration activities planned across the former county.

Communicating the Creative Industries, JWT archives History of Advertising Trust (£28,364)

JWT is one of the leading British advertising agencies, and its archive reflects a rich history of dealing with leading businesses. The records include guard books and client research files, including market research and product development work which *formed* the foundation for many of the most familiar images of the modern era.

East Midlands

Rivers, drainage and water supply: the lower Trent water Authorities University of Nottingham (£25,384)

The University of Nottingham project focuses on water company records of the Severn Trent. The collection includes archives of water infrastructure and service supply. It provides evidence of landscape change related to rivers and reservoirs, community emergencies caused by flooding or pollution and the use of water as an amenity for leisure.

Rutland Phoenix, the Noel family archive Record Office for Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland (£33,990)

For many years the Noel archive was regarded as the great, 'lost' collection of Rutland, having been thought destroyed by fire in 1810. Rediscovered at Exton in the 1980s, the archive covers the family's estate collections from the 14th century onwards. It charts both the estate's creation, with property throughout England, and the constant search for income, as land ownership proved unreliable as a source of wealth. The archives contain papers relating to the family's colonial ventures in Ireland, Guyana and the Caribbean as well as business interests from the property acquisitions of the seventeenth century tycoon, Baptist Hicks (whose son-in-law, Edward Noel, inherited both his viscountcy and Exton). The collection also features nineteenth century banks, railways and canals. This exceptionally rich collection is of particular interest because of its international links and the light which it sheds on business and Jewish history.

West Midlands

The Smith, Son & Wilkie, accountants archive *Wolverhampton Archives and Local Studies Service (£36,468)*

Smith, Son & Wilkie retained the business records of eighteen Black Country businesses in iron, lockmaking, meat processing, property holding and brick manufacture. These are core businesses for the *Workshop of the World*, which when catalogued, will expand the service's business research offer. The completion of this project will serve as the basis of a larger Memory Reminiscence project, using the expertise of members of the local community, particularly ex-employees; it will also involve school children recording oral histories.

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.

Archives for 21st Century

The National Archives and Museums, Libraries & Archives Council (MLA) are working together to help the archives sector deliver *Archives for the 21st Century*, the Government policy on archives. The National Archives support for the National Cataloguing Grants Programme is part of Archives for the 21st Century under the strand 'comprehensive online access for archive discovery'. It represents a really effective example of partnership between charitable funders enabled by strategic support from The National Archives. For more information about this scheme please contact Melinda Haunton at melinda.haunton@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk
<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/documents/aft21c/archives-for-the-21st-century.pdf>