

**EMBARGOED UNTIL  
23 May 2011**

## **Best of UK Heritage Awarded UN Status**

**MANCHESTER, UK – 23 May 2011.** Twenty items have been selected from the UK's libraries, archives and museums to represent the outstanding heritage of the United Kingdom. From the Jersey Occupation Archive and the work of the GPO Film Unit, these priceless items span over 1,100 years, come from across the country and embody pivotal moments in the history of their communities and the UK as a whole.

These are the second inscriptions to the UNESCO UK Memory of the World Register, an online catalogue created to help promote the UK's documentary heritage across the UK and the world. The register is part of a United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) programme to support and raise awareness of archives.

The UK Register is available at [www.unesco.org.uk/ukregister](http://www.unesco.org.uk/ukregister).

"We were incredibly impressed by the diversity and richness of these nominations to the register," said David Dawson, Chair of the UK Memory of the World Committee. "These are some of the UK's exceptional documentary riches which provide a record of why we are what we are as a nation. By awarding them with the globally-recognised UNESCO Memory of the World status we hope to make them more visible within the UK as well as elevate them to the world stage."

These twenty collections will be recognised at a meeting of the programme's International Advisory Committee, convening in Manchester this week. The meeting will bring over 50 leading professionals from across the world to assess the progress of the programme and challenges faced by the sector.

This year's inscriptions join the ten items and collections currently on the UK Register. The winners were chosen by the expert committee of the UK Memory of the World programme following a nomination and review process.

Country-level Memory of the World Registers exist around the globe, helping to promote documentary heritage of local significance. The international-level register, which features items of global significance, includes items from the UK such as 1215 Magna Carta, the Mappa Mundi and the film The Battle of the Somme. The UK Memory of the World programme is part of UNESCO's work to promote preservation of and access to the world's archive holdings and library collections.

MORE...

The 20 Inscriptions at a glance:

- **By Region:** 3 inscriptions from Scotland; 1 inscription from the Channel Islands; 10 inscriptions from England, 6 UK-wide
- **By Type:** 2 films; 6 manuscripts/books; 6 business archives,

The 20 items and collections being inscribed to the UK Memory of the World Register are:

#### **Diaries of Anne Lister – West Yorkshire Archive Service**

This unique set of diaries (1806-1840) which run to four million words were written by Anne Lister of Shibden Hall, Halifax, West Yorkshire (1791-1840) a remarkable landowner, business woman, intrepid traveller, mountaineer and lesbian.

#### **Cura Pastoralis of Gregory – The Bodleian Library**

King Alfred's translation from the Latin of Gregory's Pastoral Care is a manuscript book, dating from around 890 and is claimed to be the earliest surviving book written entirely in the English language. It is the only surviving book which can be linked directly with King Alfred.

#### **The Gough Map – The Bodleian Library**

The Gough Map, dated to the fourteenth century, is the most important and most enigmatic cartographic representation of Great Britain from the medieval period. It is the earliest surviving route map of Britain, and the earliest surviving map depicting Britain with a recognisable coastline and depicts over six hundred towns and villages.

#### **Bank of Scotland Archives – Lloyds Banking Group Archives**

The Bank of Scotland archive documents the changing fortunes of this unique Scottish institution, which for more than 300 years helped shape the fortunes of a nation. Founded by an Act of the old Scots Parliament, it was Scotland's very first bank. Its early history was difficult, reflecting the turbulent economic conditions of the period, but 'the old Bank' went on to become the pre-eminent institution of its kind in Scotland.

#### **Wakefield Court Rolls – Yorkshire Archaeological Society**

The Wakefield court rolls are an almost complete series of manorial rolls documenting the business of the manor of Wakefield from 1274 to the abolition of manorial jurisdiction in 1925. The manor was one of the largest in England and covered not just Wakefield, but a huge area of the West Riding. The 670 parchment and paper court rolls are probably the longest and most complete set of English court rolls to survive.

#### **Death Warrant of King Charles I – The Parliamentary Archives**

The warrant for the execution of King Charles I contains the signatures and seals of 59 of the commissioners who tried Charles I, including that of Oliver Cromwell. The sentence was carried out on 30 January 1649 outside the Banqueting House in Whitehall. This evocative document therefore directly led to the execution of the King, the abolition of the monarchy, and the consequent establishment of a Republic to govern England for the only time in its history, between 1649-1660.

#### **Bill of Rights – The Parliamentary Archives**

The Bill of Rights 1689 is the closest document that the UK has to a written constitution. An Act of Parliament passed in December 1689, it is a watershed document in the history of the relationship between monarchy and Parliament. It firmly established the principles of frequent parliaments, free elections, and freedom of speech within Parliament. Its conditions include no right of taxation without Parliament's agreement, freedom from government interference, the right of petition and just treatment of people by courts.

### **John Murray Archive – National Library of Scotland**

The collection contains the business, literary and personal papers of the John Murray Publishing house, the eighteenth century Edinburgh publisher and bookseller Charles Elliot and the London publishing house of Smith, Elder and Company. Within the collection are the papers of the poet Lord Byron, which include the majority of his manuscripts, correspondence, legal, financial and personal papers.

### **Jersey Occupation Archive – Jersey Heritage**

The Channel Islands were the only part of Britain to be occupied by Hitler's German forces during the Second World War. The Jersey Occupation archive includes the Occupation Registration Cards, which form a pictorial census of the Islanders who were occupied. Within the faces of the individuals who have been registered we see those who became local heroes such as Albert Bedane who hid a Jersey Jewish woman from the German Authorities and was honoured by the State of Israel as '*Righteous Amongst the Nations*'.

### **The customer account ledgers of Edward Backwell, 1663-1672 – The Royal Bank of Scotland**

The ledgers of the goldsmith-banker Edward Backwell are uniquely significant in documenting the finances of Restoration England and the birth of modern banking. They provide the earliest detailed evidence of the scale and sophistication of England's emerging banking system, and the role of the City of London as the leading centre for international trade and finance. Their pages also offer insights into the lives of thousands of individual clients, many of whom have their own historical significance.

### **Edinburgh and Lothian HIV/AIDS Collections – Lothian Health Services Archive**

Edinburgh and Lothian HIV/AIDS Collections (1983-2010) chart the unprecedented rise of HIV and AIDS in Edinburgh and Lothian. They document the medical and social responses to the disease at a local level combining the records of NHS Lothian, local government, charities and campaign groups. The collections contain management, operational, administrative and policy papers; publicity, educational and promotional material (including papers of the ground-breaking, and at times controversial, 'Take Care' campaign); and grey literature.

### **The narrative created through Sirkka-Liisa Konttinen's photography and Amber's films – Amber Collective**

The Amber film & photography collective has been based in the North East of England since 1969, with a self-determined remit to record working-class and marginalised lives in its region. Forty years of photography by Sirkka-Liisa Konttinen's and of films by the collective capture the epic locations of shipbuilding and coal and the life of communities – from the terraced streets of Byker to the flawed and visionary Byker Wall Estate and across the North East.

### **Winchester Pipe Rolls – Hampshire Record Office**

The Winchester Pipe Rolls are the most complete set of manorial accounts still surviving. Starting in 1208-9 they continue almost unbroken to 1710-11 and record income and expenditure across the Bishop of Winchester's estates in the most minute detail. Spanning 502 years of English history from King John to Queen Anne, representing around 15,000 separate manorial accounts they are a source not only for the economic, social and agrarian history of southern England, but also for political and building history.

### **The Great Hospital, Norwich – Norfolk Record Office**

The medieval records of St Giles's Hospital at Norwich (known the 'Great Hospital'), founded c. 1249, have no rival anywhere in the country. They are the fullest and by far the most important set of British medieval hospital records to survive the English Reformation.

### **Peter Worden Collection of Mitchell and Kenyon films – British Film Institute National Archive**

The Mitchell and Kenyon collection is generally recognised as the most exciting film discovery of recent times in Britain. This extraordinary actuality footage is a vivid and unparalleled social record of early 20th-century British life - ordinary people in everyday situations. The

geographical spread of the material encompasses Lancashire, Yorkshire, the Midlands, Scotland, Ireland, the North East, Bristol and North Wales.

### **GPO Film Unit collection – British Postal Museum & Archive, BT Heritage and British Film Institute**

The pioneering GPO Film Unit produced one of the finest British collections of documentary, public information, animation and industrial film ever to come from a single UK source. The unit lasted for just seven years yet its films set the trend for generations that followed and its impact spread the world over. Its iconic films, such as *Night Mail* (1936), have proved to have an ever-lasting popularity and appeal that hasn't dwindled in over 75 years.

### **The Wedgwood Museum archive – The Wedgwood Museum**

The Wedgwood Museum Archive Collection is one of the most complete ceramic manufacturing archives in existence the collection also embraces all aspects of industry, marketing, productions, fashion, taste, topical political and social contexts including celebrated people from the Darwin family, artists and writers, through to contemporary politicians and industrialists, including members of the Lunar Society.

### **Documentary Heritage of the Women's Suffrage Movement in Britain 1865-1928 – The Women's Library and The Parliamentary Archive**

This selection of eight items tell the story of the women's suffrage movement from the 1860s to the achievement of suffrage in 1928. The documents begin with the 1866 Petition which enabled John Stuart Mill to be the first person in Parliament to call for women's suffrage; and ends with the success of the *Representation of the People (Equal Franchise) Act* of 1928 and a congratulatory letter from the Prime Minister to the leader of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies, Millicent Fawcett.

### **BT Research Centre collection – BT Heritage**

The Post Office / BT research reports and memoranda document over a century of the achievements of British telecommunications engineers and scientists in pushing the boundaries of communications technology. Advances in thermionic valves, transistors, radio communications, television broadcasting and transmission, satellite technology, digital transmission, optical fibres, lasers, integrated circuits, videoconferencing, videophones, research into early wideband/broadband technologies such as radio waveguide are only some of the subjects covered by the research reports and memoranda.

### **The Children's Society Archive – The Children's Society**

The Children's Society Archive charts the development of child care practice and policy from the Victorian period onwards. Of significant historical value are the 140,000 care histories of each child assisted by the organization - consisting of detailed admission forms, correspondence with family members and other organisations, including Poor Law authorities, the Charity Organisation Society and local district visitors.

For further information on each item, including pictures, visit [www.unesco.org.uk/ukregister](http://www.unesco.org.uk/ukregister).

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**For photos, or to arrange an interview with the UK Memory of the World Committee or one of the winners, please contact:**

**UK National Commission for UNESCO** – Ian White on +44 (0)20 7766 3492; +44 (0)79 7922 7060 or [iwhite@unesco.org.uk](mailto:iwhite@unesco.org.uk).

### **Notes to Editors**

- *UNESCO's Memory of the World programme was established in 1992 to promote preservation of and access to the world's archive holdings and library collections. The vision of the programme is a simple but powerful one – the world's documentary heritage belongs to all, should be fully preserved*

*and protected for all and, with due recognition of cultural mores and practicalities, should be permanently accessible to all without hindrance.*

*The UK Memory of the World Register was established in 2010 to highlight documentary heritage which holds cultural significance specific to the UK. The Register is managed by the UK Memory of the World Committee and complements the UNESCO Memory of the World International Register, which is a catalogue of documentary heritage of global significance and outstanding universal value.*

*In addition to maintaining Registers the Memory of the World programme campaigns to raise awareness of documentary heritage and to alert governments, the general public, business and commerce to preservation needs. The programme also raises funds and provides expertise to support preservation and digitisation projects in developing countries and for archives at risk.*