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Latest round of Cataloguing Grants to open up valuable archive collections across the UK

Access to 12 hidden archive collections is set to be transformed by a series of grants announced today. The National Cataloguing Grants Programme 2011 has awarded £420,000 to archives across the UK to help make these vitally important collections fully accessible for the first time.

Among successful projects to receive a grant this year are collected personal accounts of the Holocaust, records of a nineteenth century County Durham philanthropist and the corporate records detailing the governance of the City of York from 1155-1976.

Melinda Haunton, Programmes Manager, The National Archives commented:

“Cataloguing is the first step in providing access to archives, revealing collections which would otherwise remain hidden. Several of this year’s grant awards will lead to step-changes in service provision, building capacity to do more with their fascinating holdings through opening up large proportions of their archives for the first time.”

Supporting this grant programme is part of the ongoing commitment by The National Archives to help improve services, and enhance public access through investment in collections, as well as empowering communities by giving them access to their own heritage.”

Projects and collections

Each individual grant can last for up to two years, enabling the archives to explore each collection fully. Among those funded this year are:

Wiener Library – “Ordering Memory” the personal document collections (£29, 263)

The personal papers making up the collection document individuals affected by the Holocaust, both those who became refugees and those who suffered in the camps.

Bowes Museum – “Collections for a wider world”: opening up access to the Bowes Museum archive (£27, 402)

John Bowes was a land owner, MP, businessman, horse-breeder and racer with extensive property in County Durham. The archive comprises details of how he and his French wife Joséphine amassed their fascinating collection of *objets d’art*, now open to the public as the Bowes Museum.

York City Archives – “A City Making History”: the governance of York 1155-1976 (£38, 400)

The corporate records of the city of York date from 1155 and are an unbroken series since 1476. The archives offer huge opportunities for researchers to explore the city’s own history – together with that of the governance of Northern England.

Access to documents

Administered by The National Archives, the grants programme helps archives to catalogue previously inaccessible collections and consequently often uncovers previously unknown treasures providing unique insight into our nation’s past. Set to run for five years from 2008 the Programme is funded by a collective of charitable trusts including the Pilgrim Trust, the Foyle Foundation and the Wolfson Foundation and aims to bring people and collections together by enhancing public access to original documents.

Further reading

Please see our webpage <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/information-management/our-services/cataloguing-grants-programme.htm> for full details of this year’s grant winners.