

HAMPSHIRE RECORD OFFICE

DESIGNATION STATEMENT ON THE SIGNIFICANCE OF HAMPSHIRE'S ARCHIVE COLLECTIONS

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The archives at Hampshire Record Office not only constitute an unparalleled resource for an understanding of the history of Hampshire and its people from the 12th century to the present day but, due to the particular circumstances and significance of many of the county's families and institutions, and the exceptional survival of their associated records, the archives have a much wider significance for the cultural history of the nation. Many of Hampshire's collections have been used by eminent scholars in this country and overseas for ground-breaking research and they have proved key to an understanding of national trends and events, as evidenced by the associated letters of support from senior academics.
- 1.2 Although every county record office will be found to contain some broadly similar series of records, reflecting every aspect of life and activity within the county, many of Hampshire's records are outstanding in terms of the completeness of their survival and the extensiveness of their range. For example, the records of the bishopric and the diocese of Winchester form a virtually unbroken series spanning eight centuries, and the archives of the City of Winchester provide a continuous historic record from the mid-12th century to the present day. The explanation for the existence of such exceptional series of records almost certainly lies in the early history of Hampshire.
- 1.3 Hampshire is the first of England's shires to appear in the historical record. The Anglo-Saxon Chronicle, referring to the year 757, tells us that the councillors of the West Saxons 'deprived Sigeberht of his kingdom, *except for Hampshire*.' Hampshire as a unit of government is older than England and far older than any European state¹. Winchester was developed by King Alfred the Great as the capital of his kingdom of Wessex and, as he and his successors subsequently conquered the rest of England, Winchester became the capital of the entire kingdom. It remained a seat of royal government even after the Norman Conquest; it was at Winchester that Domesday Book was initially kept. The archives of the city (described in detail below) thus have significance far beyond the local.
- 1.4 In late Saxon times Winchester was the ecclesiastical centre of the kingdom of Wessex and the bishopric became the wealthiest in England. The bishops of Winchester ranked among the most senior bishops in England during the medieval period and beyond, and they were possessors of vast landed wealth on a princely scale. Their widespread estates reached through seven counties in the south of England from Surrey to Somerset, and from the Isle of Wight to Oxfordshire, and included over 60 manors, just half of these in Hampshire. The income from these estates made the diocese the wealthiest in England in the medieval period and it is said that 'in the whole Christian world only the diocese of Milan was worth more'.² Successive medieval bishops of Winchester held high state office. William Wykeham and William Waynflete both served as royal chancellors; Cardinal Beaufort was a leading statesman and diplomat in the first half of the fifteenth century; Richard Fox was an adviser to both Henry VII and VIII. Later

¹ *The History of the English Shires*, James Campbell MA, FBA, FSA, Fellow of Worcester College, Oxford

² *Estate records of the Bishops of Winchester in the Hampshire Record Office*, T Mayberry

bishops included Stephen Gardiner, an important figure who served as bishop in the turbulent reigns of Henry VIII, Edward VI and Mary, and between 1781 and 1820 Brownlow North, half-brother of the politician Lord North. The diocese up until 1927 included not only Hampshire and the Isle of Wight but also Surrey, and its proximity to the capital, and also the great wealth at its bishops' disposal, made it an attractive and key position for leading churchmen. The exceptional survival of the records of the bishopric and the diocese (described in detail below) thus throw light on significant aspects of national economic, social and political history.

- 1.5 Winchester's cultural, administrative and political importance in the late Saxon and early medieval period seems to have given rise to a culture of record-creation and record-keeping which accounts for the existence and survival of the vast range of archives from that period now in the safekeeping of Hampshire Record Office. Their significance is enhanced because the records series continue largely unbroken into the modern period.
- 1.6 Hampshire's wealth, its geographical location close to a major port of entry into the kingdom, Southampton, and to Portsmouth, a leading naval base from the 16/17th century, its subsequent significance in terms of the defence of the realm and its location within easy reach of London made it a natural home for gentry families with political or social connections or aspirations. The extensive estate and family records of the county gentry now held in Hampshire Record Office constitute another significant resource, not only for the study of many aspects of the county's history, but also for people and events that are critical to an understanding of social and political themes of national and even international significance. As this document will evidence, Hampshire's archives are essential to any study of:
 - Medieval landholding and administration
 - The topography and archaeology of the medieval city
 - Canon law and ecclesiastical jurisdiction before 1640
 - The imposition of the Reformation and popular survival of Catholic belief and practice in the 16th and 17th centuries
 - Patronage of the arts in the 18th century (including the music of George Frederick Handel)
 - British diplomacy and political life in the 18th century

Without them, the national picture would be incomplete. In addition, they also contribute substantially to any study of: the origins of English cricket; Irish history in the late 18th and early 19th centuries; Victorian popular culture (through the case of the Tichborne claimant); asylum policy and practice in the 19th century and the development of cinematography in the late 19th and 20th century.

Many collections contribute to more than one of these themes. The following statement therefore focuses on each of the most significant collections in turn, drawing attention to the use that has been made of them by researchers in this country and abroad.

- 1.7 The great value of the archive collections in Hampshire Record Office lies not just in the significance of individual collections, great though that may be, but in the totality of the collections. As a whole, the archives constitute a body of inter-related records which taken together can provide a rounded understanding of very many different aspects of the county's and the nation's social, economic and political life over more than 900 years. Together they not only illustrate how life in Hampshire has changed and developed over the centuries but, in showing how the county and its people have contributed to and shared in the nation's cultural and political life, they open a window on the world.

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2. WINCHESTER BISHOPRIC AND DIOCESE

2.1 The Winchester Bishopric

2.1.1 One of the largest and most significant collections in Hampshire Record Office, the Winchester bishopric collection (11M59), comprises the administrative records of the bishopric estates which spread across the south of England. This constitutes a vast archive, particularly rich for the medieval period, but also of significance for later years, an archive whose importance has for many years been recognised by scholars worldwide.

2.1.2 The bishopric records span eight centuries, and chief among their treasures are the celebrated **Winchester Pipe Rolls** – a series of enrolled manorial accounts dating from 1208/9 and continuing almost unbroken to 1710/11, detailing income and expenditure across the bishop's estates in the minutest detail. The pipe rolls were described by Lord Beveridge as early as 1929 as 'incomparably the longest and richest series of manorial accounts available for study by modern economic historians', and elsewhere as 'one of England's archive glories'. More recently, they have been described as:

'among the very greatest monuments to medieval English administration and record-keeping. As a source for economic and social history between the thirteenth and the fifteenth centuries they are without equal, since even documents of roughly comparable structure and purpose cannot offer anything like the same quantity and variety of information, or coverage of such a long chronological period.'³

2.1.3 The collection also includes other series of medieval and early modern manorial accounts, and manorial court records, including court rolls, fine books and presentments, which taken together provide an extremely rich source for the widespread manors which formed part of the bishop's estate.

2.1.4 The Winchester Bishopric archives, in particular the Pipe Rolls, have been used extensively by successive generations of medieval historians, national and international, who have long recognised their potential as sources not only for the economic, social and agrarian history of southern England, but also for political and building history. Again in his review of Britnell 2003, Briggs went as far as to say that 'the story of historical study of the Winchester pipe rolls is inseparable from the wider story of the development of English medieval economic and social history as a field of research'³, citing scholars such as W H Beveridge, J Z Titow and D L Farmer for their ground-breaking research on areas such as prices, wages and crop yields. More recently scholars such as John Langdon, Christopher Thornton and Mark Page have used the rolls to investigate other aspects of the rural economy, for example the peasant land-market and expenditure on buildings.

2.1.5 The Pipe Rolls have proved essential in studies of medieval urban life, and have been used by Derek Keene of the University of London Institute of Historical Research, for example in his work on medieval Winchester, and by Derek Keene, J. Galloway and M. Murphy in their major ESRC and Leverhulme funded research project on London markets, 'Metropolitan Market Networks, c.1300-1600; London, its

³ Review of *The Winchester Pipe Rolls and Medieval English Society* (ed Richard Britnell, 2003) by Chris Briggs of Cambridge Group for the History of Population and Social Structure, University of Cambridge

Region and the Economy of England'. In his accompanying letter of support (*Appendix 1.1*) Professor Keene states:

'Nowhere else is there a series of records of comparable significance for revealing how landed and other resources were managed over such a long period...The Pipe Rolls, therefore, confer a global significance on the bishopric archive... [the publications arising from them] have made major contributions to our understanding of the development of European economy and society up to 1500.'

Others such as Christopher Currie, John Hare and Edward Roberts have found the Pipe Rolls can be used to trace the histories of individual buildings owned by the bishops, for example Bishops Waltham palace and East Meon court house; and the earliest rolls have been used by Nicholas Vincent in his study of the career of Bishop Peter des Roches.

2.1.6 Since the 1990s the Winchester Pipe Rolls programme (funded initially by Hampshire County Council and later by the ESRC and the Leverhulme Trust) has completed a number of significant projects based on the rolls, namely publication of translations of the rolls for 1301/2 and 1409/10, and compilation of databases of information from the rolls concerning the estates' customary tenants and the peasant land market. In addition, a major conference on the rolls was held at Hampshire Record Office in 1999 and its proceedings were published in 2003 in the previously cited *The Winchester Pipe Rolls and Medieval English Society*, edited by Richard Britnell.

2.1.7 Academic research is continuing on the medieval pipe rolls. In 2005 John Langdon of the University of Alberta, Edmonton, Canada, received a research grant to study marginal wage labour (that of women, children, the elderly and the disabled) in medieval England, and will be using the Winchester pipe rolls extensively. At Cambridge, Richard Smith, Professor of Historical Geography and Demography, has begun new research (funded by the ESRC) on the links between cereal output as measured by tithe payments and demographic trends in England between c.1300 and 1530, and among other sources is using the pipe rolls.

2.1.8 By contrast, the post-medieval records in the Winchester bishopric collection have been less fully exploited but are the most important grouping of manorial records to have been deposited in Hampshire Record Office, with significant potential for future research. They provide historians with the resources to build up a detailed picture of landholding on the bishopric manors from the 16th to the 20th century. In his supporting letter (*Appendix 1.2*) Professor Bruce Campbell of Queen's University, Belfast, writes:

'For all the attention they have already received, they contain sufficient untapped original historical information to sustain fresh historical research for generations to come ... Indeed, as yet the post 1453 rolls ... have scarcely been utilised at all. In short, the quality and exceptional importance of this component of the Hampshire Record Office's archival collections are beyond question.'

2.1.9 A full bibliography of works using the pipe rolls, and other Winchester bishopric archives is appended (*Appendix 2*).

2.2 The Diocese of Winchester

- 2.2.1 Not only were the bishops of Winchester possessors of vast landed wealth; they also ranked among the most senior bishops in England, particularly in the medieval period but also in later years. The archive (21M65) created by these bishops in the course of their administration of the diocese, like the bishopric archive, is a vast one, again spanning eight centuries and including many significant series of records whose importance has been recognised by scholars of standing at home and abroad particularly in studies of medieval church and political history, and also Reformation history.
- 2.2.2 Perhaps the collection's greatest treasure is the series of medieval and early modern bishops' registers which date from 1282 until 1642 in an almost unbroken run, unparalleled in other English dioceses. These registers contain not only the usual records of ordinations and appointments of clergy, but also details of episcopal visitations and elections to religious houses, information about the spread and suppression of heresy, registered copies of wills, and many other documents – letters and writs for example – which shed light on religious and political life in the diocese, but also, because of the key figures appointed to the diocese, on national political and religious life. Professor Ralph Houlbrooke of Reading University has called the series 'magnificent' (*Appendix 1.3*). According to Virginia Davis of Queen Mary College, University of London, the run is 'unusually complete' – the only significant gap in the medieval period being the second register of Cardinal Henry Beaufort (*Appendix 1.4*). She goes on to say
- 'There is no doubt that the surviving bishops' registers are a collection of importance for historians of medieval England and together with the pipe rolls can certainly be described as unique and outstanding sources, of value to and greatly appreciated by scholars both from Britain and abroad.'
- 2.2.3 The registers have been used extensively in the biographies of a number of bishops of national standing: William Waynflete by Virginia Davis, and Adam Orleton by Roy Haines, and they will feature in the forthcoming biography of William Wykeham by Virginia Davis. They have also been used in a study of medieval heresy and non-conformity by Clayton Drees (1997) and in a recent study of ecclesiastical patronage by Richard Brown (2003).
- 2.2.4 The Winchester diocesan records also include a fine series of early modern consistory or church court papers dating from 1513, whose significance was perhaps first recognised by Ralph Houlbrooke in his groundbreaking study of the church courts of Winchester and Norwich dioceses published in 1979, *Church Courts and the People during the English Reformation* (Oxford). They have also been used by Professor Richard Helmholz formerly of the University of Chicago, now of Harvard Law School in his *A History of the Canon Law and Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction, 597 to the 1640s* (OUP 2003) of which he writes 'It is literally true that I could not have written a work as comprehensive as I tried to make this book without making use of the records in the Hampshire Record Office' (*Appendix 1.5*). Houlbrooke feels the chief strength of the Winchester diocesan archive is that it 'bridges the divide between 'medieval' and 'modern', especially as represented by the Reformation. These records are immensely important not only to local historians ... but also to national historians of religious and social developments.' (*Appendix 1.3*).
- 2.2.5 These church court records include visitation detecta and call books dating from 1517. They include church court act books for both office and instance cases, detailing the substance and progress of cases before the courts, the office act books dating from 1521, the instance books from 1513. They also include deposition books – containing statements of witnesses in cases concerning marriage, wills, tithes,

defamation and other church court business; a particularly good and complete series starting as early as 1531 and virtually unbroken from 1561 until 1602. Unusually the series also contains a rare Ecclesiastical Commissioners' act book for 1606-8. Houlbrooke was able to use the Winchester material to show how Winchester bishops struggled to impose the Reformation in their diocese which was particularly conservative. More recently he has drawn on them to examine witchcraft before and during the Reformation. In addition, Keith Thomas used the records in his pioneering work on witchcraft, *Religion and the Decline of Magic*, published in 1971.

- 2.2.6 Since Helmholz and Houlbrooke's pioneering work in the 1970s, the significance of the Winchester court records has been recognised by other historians working in the field of Reformation history. In his survey of church court records *Records of the Medieval Ecclesiastical Courts, Part II: England – Reports of the Working Group on Church Court Records*, (Berlin, 1994) Professor Charles Donahue concluded: 'The holdings in this archive are substantial. They are used to good effect in Houlbrooke, *Church Courts*, but the overlapping of visitation, office, instance and deposition material suggests that even more could be done to reconstruct the workings of this court in the first half of the sixteenth century.'
- 2.2.7 Recently Dr Christopher Haigh of Oxford University has drawn on the collection for studies of communion and catechising, and in his forthcoming book on popular religion (*Appendix 1.6*). While he admits that other dioceses have extensive collections of similar church court material, not all have both court and deposition books as at Hampshire; like Houlbrooke, he found that because Hampshire was unusual in being a more conservative county in the south of England, he was able to use the material to study the survival of traditional religion, Catholic belief and practice among ordinary people. David Cressy, the American historian and author of *Birth, Marriage and Death: ritual, religion and the life-cycle in Tudor and Stuart England*, uses church court and other Winchester diocesan records from a later period in his most recent work *England on Edge: Crisis and Revolution, 1604-1642* (*Appendix 1.7*).
- 2.2.8 The Winchester diocesan collection, as well as containing medieval and early modern records of recognised national importance, also includes some more recent records recognised by historians as significant, and in one case unique. First, among the many files and bundles of clergy appointment papers dating mainly from the early eighteenth century and which have been used extensively by researchers working on the national clergy database project, survives one of the earliest and fullest collections of ordination papers. In most dioceses such papers usually survive from the late eighteenth century; in Winchester diocese they date from 1715. Second, the collection contains a set of returns on non-residence and other issues submitted to the bishop of Winchester by his clergy in 1810. These have recently been edited in the Hampshire Record Series (*Doing the Duty of the Parish: Surveys of the Church in Hampshire 1810* (Hampshire Record Series 17, 2004)) and the volume's editor Dr Mark Smith, in his introduction to the volume wrote, 'A survey of diocesan record offices has revealed the existence of no equivalent survey in any other English diocese...The survival of the returns to the bishop's questionnaire provides a unique source not only for the history of nineteenth-century Hampshire but also for the Church of England in 1810.'

2.3 Religious houses and hospitals

- 2.3.1 The collections in Hampshire Record Office include a significant number relating to medieval religious foundations in the county. Taken together with the archives of the bishopric, the diocese and the city of Winchester, they provide an exceptionally full picture of life and society in the medieval period.
- 2.3.2 They include the records of the **Augustinian priory of Mottisfont** (13M63). This collection includes fifteenth-century cartularies recording the grants of the priory's estates in the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries, and a 'rental' of c.1340-1345 which is actually a complete survey or extent of all the priory's estates conducted by the cellarer Walter de Blount between 1340 and 1345. These documents are important sources for both the history of Mottisfont Priory and also the land management techniques of middle-sized English religious houses in general. The rental/survey also contains a copy of Walter de Henley's treatise on husbandry in Norman-French and copies of some other Mottisfont Priory documents. The cartularies and rental are currently being prepared for publication in the Hampshire Record Series.
- 2.3.3 Hampshire Record Office also holds three medieval cartularies of the **Augustinian priory of Southwick** containing copies of priory documents dating from the 12th to 15th centuries (1M54, 5M50 and 4M53). In addition there are manorial court rolls, account rolls, rentals and some other material relating to the priory mainly dating from the 14th to early 16th century. According to K A Hanna 'the records have survived to a far greater extent than those of many other monastic houses'.⁴
- 2.3.4 Exceptional survival of Winchester's records include those of the city's medieval hospitals, specifically St John's Hospital in the heart of the city, St Cross Hospital in the lost village of Sparkford to the south of the city and St Mary Magdalene's Hospital, sited on the eastern hill of Winchester and serving primarily as an isolation hospital for lepers. Each of these had a different character and their records provide us with an insight into social provision in and around the city since the twelfth century.
- 2.3.5 **St John's Hospital** provided for the elderly poor and infirm and for a number of residents; it also functioned as a chantry chapel, particularly for civic benefactors, and provided a meeting place for the Fraternity or Guild of St John the Baptist which in the later medieval period became identified with the ruling elite of the city. Management of the hospital was inextricably linked with the government of the city and the records reflect this so that archives for St John's may be found in both its own archive and in that of the corporation; the two collections thus need to be studied together (34M91W & W/H). The series starts with a rental of 1294 and includes account rolls from 1314 up to the nineteenth century. The more recent records of St John's Winchester Charity continue to be deposited in Hampshire Record Office on a regular basis. They provide not only a continuous history of one of England's oldest charitable institutions from the medieval period to the present day but also amplify the civic records because of the unique link between the medieval borough and this hospital.
- 2.3.6 **St Cross Hospital**, was founded in the 1130s to provide accommodation and succour for thirteen elderly men, and to provide a daily meal for one hundred poor men. This first foundation was augmented by Cardinal Beaufort in 1446 with the addition of the **Almshouse of Noble Poverty** which made provision for impoverished 'gentle folk'. The records of both charities, known together as St Cross (111M94W)

⁴ K A Hanna (ed.) *The Cartularies of Southwick Priory Parts 1 and 2* (Hampshire Record Series, Vols 8-9, 1988-9).

date from the late 12th century and include domestic accounts from the 14th century, a magnificent early 15th century cartulary and numerous manorial accounts, court rolls, deeds and leases dating from the 13th century, for manors and properties across Hampshire and in Somerset. For the later period, there is a substantial body of material prepared for and used in the Chancery lawsuit in the mid-nineteenth century, following the allegations of mismanagement which inspired Anthony Trollope's *The Warden*⁵. The ensuing lawsuit was instrumental in the subsequent regulation of charities throughout the country by the Charity Commission. Many significant national players have been involved with the management of St Cross Hospital, especially as Masters, and the archive has been extensively used to augment our knowledge of their careers, most recently in the publication of the biography of John Cooke, one of the seventeenth century regicides⁶. Administrative records for St Cross continue to be deposited, thus maintaining the continuity of the archive from the eleventh to the twenty-first century.

- 2.3.7 The third hospital of **St Mary Magdalene** - founded at least by 1155 - lay on the eastern outskirts of Winchester. The hospital's endowment is now incorporated in St John's Winchester charity. Its records (51M48) are less prolific than those of the other two Winchester hospitals and mainly comprise title deeds dating back to the thirteenth century. Nevertheless, a postgraduate student has recently chosen to engage in a study of all three of Winchester's medieval hospitals because this corpus of material provides a uniquely rich survival of such records which, it is claimed, is unparalleled in any other medieval provincial town.

⁵ 'Better than Ambition: The Master of St Cross' from a publication of articles entitled *Enter Rumour* by R B Martin (Faber and Faber, 1962)

⁶ Geoffrey Robertson *The Tyrannicide brief: the Story of the man who sent Charles I to the Scaffold* (Chatto, 2005)

3. THE CITY OF WINCHESTER

3.1 Winchester City Archive (W/A-K)

- 3.1.1 The archive of the city of Winchester is one of the largest and most wide-ranging collections within Hampshire Record Office and one of the most complete for any medieval borough in the country. It provides a continuous historic record for the city and environs of Winchester from the mid-twelfth to the twenty-first century. A particular strength of the collection is the many series of documents which start in the medieval period and continue through to the present day. Professor Derek Keene describes it as 'of national, if not European, significance as a cultural asset'. Of the 'exceptional series of local taxation assessments from the fifteenth century' in the archive he says (*Appendix 1.8*):

'Study of the Winchester records for this period has made an important contribution towards understanding this process of [physical, economic and social] change, which was common to many English towns and was also experienced by many on the continent.'

Professor Tom Beaumont James of the University of Winchester (*Appendix 1.9*) writes:

'It is apparent to me that the Winchester City Archive is an outstanding collection which provides the basis for in-depth studies for example of tenement histories from before the Norman Conquest to the present day for a whole city; this potential is unique in Europe'

- 3.1.2 The oldest documents are two charters issued by Henry II, but the series of charters continues up to those issued by HM Queen Elizabeth II in 1973-74. Winchester's court records embrace city court rolls dating from 1270, piepowder court records from 1406 and Quarter Sessions records from 1510 through to 1971 as well as records of the coroner's court, petty sessions and magistrates' court. There are several series of accounts; the earliest date from 1352 and they continue, with very few gaps, through the account books and ledgers of the early modern period up to the budget statements of the twenty-first century. The ordinance and minute books start in the mid sixteenth century (earlier records are in the British Library) and these official records including reports and departmental records are regularly added to the archive to ensure that continuity is maintained. The archive also includes records relating to the city's extensive property holdings including title deeds and leases from the fifteenth century, property registers from the sixteenth century, maps, rentals, and agreements.
- 3.1.3 The city archive includes records of numerous charities whose records date back to 1294 and continue in some cases to the twenty-first century. In addition to St John's Hospital records, described elsewhere [*in paragraph 2.3.5*], there are the records of Christ's Hospital, a charity founded by the will of Peter Symonds, a London mercer in the late sixteenth century. The archive pre-dates this, including title deeds, leases and agreements from 1340 for properties which were part of the endowment, minute books from 1627 to 1852 and accounts from 1633 to 1928. Other charity records include accounts for many of the smaller charities, dating back to 1606 and continuing in some cases up to the late twentieth century.
- 3.1.4 Records of the bodies whose functions the Corporation took over at different dates include the Pavement Commission, the Corn Exchange Company, the Cemetery Commission, the Gaol Commission and the Water and Gas Company. Together with

records in non-traditional formats, including archive films and audio tapes, these sources provide a full and continuous picture of all aspects of life in the city from the middle ages until the modern period, shedding light on its administrative and economic history, its citizens, their social and family life, industry and building history. Used in conjunction with other Winchester collections deposited in HRO they provide a full picture of the city's life, both official and private. While the survival of the records from post-1500 is not uncommon, and will be mirrored by borough records in many other counties, it is the continuous historic record for Winchester, beginning with the medieval records which are of national and indeed world class significance, which makes this archive unique.

- 3.1.5 The city archive has been used extensively by amateur and professional historians and has played an important part in supporting the nationally significant archaeology which has been conducted in Winchester since 1962 by the Winchester Excavations Committee under the direction of Professor Martin Biddle of Oxford University. Winchester has been described as 'the subject of the most comprehensive investigation ever undertaken in an English city, combining archaeology, art and architectural history, written records, topography and the natural sciences'.⁷
- 3.1.6 The archive was also intensively used for the exhaustive *Survey of Medieval Winchester* by Derek Keene for the Winchester Excavations Committee published in 1985. Professor Keene says of the Winchester survey:

'Earlier work on other towns has pointed the way towards a study of this kind, but nowhere else has it yet been possible to achieve so comprehensive a description of a medieval town over so long a period.'⁸

The work of the Committee is continuing. For example, an atlas of historic town maps, drawing on the archaeology and the archives is soon to be published by the Historic Towns Atlas Committee and Winchester Excavations Committee.

- 3.1.7 More recently, the city archive has played a key part in the work of the Winchester Project team, founded in 1988 by Professor Thomas Beaumont James and based at the University of Winchester. This team comprises a group of archaeologists, geographers and historians who are engaged in a reconstruction and analysis of the life of Winchester from the Tudor period to the present day, using computer technology and geographical information systems to interpret the documentary evidence. This will greatly add to knowledge of the history of the city, taking its starting point from the Tudor period, when Keene's study ends.
- 3.1.8 Other research currently in progress includes work by Dr Stephen Gunn of Merton College, Oxford, who is examining the impact of Henry VIII's wars on the regions and work by Professor Nicholas Orme of Exeter University who is researching the education of children in the medieval period. The latter has recently uncovered within the city court rolls a list of children's books in an early 15th century household, which he has described as 'a unique record of world class significance'.

⁷ 2005 appeal leaflet for *The Winchester Studies* series published by Oxford University Press

⁸ Derek Keene *Winchester Studies* 2 (OUP, 1985) for Winchester Excavations Committee

3.2 University of Winchester (47M91W)

- 3.2.1 The Winchester city archive is intrinsic to an understanding of other major archives in the city and county, as well as further afield. As Professor Keene states in his supporting letter (*Appendix 1.8*), 'A part of the value of the city's archive concerns the way in which it is complemented by the similarly rich holdings of other Winchester institutions.' Professor T B James endorses this: 'The great strength of this archive is that it provides a secure foundation on which to build using cognate materials such as probate records, parish and rating records, censuses, trade directories and so on' (*Appendix 1.9*). The records of the city's medieval hospitals have already been described (section 2.3) and those of the Royal Hampshire County Hospital are referred to below (section 6.2.2). The records of the University of Winchester are similarly significant in contributing to the wider national picture.
- 3.2.2 Hampshire Record Office was unique among county record offices when, in 1991, it took in the records of a higher education institution; in that year the records of King Alfred's College, the former Diocesan Training College, later University College Winchester and now the University of Winchester, were deposited.
- 3.2.3 The archive includes records dating back to the College's foundation in 1840: there are minutes of the Board of Governors, reports of the Winchester Diocesan Board of Education, Principal's reports to the Governors, students' registers, student examination lists, a staff register, and records of former students and of their alumni organisation, the Winton Club. One exceptionally rare and evocative record is a detailed diary (in several volumes, and with accompanying photograph albums) compiled by a former student during his service in the Middle East and India in the First World War; the War Office mandate to servicemen that diaries were not to be kept makes this particularly significant. An extensive photographic collection dating from the 1860s covers the whole range of activities undertaken at the College throughout its history. A selection of these photographs has been published by two of the university lecturers⁹ and they have been used subsequently both for local and educational history.
- 3.2.4 Records from the University continue to be deposited on a regular basis, making this a very complete archive covering the entire history of the institution. It provides a resource which not only sheds further light on the history of the city and the county, but sits alongside other university archives as a resource for the study of higher education provision across the country.

3.3 Summary

The extent and comprehensiveness of the archive collections relating to the city of Winchester from the early middle ages to the present day are remarkable. Academic users of the collections confirm the importance of the inter-relationships between the Winchester archives and other county-wide collections or series held by Hampshire Record Office. It is the totality of the Winchester collections – like those of the county as a whole - which makes them of outstanding importance.

⁹ T B James and M Doughty *King Alfred's College, Winchester. A Pictorial Record* (Winchester, 1991)

4. THE ARISTOCRACY AND COUNTY GENTRY

Hampshire Record Office is fortunate in that its collections include many extensive and significant archives relating to aristocratic and gentry families, whose members were not only major Hampshire landowners and often influential local figures, but also on occasion played an important role in national and international politics or diplomacy, or in Britain's cultural life. While many other county record offices hold similar estate and family collections, Hampshire's are not only exceptionally large in number but particularly rich in content due to the number of individual family members whose careers or cultural connections are of national or international significance. These collections date mainly from the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries but they also include earlier and later material and they have been used by scholars at home and abroad in a wide range of historical research on themes including:

- National politics and government
- Military, naval and diplomatic careers
- Arts and culture
- Landholding and estate management
- Agriculture and rural life
- Family and domestic life

Three of the collections could perhaps be singled out as pre-eminent, because of the significance of their contents and the historical research conducted to date using them. These are the papers of the Harris family, Earls of Malmesbury; the Wickham family; and the Jervoise family of Herriard. Other estate and family collections in Hampshire Record Office also have particular strengths and significance and are also worthy of mention.

The varied nature of these family and estate papers means that each collection may be significant to the study of several of these themes; the descriptions which follow will therefore focus on individual collections but will draw attention to the different ways in which they have been used in a wide range of national studies.

4.1 Harris family, Earls of Malmesbury (9M73)

4.1.1 The archive of the Harris family, Earls of Malmesbury, is perhaps the finest family archive in Hampshire Record Office, and in the words of Professor Donald Burrows, who has used the archive extensively, must be 'one of the richest resources of its type in Britain'. It dates from the late seventeenth to the nineteenth centuries, covering several generations and in the early years various different branches of the family.

4.1.2 At the collection's heart are the literary and political papers of **James Harris** (1709-1780), including political diaries, unpublished essays and correspondence with a wide range of individuals, many of considerable standing, including Henry Fielding, Charles Jennens and John Robartes Earl of Radnor. These papers were first used extensively by English scholar, Professor Clive Probyn of Monash University, Australia, and provide, as he says, 'a wealth of information about the domestic and artistic economies of a prosperous patron of the arts in regional England in the first half of the eighteenth century'. They were subsequently used again by Probyn¹⁰ and other international scholars writing about both Harris and Henry Fielding. Probyn's view is that the archive has 'produced important new knowledge about English

¹⁰ C Probyn, *The sociable humanist: the life and works of James Harris 1709-1780: provincial and metropolitan culture in eighteenth-century England* (Oxford, 1991)

literary, political and musical culture in the eighteenth century' attracting scholars from Australia, USA, and Japan as well as Britain. It has also 'divulged new texts' – the unpublished letters and essays of Harris in particular – thus 'contributing to the canon of English literature' (*Appendix 1.10*).

- 4.1.3 James Harris's papers include manuscript material of great importance for research into eighteenth-century music, and in recent years considerable work has been carried out on them. With Rosemary Dunhill, Professor Donald Burrows extracted information from Harris's letters and papers relating to the composer **George Frederick Handel**, and to music and drama in general. This research resulted in 2004 in the substantial publication *Music and Theatre in Handel's World* (Oxford 2002). Other scholars are also using James Harris's papers regularly; details of some of these are given in *Appendix 2*.
- 4.1.4 Furthermore the collection includes original **music manuscripts**, the Malmesbury collection of 36 volumes of Handel's music – copies of most of Handel's major works composed in London up to 1734, including the operas *Rinaldo*, *Acis and Galatea*, and *Julius Caesar*. Before their deposit in Hampshire Record Office, these manuscripts were described as 'by far the most important body of Handel manuscripts still in private hands and the only one in the possession of the same family since the eighteenth century'.¹¹ They are extremely significant, in many cases copied during the period between initial drafting and performance, and are thus used regularly by Handel scholars engaged in the preparation of new editions of Handel's music for *The Hallische Handel-Ausgabe*, and in research on Handel in general. Apart from Terence Best, Donald Burrows and Winton Dean, scholars who have used the manuscripts in recent years include Hans-Dieter Clausen, Anthony Hicks and Wolfgang Ruf.
- 4.1.5 The Harris family collection is significant in other ways. It contains political and family correspondence of James Harris, 1st Earl of Malmesbury (1746-1820), James Harris's son, whose diplomatic career took him to Spain, Prussia, Russia, Holland, and France, and who first acquired a seat in Hampshire, at Hurn, in the south west of the county (now in Dorset). His papers include, for example, reports from the court of Catherine the Great and were used by Isabel de Madariaga in the 1960s, while they were still with the family, resulting in the publication of her *Britain, Russia and the armed neutrality of 1780* (London, 1962). The 1st Earl's papers also include letters from 2nd Viscountess Palmerston, 3rd Viscount Palmerston, 11th Earl of Pembroke, and the architect Henry Holland, as well as papers about Princess Caroline of Brunswick, the Princess of Wales. The collection also includes diplomatic and political papers of James Howard Harris, 3rd Earl of Malmesbury (1807-1889), Foreign Secretary in 1852 and 1858-9 and Lord Privy Seal between 1874 and 1876. His many correspondents include the 14th and 15th Earls of Derby, Benjamin Disraeli, Queen Victoria and Prince Albert. Professor Burrows sums up the collection (*Appendix 1.11*) in this way:
- 'The significance of the [Malmesbury] family papers, as with the music manuscripts, thus has broad national and international relevance. It must be one of the richest resources of its type in Britain, on many topics concerning social, cultural and political life in the eighteenth century'.
- 4.1.6 Further proof of the significance of the archive as a whole is revealed in its extensive use by editors working on the new *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*. Of just over 230 entries compiled using HRO sources, over 40 used the Malmesbury papers.

¹¹ Winton Dean, *Handel Collections and their History* (ed Terence Best, 1993)

4.2 Wickham family of Binsted Wyck (38M49)

4.2.1 The papers of the Wickham family of Binsted Wyck, near Alton, although they are a rich resource for studying the lives of several generations of a Hampshire family, are of particular significance because of the material they contain relating to the life and career of the politician and diplomat **William Wickham** (1761-1830). Wickham played key roles in the British Government during the era of the Napoleonic wars, organising a complex communications network in Europe during the French wars and between 1795 and 1797 serving as minister for the Swiss Cantons. In 1798 he was appointed under-secretary of state for the Home Department and was involved in extensive correspondence about the Irish rebellion, and later, from 1802 to 1804, served as Chief Secretary for Ireland. The collection fully reflects the different stages of his career and contains very important political and diplomatic papers, including correspondence with Lord Grenville, Lord Minto, and Lord Castlereagh, and with many French and Austrian figures.

4.2.2 These papers have been used extensively by scholars working on the political and diplomatic history of the period, including Professor Michael Durey of Murdoch University in Western Australia. In his view the Wickham papers

‘are absolutely central to any understanding of three main historical areas of national importance: British diplomacy during the French revolutionary wars; the British secret service – both domestic and overseas – during the same period; and Irish history, from the period leading up to the 1798 rebellion to the aftermath of the Emmet rebellion in 1803. No historian writing on these national and international events can avoid using the Wickham papers’ (*Appendix 1.12*).

4.2.3 As with the Harris papers, proof of the significance of the archive is revealed in its extensive use by editors working on the new *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*. Of just over 230 entries compiled using HRO sources, over 30 used the Wickham papers.

4.3 Jervoise family of Herriard (44M69)

4.3.1 The archive of the Jervoise family of Herriard is significant both because of its size and breadth of coverage, reflecting as it does the lives and careers of many generations of an important Hampshire gentry family, but also because of some particular series of papers it contains which have proved valuable in studies of national significance.

4.3.2 As a family and estate collection of considerable size its strengths are particularly in the areas of politics, local government and the militia, and estate administration. It includes for example papers relating to the involvement of the Jervoise family in local and national politics between the late 16th century and the 1830s, and important late 16th and early 17th century military papers, such as muster books, rolls and related correspondence. It also includes extensive runs of estate accounts and correspondence dating from the 16th century onwards, including detailed late 16th and early 17th century farm accounts, and papers from the 18th century detailing the family’s survival through near bankruptcy. These papers have been used extensively by academic and local historians in a wide range of studies over the years (see *Appendix 2*) and in the view of Dr Stephen Taylor of Reading University ‘the

combination of their richness and the story they tell make them a unique resource' (*Appendix 1.13*).

- 4.3.3 Two series of papers within the larger collection however have proved of particular significance. The first is the series relating to **Henry Sherfield**, a barrister working in London who also had local interests, as recorder of Salisbury and Southampton, and as a vocal MP. His papers, a 'huge, miscellaneous mass of material' apparently seized at his death by his principal creditor, Sir Thomas Jervoise, reveal much about his professional and personal life. They are considered by one historian, Wilfrid Prest¹², who used them extensively after working for many years on common lawyers' papers in other repositories, as 'the most extensive and rewarding of their kind in existence', 'surely ...one of the largest single deposits relating to any English individual below the titular peerage for the entire early modern period' (*Appendix 1.14*).
- 4.3.4 The second is the series relating to **Sir Richard Paulet**, a Hampshire MP. His papers, which include a parliamentary diary dated 1610, personal and estate accounts, and correspondence, have been described as 'one of the largest and most varied collections documenting the life and career of a country gentleman in Elizabethan and Jacobean England'.¹³

Other significant Hampshire estate and family collections

Hampshire Record Office holds further family and estate collections whose content has significance far beyond Hampshire and has been used by researchers to shed light on national figures and events. These include:

4.4 Agar family, Earls of Normanton (21M57).

- 4.4.1 As with the Wickham papers, although the Agar family archive sheds light on the family and its life over successive generations, it is the papers reflecting the life and career of one particular family member – Charles Agar, 1st Earl of Normanton (1736-1809) – which make it particularly significant. A leading Church of Ireland clergyman and politician, he was successively Bishop of Cloyne, 1768-79, Archbishop of Cashel, 1779-1801 and Archbishop of Dublin, 1801-9, and according to his biographer A P W Malcomson¹⁴ 'the brains behind the established, Anglican church in Ireland'. He corresponded widely and over 1,500 letters survive dated between 1767 and 1809. Malcomson states that 'his archive is uniquely important as a source of evidence about how the Church of Ireland functioned – how cathedrals, churches and clerical residences were built and financed, how see estates (the basis of episcopal remuneration) were administered, and so on. The Church of Ireland owned around one-fifth of the land of the country, so all this matters' (*Appendix 1.15*).

¹² W Prest, *The Rise of the Barristers: a social history of the English Bar, 1590-1640* (Clarendon Press, Oxford, 1986, revd.1991)

¹³ Eric Lindquist, *Sir Richard Paulet: diary (1610) and other documents*, 1999

¹⁴ A P W Malcomson *Archbishop Charles Agar: Churchmanship and Politics in Ireland, 1760-1810* (Dublin, 2003)

4.5 Austen-Leigh family (23M93)

- 4.5.1 The Austen-Leigh family papers were deposited in Hampshire Record Office in 1993, but their importance both for **Jane Austen** studies and more generally for the study of social and cultural life of a group of eighteenth and early nineteenth century gentry families was by then well known. The papers, which include letters and diaries with some volumes of poetry and illustrative material relating to the Austen-Leigh, Chenevix-Trench, Chute, Smith and other related families, were used extensively by Deirdre Le Faye in her 1989 revision of *Jane Austen: a family record* by William Austen-Leigh and Richard Arthur Austen-Leigh, helping to provide valuable context and background about Jane Austen's family and family connections. They were also exploited by American author Deborah Kaplan in her *Jane Austen among women* (1992). Since then the author Claire Tomalin has made extensive use of them in her biography of Jane Austen published in 1997, *Jane Austen: a life*, quoting for example from the fine series of pocket books or diaries of Eliza Chute. In addition, poetry from the collection has been edited and published in two volumes by David Seymour.
- 4.5.2 Related to the Austen-Leigh collection, the Record Office also holds papers of the Knight family of Chawton (18M61 and 39M89). One of Jane Austen's brothers, Edward, inherited the Knight name and estate and Jane spent the latter part of her life in Chawton village. Further light is shed on the history of the Austen family through the records of the parish of Steventon, held in Hampshire Record Office, where Jane's father was rector and where she spent her early life. A particularly touching example is the marriage register where as a child or young woman she entered details of her imaginary marriage.

4.6 Baring family, Earls of Northbrook (92M95)

- 4.6.1 A recent acquisition of important family and estate papers are those of the Barings, Earls of Northbrook, placed in the Record Office's care in several deposits made between 1995 and 2004. The papers include: letters and papers of Sir Thomas Baring, on local affairs and politics (including the 1830 Swing Riots); letters of politician Sir Francis Thornhill Baring, 1st Baron Northbrook (1796-1866); correspondence of Thomas George Baring, 1st Earl of Northbrook (1826-1904), including letters about the viceroyalty of India, and political correspondence; and papers relating to the family's Stratton estates in Hampshire.
- 4.6.2 The papers were used by Edward C. Moulton for his book, *Lord Northbrook's Indian Administration 1872-1876* (1968), and alongside other Hampshire gentry collections in Ruscombe Foster's *The Politics of County Power* (1990) – at this date the papers were still with the family. More recently they have been used in studies of the 1830 agricultural riots and unrest in Hampshire by authors such as David Kent and Roger Wells.

4.7 Bonham Carter family (94M72, 70M88)

- 4.7.1 These papers relate to the Bonham Carter family's Hampshire estates, and also include correspondence, diaries and papers of many family members, dating mainly from the 19th and 20th centuries.
- 4.7.2 Particularly significant are the political papers and correspondence of John Bonham Carter, MP for Portsmouth, c1806-38, including material about the Swing Riots and parliamentary reform, used for example in David Brown's recent publication *Palmerston, South Hampshire and Electoral Politics, 1832-1835* (Hampshire Papers); and the letters to and from Florence Nightingale, c1826-1890s, with sketches and

watercolours of Florence Nightingale and her sister as young women. The papers were collected together by Victor Bonham Carter, author of a work about the Bonham Carter family, *In a Liberal tradition: a social biography 1700-1950* (Constable, 1960).

4.8 Denning archive (202M86)

4.8.1 Hampshire Record Office holds the personal archive of Alfred Thompson Denning, Lord Denning, which was deposited in 1986. Denning is described in the *Dictionary of National Biography* as 'one of the greatest and most influential judges ever to sit on the English bench' and the archive includes, not only family and personal papers, but also material reflecting his long career in the law.

4.8.2 The papers were used extensively in the two key biographies of Denning, both published before his death: Edmund Heward's *Lord Denning: a Biography* (1990; 2nd edition 1997) and Iris Freeman's *Lord Denning: A Life* (1993). Some material, for example Lord Denning's personal notebooks relating to the **Profumo affair**, remains closed by agreement with the Cabinet Office until parallel Cabinet Office records are released, and they may provide significant additional material for a study of that key event of the 1960s in years to come.

4.9 Herbert family, Earls of Carnarvon (75M91)

4.9.1 This is a large collection of papers of the Herbert family, Earls of Carnarvon, principally consisting of family and personal correspondence, and including family and political correspondence of Henry Herbert, 1st Earl of Carnarvon (1741-1811), Henry George Herbert, 2nd Earl (1772-1833) and Henry John George Herbert, 3rd Earl (1800-1849); correspondence of Elizabeth Kitty Herbert, née Acland, 2nd Countess (1773-1813), and of many other family members, mainly nineteenth century. In conjunction with other family papers in Hampshire Record Office they shed light on 18th and 19th-century politics and society. They have been used by historians working on the History of Parliament volumes, and before their arrival in Hampshire Record Office they were used by the Dowager 4th Countess of Carnarvon for her biography of her husband, the 4th Earl.

4.10 Wallop family, Earls of Portsmouth (15M84)

4.10.1 The vast archive of the Wallop family, Earls of Portsmouth, which dates from the 16th to the 20th centuries includes extensive papers relating to the management of their estates and households in Hampshire, Devon and Ireland, as well as personal papers of successive Earls and their families – correspondence, diaries, photographs, and printed and pictorial material.

4.10.2 Of particular significance are a small group of papers relating to Sir Isaac Newton, including a number of letters from Newton himself; correspondence and diaries of the 6th Earl, Under Secretary for War in Campbell Bannerman's government until 1908; and also the extensive correspondence and papers of Gerard Vernon Wallop, 9th Earl of Portsmouth (1898–1984), an early environmentalist and politician who in the 1930s had links with the British Fascist movement. The 9th Earl's papers, an unusually complete collection, include letters from T. S. Eliot, his editor at Faber and Faber, and Oswald Mosley, and also the archive of the English Mystery and English Array secretive, quasi-military organisations, stressing the values of 'back to the land' and English Nationalism. Historian of the organic movement, Philip Conford, drew heavily on the 9th Earl's papers for his recent article in *Agricultural History Review*, 'Organic society: agriculture and radical politics in the career of Gerard Wallop, ninth Earl of Portsmouth' (2005), as did Martin Pugh in his book *Hurrah for the Blackshirts*:

Fascists and Fascism in Britain between the Wars (2005) and Dr Malcolm Chase in his recent *DNB* article on the Earl.

4.11 White of Selborne (16M97)

4.11.1 This collection of correspondence, deeds and papers of the White family of Selborne and the Holt White family of Essex, includes sermons, account books, bills and receipts of **Gilbert White** (1720-93), the naturalist and author of *The Natural History and Antiquities of Selborne* (1789), making this an important source of information about one of Britain's pioneers in the study of natural history. Related collections which shed further light on Gilbert White include the parish records of Selborne and Farringdon, where White served as curate for many years. The BBC has recently used the material for an imminent television programme on Gilbert White.

4.12 Summary

This selection of some of Hampshire Record Office's family and estate papers indicates the quality and significance of these private collections. Their depth and range, and the extent to which they have been used by national and international scholars (see supporting letters), provides testimony to their value for studies of many and varied aspects of the nation's cultural heritage.

5. DEFENCE OF THE REALM

Hampshire's geographical position on the south coast and the natural harbours at Portsmouth and Southampton, additionally sheltered and protected by the Isle of Wight, made the county central to the country's naval defences from the earliest times to the twentieth century. In later years the county also became home to the other armed services, with military bases at Aldershot and the development of the aviation industry at Farnborough. Although the majority of the records of the armed services are housed in The National Archives and elsewhere, Hampshire Record Office holds related local collections, two of which are of particular national significance.

5.1 Royal Naval Ordnance Depot archive (109M91)

5.1.1 Since 1991, Hampshire Record Office has held the archive of the Naval Ordnance Depot, which was formerly stored at Priddy's Hard Ordnance Depot at Gosport. The archive, which was mostly gathered from offices of the Royal Naval Ordnance Store Department around the country, is of national significance comprising as it does records relating to the production, maintenance and storage of ordnance equipment for the Royal Navy as a whole. The records are designated public records and held by Hampshire Record Office on behalf of The National Archives as an approved local Place of Deposit.

5.1.2 At the core of the collection is an important group of papers relating to the development of naval ordnance between 1890 and 1945, including, of particular significance, the series of gun logs containing summaries of the operation of almost every gun used by the Royal Navy between 1900 and 1950, together with handbooks, drawings, plans and photographs. The collection also contains papers associated with various Naval armament depots, among them reports, photographs and other documents relating to torpedo development and training at Priddy's Hard in the nineteenth century. There is also a smaller but still significant group of papers relating to the Sail Navy which came from the former Naval Ordnance Board. Dating from 1695 until the nineteenth century, the papers include bills and accounts, and correspondence between various Admirals and the Ordnance Board; of particular interest are ships warrants and lading bills for the German Campaign of 1758-62 and relating to the provisioning of British troops and ships during the American War of Independence.

5.1.3 The collection, which complements the naval ordnance papers held at The National Archives and the Admiralty Library, has been heavily used by historians from all over the world engaged in research on weaponry. The papers were also used to provide information for the setting up of the museum of Naval Firepower, 'Explosion', at Gosport.

5.2 Royal Observer Corps (36M96)

5.2.1 Another national collection deposited in Hampshire Record Office comes from the Royal Observer Corps, formed in the 1920s to monitor the skies and track aircraft movements as part of the country's air defence system. It played an important role both during the Second World War and after. When the Corps was finally stood down in 1991, a museum containing an archive and artefacts was established in Winchester, and in 1996 that archive was transferred to Hampshire Record Office.

5.2.2 The archive contains material relating to the Winchester Group of the Corps, but also significant records from other groups and individuals elsewhere in the country, mainly

for the 1940s and early 1950s, including log books for Colchester, Yeovil, Rogate in Sussex, and Wolston in Warwickshire. It also includes material relating to the organisation of the Corps as a whole. The collection has been used to track down the whereabouts of a wartime pilot, missing at sea off Felixstowe in 1945, and of air raids in the Portland Area of Dorset.

6. FANFARE FOR THE COMMON MAN

The archive collections in Hampshire Record Office are not only of importance to the study and understanding of significant individuals in British history but they tell the story of everyman/woman. Through the extensive collections of parish registers among the records of Hampshire parishes, dating from the mid 16th century, the wills and administrations dating from the medieval period to the 19th century, maps of landed estates, the records of local taxation such as the land tax from 1799, records of the administration of the poor laws dating largely from the 18th century and electoral registers of 19th and 20th centuries, the history of all those who have lived or worked in the county over many centuries can be traced and studied from cradle to grave. They can be researched and interpreted at Hampshire Record Office in the context of many other archives of landholding, employment, local government and religion. Taken as a whole, Hampshire's archives reflect the diversity of the county's life and culture and enable every local and family historian to understand and interpret the object of their study within the broad context of county and national life.

Among the many collections of local societies and organizations the following are of outstanding national significance.

6.1 Records of popular culture

- 6.1.1 **Hambledon Cricket Club**, formed about 1750, has been described as 'the birth place' or 'cradle' of English cricket, and internationally important records relating to it are found in three collections in Hampshire Record Office. The first and most significant comprises a minute book, 1772-96, a subscription and account book, 1791-6 and a page of accounts for 1794 (4M85). The national significance of these records was endorsed by their acceptance by the Government in lieu of tax in 1992. The second comprises an account book for 1808-25 (76M92) and a third collection deposited in 2001 contains extensive late 19th and 20th century records relating to the club – minute books, score books, subscription and account books, fixture cards – but also includes some earlier material (45A01).

The significance of the club in the development of the game has long been recognized and its history explored in works by E V Lucas, Neville Cardus, F S Ashley-Cooper and others. More recently the historian David Underdown, Professor of History Emeritus at Yale University, has looked afresh at the rise and decline of cricket at Hambledon.¹⁵ In his book Underdown has made extensive use of the club's records, particularly the 1772-96 minute book and the subscription and account book 1791-6, but also the less well-known account book of 1808-25. He comments that the structure and achievements of the club 'are absolutely central to the field of sports history. This was no mere village club, but one famous throughout England; it played a crucial role in the development of the modern game... Without the Hambledon records, our knowledge of the social context of the game would be extremely limited' (*Appendix 1.16*).

- 6.1.2 **Papers relating to the Tichborne Trials**. The case of the Tichborne claimant is one of the most celebrated legal cases in British judicial history, and certainly one of the longest. In its day it was the subject of songs, plays and cartoons, and in the twentieth-century has been studied by legal and social historians, for example recently by Dr Rohan McWilliam who is using the case as a way of understanding the mentality and culture of the Victorian period. The case centred on the Claimant's assertion that he was the long-lost Sir Roger Charles Doughty Tichborne, heir to the

¹⁵ D Underdown, *Start of Play: Cricket and Culture in Eighteenth-Century England* (2000)

Tichborne estates in Hampshire. Others argued that he was in fact Arthur Orton, a shipping butcher originally from Wapping who had emigrated to Australia.

Hampshire Record Office holds significant archive material relating to the case, the bulk of it resulting from the work and interest of one of the Tichborne family's lawyers, Frederick Bowker of Winchester, and some of these papers have been used by historians working on the history of the case (for example Douglas Woodruff *The Tichborne Claimant: A Victorian Mystery* (1957)).

The holdings include an important collection of papers amassed by Bowker and recently purchased by the County Council with the aid of a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund (72A04). This collection includes the claimant's pocket book, volumes of printed court papers, including copies of evidence; pamphlets and other printed material relating to the case and photographs of many of those involved. Another collection, received from solicitors Harris and Bowker in 1948 (37M48), as well as containing Tichborne family papers, includes extensive series of court papers, including briefs, bundles of evidence, trial transcripts etc. The office also holds a further series of Tichborne family correspondence papers (49M50).

The archive as a whole is an unparalleled resource for the study of popular culture during the Victorian period. The notoriety of the case spawned enormous quantities of printed ephemeral material in the form of pamphlets, posters, cartoons, newspaper sheets, popular songs, drawings and photographs and large quantities survive in this extensive collection.

6.2 Social care

- 6.2.1 **Hampshire and General Friendly Society.** One of the largest and most significant collections of more recent material in Hampshire Record Office is the extensive and very complete archive of the Hampshire and General Friendly Society (18M89). The Society was founded in 1824 as a medical Assurance Society for benefit members who paid into and drew from a common fund. It is a good example of a 'county society', founded and subsequently managed by a majority of honorary members drawn from the leading gentlemen and clergy of the county. While motives for founding such a Society were primarily philanthropic it was in the interest of employers to encourage employees to take out policies with the Society, and its membership quickly grew reaching its peak just prior to the introduction of the National Health Service in 1948 (in 1946 it had over 80,700 members).

Throughout its history the Society was concerned that proper provision should be made for the care of its books and records within its main premises. This concern resulted in the survival of a fine archive of a Society whose business touched the lives of many Hampshire people in the 19th and 20th centuries.

In recent years social and medical historians have become aware of the significance of the Society's archive and the information it contains. Dr Bernard Harris of the University of Southampton and his colleagues Andrew Hinde and Martin Gorsky have used them to examine the health and morbidity of men who subscribed to the Society's sickness assurance scheme from the 1870s onwards, resulting in publications in international journals. Dr Harris has commented on the value of the archive, both to medical historians and historians of friendly societies. Unparalleled by other county societies, he feels the archive is likely to provide 'a unique source of information about a relatively under-researched aspect of the friendly society movement' (*Appendix 1.17*).

6.2.2 **Hospital records**

Hampshire Record Office holds rich source material for a study of health provision from the medieval period to the 20th century. The records of Winchester's medieval hospitals are supplemented by those of the **Royal Hampshire County Hospital** (5M63), England's earliest voluntary general hospital in the provinces founded by subscription in 1736. As such, any national study of the charitable medical provision for the poor in the 18th century needs to take account of these substantial archives. Equally significant are the records of the **Royal Victoria Hospital, Netley** (92M91), founded in 1856; built originally to care for the casualties of the Crimean War, it served as the main reception hospital for casualties of the Boer War, World War I and World War II. It was also the home of the Royal Army Medical Corps – RAMC – and the Queen Alexandra Royal Army Nursing Corps – QARANC.

The records of **Knowle Hospital, Fareham** (48M94) merit particular attention. This hospital, established as the Hampshire County Lunatic Asylum under the provisions of the Pauper Lunatics Act, 1845, received its first patients in 1852 and closed in 1996. Hampshire Record Office holds records dating back to its earliest days, and extending to its closure. These include administrative and staff records – minutes, reports, registers, plans and photographs – but the archive is particularly important because of its long series of patient records, including admission, discharge and death registers, and an unbroken run of case papers dating from 1852 until 1960. These papers were used in a recent Southampton PhD study by Susan Burt: 'Fit objects for an asylum: the Hampshire County Lunatic Asylum and its patients, 1852-1899'. Dr Burt's supervisor, Dr Bernard Harris of the University of Southampton, has commented on the 'nature and quality' of the Knowle records and felt they represented 'a very important source, not only for local historians, but for all those interested in the evolution of asylum policy and practice in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries' (*Appendix 1.17*).

6.3 **Business records**

In common with other county record offices Hampshire Record Office has extensive collections of business archives reflecting the history of trades and occupations in the county over several centuries. These include two collections of particular national importance.

6.3.1 **Automobile Association** (73M94)

The Automobile Association (AA), which was formed in 1905, moved its headquarters to Basingstoke in Hampshire in 1973. The archive which was deposited in Hampshire Record Office in 1994 constitutes a national resource and is without parallel for the history of motoring in Britain and abroad. It includes complete series of financial records dating from 1905, and series of committee minutes, staff and membership records, annual reports and handbooks, again dating from the organisation's earliest years.

6.3.2 **Portals Ltd of Laverstoke and Overton**, papermakers (132M98)

This collection is of particular significance in the history of British banking. Portals' papermaking business at Bere Mill, Whitchurch was founded by Henry (Henri) Portal in 1712. Born at Poitiers, France, of a Huguenot family, he was naturalised as a British subject at Winchester Quarter Sessions in 1711. He obtained leases of Bere Mill and Laverstoke Mill and with the patronage of William Heathcote of Hursley he gained a contract in 1724 to make paper for Bank of England notes, William's uncle Sir Gilbert being then Governor. From the mid-19th century Portals also made bank

notes for the newly formed Government of India and from 1880 they made paper for the new postal orders for the Post Office as well as for other banks and for the trade. Portals became a private limited company in 1920 and entered the world market in 1921 with contracts for the manufacture of bank notes for foreign governments. Portals acquired a controlling interest in the Fabriano Mills, Italy, in 1928 and bought the Chartham and Roughway Mills in Kent in 1929. The policy of acquisition was reversed in 1930 when the company decided to stop production of trade papers to concentrate on its bank and security business. In 1939 large numbers of Bank of England staff were evacuated to Overton and in 1940 security thread was first introduced into £1 and 10s. notes. Portals became a public limited company in 1947. The Portals Group plc was acquired by De La Rue, international commercial security printers and papermakers, in 1995.

The records of the business and of the family run from 1720 until the mid-20th century. They include correspondence files and minute books; trade cash and bank note account books for the Bank of England 1720-1921, Bank of Scotland, 1849-1920, Bank of Ireland, 1801-1920; papers relating to security, 1856-1901, and forgery, late 18th century-early 20th century; industrial relations papers, 1900-1948; and specimens and watermarked papers, mid 19th- early 20th century. They are as yet a largely untapped resource for aspects of the history of banking in Great Britain.

7. WESSEX FILM AND SOUND ARCHIVE

- 7.1 Wessex Film and Sound Archive is a specialist regional repository based within Hampshire Record Office at Sussex Street, Winchester. It is administered by Hampshire County Council through the Hampshire Archives Trust and staffed by Hampshire Record Office staff. It is a member of the Film Archive Forum, recognised by the Film Council. Its collections cover central southern England and increasingly, as support from regional agencies increases, and working in partnership with the South-East Film And Video Archive at Brighton, it is focussing its collecting policy on the western end of the Government's South East Region. Its responsibility for sound archives extends across the whole region.
- 7.2 Its holdings comprise over 8,000 cinefilms, over 9,000 sound recordings and 7,800 video recordings, received from a wide range of sources, from individuals to corporate bodies, amateur or professional and recorded on a range of different formats. These audio-visual archives vividly illustrate the life of the region from the late 19th century to the present day and provide a rich resource for social, economic and cultural life in the region.
- 7.3 As a whole, the collection is a unique and outstanding resource for the study of the history and culture of Hampshire and the region. An active acquisition policy ensures that all such vulnerable material is collected and preserved and continues to reflect all aspects of the region's life. The importance of these collections and of the need to ensure their preservation and access to the public through cataloguing has been recognised by the regional screen agency, Screen South, in its funding of a part-time post of film archive assistant.
- 7.4 The collection is used extensively by academic researchers, local historians and commercial production companies. For example, footage has been shown in recent Meridian TV's series *The Way We Were* and in the BBC series *Nation on Film*. The Film Archive Forum is using such examples of providing wide access to archive film to put forward a strong case to the Film Council for improved long term funding for film archives. Collections of particular national and international significance include:
- Films of the Mary Rose Trust – original negatives, sound tracks and other production material relating to the BBC "Chronicle" series on the raising of the Tudor warship 'Mary Rose' off Portsmouth and its preservation by the Mary Rose Trust, 1969-84 (includes footage from Armand Hammer Productions, USA). (AV725, AV533/7-20)
 - Films by Alfred John West of Southsea, 1897-1905 – one of the UK pioneers of cinematography, he was commissioned by the Royal Navy and British Army to make short films about their activities, later used for recruiting purposes throughout the British Empire. He also made a (rare) film of a Masonic procession in 1902. (AV4/1, AV131/11, AV56/1)
 - British Maritime Technology Ltd. of Hythe, Hants – Government-commissioned films of mostly hydrodynamic tests on models of marine vessels, engines, hovercraft and offshore structures, 1955-79 (complete productions, negatives, offcuts, cutting copies etc.). (AV277)
 - Bournemouth Orchestras – gramophone discs, audiotape recordings and films relating to the orchestras, 1930-86, including direct-cut discs of Sir Dan Godfrey's farewell concert and private recordings in 1934, and a series of off-air recordings by Constantin Silvestri (BSO conductor in the 1960s) of

concerts in the UK and Europe, many of which are probably unique and unavailable elsewhere). (AV469, AV988, AV990)

- Horace Maybray King (Lord Maybray-King) recordings on audiotapes, 1950s-1980s, of selected national and international politics material broadcast on BBC radio, but which also include personal reflections unavailable elsewhere, providing a rich modern historical resource. Lord Maybray-King was MP for Southampton, 1950-70, and Speaker of the House of Commons, 1965-1971. (AV7/29-345)
- Portsea Island Mutual Co-Operative Society – includes unique 1930s promotional and staff films, showing products, activities and social scenes concerning this large and thriving retail society which covered Portsmouth and surrounding areas at that time, and audiotape recordings of its meetings and conferences, 1962-75. Part of a 'distributed national archive' of co-op films, etc. held by several archives in the UK and coordinated by the International Co-Operative College at Loughborough. (AV108)
- Richard Lancelyn Green collection: includes cinefilms collected by the late Richard Lancelyn Green relating to Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, 1903-75, including copies of feature films (Sherlock Holmes), documentaries and footage of Conan Doyle himself, including home movie footage, 1929. One of the films features Conan Doyle speaking in 1927, the only known film so to do, and very early in the history of sound on film. (AV1110)
- SS 'Titanic' footage – a rare print of the original Gaumont newsreel issued on 2 May 1912, shortly after the sinking of the 'Titanic'. Very few prints survive around the world. The film is particularly important to Hampshire, not only for the ship's connection to Southampton, but also because it shows survivors of the crew, most of them from that city, being interviewed by journalists in New York after their rescue by the 'Carpathia'. (AV1051)
- Cunard collection – 68 reels of film and 28 video tapes relating to Cunard Line ships and its cruise liner business, 1950s-1980s. Amongst the great liners featured are the 'Queen Mary', 'Queen Elizabeth' and 'QE2', all with strong connections to Southampton and significant world-wide. (AV422)

7.5 WFSA also holds much film and sound material which originates from or relates directly to other collections in Hampshire Record Office. The Winchester City audio-visual material has already been mentioned (section 3.1.4). Other examples include film from the Royal Observer Corps (see section 5.2) and from Portals papermaking business (see section 6.3.2) but there are many others where film and sound can be used to supplement the written archives. The existence of these two repositories within one institution makes it possible for researchers to study topics in several dimensions, through moving image and sound as well as through the written and printed record.

8. CONCLUSION

- 8.1 The archive collections in Hampshire Record Office bear comparison with those of any other county record office in quantity, range and quality. In addition, through historical accident or as a result of the general tradition of record-keeping which resulted from the political and cultural importance of the area in late Saxon and early medieval times, Hampshire's records are exceptionally extensive and complete over nine centuries. Because so many of the county's clergy, aristocracy and gentry held significant political, diplomatic or military positions their papers are essential to an understanding of the nation's religious, political and cultural life. Hampshire Record Office is therefore a necessary centre of research not only for archaeologists and historians of medieval England but of later periods too.
- 8.2 The extent of the archives¹⁶, the numbers of visitors attracted to the searchroom each year¹⁷ and the substantial number of academic publications which have made use of the collections indicate the quality and significance of Hampshire Record Office's holdings. Individual collections, or parts of collections, may be of singular and outstanding historical and cultural significance, for example the medieval Winchester Pipe Rolls, but the greatest strength of the collection lies in its entirety, where different parts of the collection complement and explain each other, creating a unique whole without which our understanding of the history of Hampshire and of the nation would be incomplete.
- 8.3 Testimony to the national significance of the archives can be found in the large number of references made to Hampshire Record Office collections by editors working on the new *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography* (over 230 entries compiled using HRO sources), in the attached extensive lists of published material based on Hampshire's archives and, above all, in the attached letters from independent academic researchers, in this country and abroad, who have made extensive use of the collections.
- 8.4 And finally, as the only county record office in the country to incorporate a regional film and sound archive, Hampshire Record Office is unique in being able to offer moving image and audio records of life in southern England to supplement and enhance the written archives.

¹⁶ 1,067 cu m: Hampshire's holdings place it in top quartile of county record offices (CIPFA Archive Service Statistics 2004-05 estimates)

¹⁷ 17,592 visits: only 4 other county record offices received comparable numbers of visitors (CIPFA Archive Service Statistics 2004-05 estimates)