



# Hampshire County Council

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Councillor Ken Thornber CBE  
*Leader of the Council*

9 December 2009

The Castle, Winchester  
Hampshire SO23 8UJ

Professor K Aziz LVO DL FRSA  
Chairman  
The Aziz Corporation  
No 1 Aziz Court  
Parkhill  
WINCHESTER SO21 3DS

Telephone 01962 847750  
Fax 01962 845969  
www.hants.gov.uk

Dear Khalid

## **Broadlands Archives**

Thank you for your letter of 1 December following our telephone conversation. I agree this is a very important collection.

As we discussed, I have asked for a report to be prepared by our Culture, Communities and Rural Affairs Department and this will then be presented to me for consideration for a grant from my Executive Member Policy and Resources grants budget.

With best wishes.

Yours sincerely

Ken Thornber  
Leader

Cc: Yinnon Ezra, Director of Culture, Communities and Rural Affairs

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Hampshire, SO23 8ZB

1<sup>st</sup> December 2009



~~Following our telephone conversation yesterday, I am writing, as promised, in regard to the Broadlands Collection and its associated fundraising campaign.~~ As I explained, I have agreed to help the new Vice Chancellor of Southampton University with the campaign.

As you know, the Trustees of the Broadlands Archives have determined to sell the collection and, given the fact that they have held the archive for the last 20 years, Southampton University is their preferred purchaser. We have encouraged the Trustees to use the schemes that are available for offsetting taxation as part of the sale of cultural materials, and this will make a substantial contribution to the overall costs; but the net price remains large, £2.85 million. We believe we have less than 6 months to raise this sum. Just a month into the campaign we have secured something over £150,000.

However, the Broadlands Trustees have indicated to us that if the sale does not proceed, they will look to offering the collection at auction – which would almost certainly break it up and much might not find its way into public repositories. Indeed there is a very real risk of substantial parts of the archive going abroad and certainly outside Hampshire. The threat of dispersal is one we take very seriously, and it could be very damaging to the heritage the collection contains.

We are committed to an energetic campaign to raise these funds and have already approached a number of trusts, charities and private individuals, both in the UK and overseas. The University's Development Office is making this project an especial priority and its Board of Trustees is both supportive and well-connected. The University has contact with more than 100,000 alumni and the archive will be included in programmes of annual giving, including a mail shot to approximately 1,000 of our alumni in the USA. In addition, we will be holding a number of fundraising events.

As I said during our conversation, the Broadlands Collection is centred on the Temple (Palmerston), Ashley, Cassel and Mountbatten families and there are 4,500 boxes of documents, dating from the sixteenth century to the present. The papers of Earl Mountbatten 40,000 letters to and from Lord Palmerston, Foreign Secretary and Prime Minister, are crucial for understanding Britain's place in the world in the mid-nineteenth century. Palmerston's

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The Aziz Corporation  
No. 1 Aziz Court  
Parkhill  
Winchester  
Hampshire SO21 3US

Telephone: 01962 774766  
Facsimile: 01962 774228

Email: [info@azizcorp.com](mailto:info@azizcorp.com)  
[www.azizcorp.com](http://www.azizcorp.com)

UK Registered Company 1160855

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father's archive illuminates eighteenth-century politics; diaries of Lord Shaftesbury, the nineteenth-century reformer, recount the progress of social causes; and papers of Prince Louis of Battenberg, First Sea Lord on the eve of World War I, document rearmament. There is wide coverage of politics, diplomacy, military, literary and cultural affairs; and of particular interest also are the materials for the Ashley and Temple estates in Hampshire and for Ireland. The archive is one of the UK's great family and estate collections and is of immense significance for the national heritage.

The local connection is an important one. We intend to make sure that the public have opportunities to see the collection and to hear about it. There will be an exhibition of parts of the archive in the Special Collections Gallery in the Hartley Library at the University in February, March and April 2010. Professor Chris Woolgar, Head of Special Collections, is due to talk to the Lower Test Valley Archaeological Society in Romsey Town Hall on the evening of 27 January, and this will be an opportunity too for a local audience to learn more about the archive.

The collection is also a major resource for academic and research work, and for Southampton's reputation. It underpins strategic priorities of the School of Humanities, including work associated with colonial history, migration and diaspora, and eighteenth-century literary and cultural studies. Synergies with Humanities research centres, especially the Centre for Imperial and Post-Colonial Studies and the Southampton Centre for Eighteenth-Century Studies, are crucial. It is used at all levels, from research students to staff and has proved especially stimulating for undergraduates, which is something that makes the University distinctive.

The collection attracts long-term academic visitors from across the UK and overseas, and it is a centrepiece for conferences and seminars. High-profile events included in 2007 an international conference on 60th anniversary perspectives on the independence of India and Pakistan, with more than 100 delegates, many from the subcontinent. Besides academic outcomes, over 4 days there were visits by present and former Pakistan High Commissioners, as well as by Indian diplomats; an exhibition in the Special Collections Gallery and extensive television and radio coverage.

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As I explained, former First Sea Lord and Hampshire Deputy Lieutenant Sir Jock Slater has kindly agreed to garner support from other former First Sea Lords and the present incumbent. I have also apprised Viscount Slim (who has long standing connections with Vice Regal India) and am in the process of seeing if we can solicit support from India via its High Commissioner. I am also in touch the the Royal Navy Historical Branch.

This really is a special project and a gift from Hampshire County Council to support the acquisition of the collection would not only help to secure this archive for the nation but it would also send a very strong message to other potential supporters.

If you would like to visit the University Library, we should be very happy to show you the archive and in the meantime I would like to thank you again for considering this request for support.



Professor Khalid Aziz IVO DL FRSA  
Chairman