

Nomination form International Memory of the World Register

The Churchill Papers
(United Kingdom)

2014-14

1.0 Summary (max 200 words)

The nominated collection is the personal archive of Sir Winston Churchill (1874-1965), soldier, writer, politician, orator and statesman, and perhaps the most famous British public and political figure of the modern era. The archive was assembled by Sir Winston during his long life and career and comprises his personal, public, political and literary correspondence and papers, including his drafts and annotated notes for his celebrated speeches and broadcasts. The material consists of some one million items stored in two and a half thousand archival boxes. It is pre-eminent not just for its quantity but also for its quality, including correspondence with leading political, literary and social figures of the age, and papers about major events from the Boer War to the Cold War. It provides a window on the twentieth century from the perspective of a man who helped to shape it, and includes the originals for many of his enduring words and phrases. The archive is held for the British Nation by the Sir Winston Churchill Archive Trust, a registered charity, and is deposited in the purpose-built Churchill Archives Centre at Churchill College, University of Cambridge, where it can be freely consulted by researchers.

2.1 Name of nominator (person or organization)

Mr Allen Packwood FRHistS, Director of the Churchill Archives Centre & Fellow of Churchill College, Cambridge

2.2 Relationship to the nominated documentary heritage

Director of The Churchill Archives Centre, Churchill College, Cambridge, repository for the Churchill Papers collection, and Secretary (ex officio) to the Sir Winston Churchill Archive Trust.

2.3 Contact person(s) (to provide information on nomination)

Mr Allen Packwood

2.4 Contact details

Name	Address	
Mr Allen Packwood	The Churchill Archives Centre, Churchill College, Cambridge, CB3 0DS, United Kingdom	
Telephone	Facsimile	Email
+44 1223 336175		Director. Archives @chu.cam.ac.uk

3.0 Identity and description of the documentary heritage

3.1 Name and identification details of the items being nominated

If inscribed, the exact title and institution(s) to appear on the certificate should be given

In this part of the form you must describe the document or collection in sufficient detail to make clear precisely what you are nominating. Any collection must be finite (with beginning and end dates) and closed.

The collection being nominated would be inscribed as “The Churchill Papers”. The collection is the personal archive of Sir Winston Churchill (1874-1965), which formerly comprised two related collections, the Chartwell Papers (pre 1945) and the Churchill Papers (post 1945), and which are now collectively known as “The Churchill Papers”. The collection is physically deposited in the purpose-built Churchill Archives Centre at Churchill College, in the University of Cambridge. It is owned by the Sir Winston Churchill Archive Trust, a UK registered charity, which exists for “the advancement of the education of the public in particular by acquiring holding restoring and maintaining the Churchill Archive and by making it available to scholars for the purpose of research (and publication of the useful results of such research) and as appropriate to the public for the purpose of viewing.” The registered address of the Trust is Churchill College, Cambridge, CB3 0DS. The current Chair of the Trustees is Dr Alice Prochaska. The Secretary of the Trust is the Director of the Churchill Archives Centre (ex officio).

3.4 History/provenance

Describe what you know of the history of the collection or document. Your knowledge may not be complete, but give the best description you can.

The papers have been divided into 2 groups. The papers dating from before 27 July 1945 when Churchill's first term as Prime Minister ended are known as the **Chartwell Papers** (catalogue reference **CHAR**) and were originally owned by the Chartwell Trust, a trust set up by Sir Winston to administer his literary estate. The papers dating from after 27 July 1945 (catalogue reference **CHUR**) are known as the **Churchill Papers** and were the property of Lady (Clementine) Spencer-Churchill, who subsequently bequeathed them to Churchill College, Cambridge.

The papers were originally generated and held by Sir Winston Churchill. After his death in January 1965, they passed into the custody of his only son, Randolph Churchill, and were held at his house at Stour, East Bergholt, Suffolk while he worked on the official biography of his father. When Randolph died in 1968 the Chartwell Papers were transferred to the Bodleian Library, Oxford where Martin Gilbert continued work on the official biography. The later Churchill Papers were passed by Clementine Churchill to Churchill College in 1969.

Churchill College built and opened The Churchill Archives Centre in 1973. The Chartwell Papers were transferred into the custody of the new centre in 1974-75 but remained the property of the Chartwell Literary Trust.

In April 1995, grants from the National Heritage Lottery Fund and the John Paul Getty Foundation enabled the Chartwell Papers to be bought from the Chartwell Trust and consolidated the ownership of all the Papers in a new charitable trust, the Sir Winston

Churchill Archive Trust, composed of representatives of the University of Cambridge, Churchill College, the British Library, the Imperial War Museum and an independent Chair.

4.0 Legal information

4.1 Owner of the documentary heritage (name and contact details)

Name	Address	
The Sir Winston Churchill Archive Trust	c/o The Churchill Archives Centre, Churchill College, Cambridge, CB3 0DS, United Kingdom	
Telephone	Facsimile	Email
+44 1223 336087		Director.Archives@chu.cam.ac.uk

4.2 Custodian of the documentary heritage (name and contact details if different from the owner)

Name	Address	
The Churchill Archives Centre	Churchill College, Cambridge, CB3 0DS, United Kingdom	
Telephone	Facsimile	Email
+44 1223 336087		Director.Archives@chu.cam.ac.uk

4.3 Legal status

Provide details of legal and administrative responsibility for the preservation of the documentary heritage

The collection is Held in trust for the Nation by the Sir Winston Churchill Archive Trust. The charity was established by a Declaration of Charitable Trust dated 3 April 1995. The Sir Winston Churchill Archive Trust, a registered UK charity (charity number 1045646). The Trustees are the Vice Chancellor of the University of Cambridge, the Cambridge University Librarian, the Master and the Bursar of Churchill College, Cambridge, a nominated representative of the British Library, a nominated representative of the Imperial war Museum, and an independent Chair. The Chair is currently Dr Alice Prochaska, Principal of Somerville College, Oxford.

The collection is supervised by the Director of the Churchill Archives Centre, a professional archivist, and by a team of qualified archive professionals.

The Director of the Churchill Archives Centre serves ex officio as the Secretary to the Sir Winston Churchill Archive Trust and reports regularly to the Trustees. The Trust has overseen successful projects to catalogue, microfilm, exhibit and digitise the collection and holds the Director of the Archives Centre and his team to account for the professional preservation and safekeeping of the collection. The Trust holds endowment and unrestricted funds to ensure that it can fulfil its role of preserving and presenting the collection, and these funds are administered on the Trust's behalf by Churchill College. An audited annual narrative and financial report is approved by the Trust and submitted to the UK Charity Commission.

4.4 Accessibility

Describe how the item(s) / collection may be accessed

The collection is open for consultation free of charge at the Churchill Archives Centre, Churchill College, Cambridge.

The collection is open for consultation in the supervised reading rooms of the Churchill Archives Centre, Churchill College, Cambridge. Churchill Archives Centre is open from Monday to Friday, 9am-5pm. A prior appointment and two forms of identification are required. Further information about visiting Churchill Archives Centre is available at:

<https://www.chu.cam.ac.uk/archives/visit-us/>

All access restrictions should be explicitly stated below:

Material in the Churchill Papers is open to researchers unless otherwise marked in the catalogue. A very small amount of material has been closed by the Cabinet Office or by Churchill Archives Centre staff in accordance with data protection legislation.

Encouraging accessibility is a basic objective of MoW. Accordingly, digitization for access purposes is encouraged and you should comment on whether this has been done or is planned. You should also note if there are legal or cultural factors that restrict access.

At the instigation of the Sir Winston Churchill Archive Trustees, who are committed to widening access to the collection, the collection has been both microfilmed and digitised, and a digital edition of the Churchill Papers is being more widely published and marketed by Bloomsbury Academic, see, <http://www.churchillarchive.com/> and is already available in a number of universities worldwide. Thanks to a philanthropic individual, the on-line product will also be made freely available in UK secondary schools, as well as US, Canadian and Kuwaiti high schools.

4.5 Copyright status

Describe the copyright status of the item(s) / collection

The collection contains UK Crown copyright material, as well as substantial private and literary copyright material belonging to the estate of Winston Churchill, and a wealth of third party copyright material.

*Where copyright status is known, it should be stated. However, the copyright status of a document or collection has **no bearing** on its significance and is not taken into account in determining whether it meets the criteria for inscription.*

5.0 Assessment against the selection criteria

5.1 Authenticity.

Is the documentary heritage what it appears to be? Have identity and provenance been reliably established?

The Churchill Archives Centre has evidence of unbroken provenance documenting the history of the collection back to creation by Sir Winston Churchill. The material was independently evaluated and valued by Bernard Quaritch Ltd prior to the Heritage Lottery Fund purchase in April 1995.

5.2 World significance

Is the heritage unique and irreplaceable? Would its disappearance constitute and harmful impoverishment of the heritage of humanity? Has it created great impact over time and/or within a particular cultural area of the world? Has it had great influence (positive or negative) on the course of history?

The archive of Sir Winston Churchill is certainly unique and irreplaceable. It is the evidence that underpins the story of one of the most remarkable leaders of the modern era, whose stand against fascism in 1940 helped shape the world of today. It includes his original annotated notes for his famous international broadcasts, shedding light on the thought process that underpinned his celebrated oratory, and it includes his contemporary correspondence with the great politicians, military leaders, authors, scientists and thinkers of his age.

5.3 Comparative criteria:

Does the heritage meet any of the following tests? (It must meet at least one of them.)

1 Time

Is the document evocative of its time (which may have been a time of crisis, or significant social or cultural change)? Does it represent a new discovery? Or is it the "first of its kind"?

The collection illuminates the study of international politics in the twentieth century. Because of Sir Winston Churchill's role on the world stage, it is a key resource for the study of the First and Second World Wars and the Cold War, and sheds light on the development of Churchill's strategy, oratory and actions.

It also documents the huge social and technological changes that took place between 1874 and 1965.

Key documents include the following:

Churchill's personal correspondence with his parents and brother, and especially with his mother, recording his impressions of school, early travels and army life, providing a fascinating insight into the development of his character, political philosophy and world view in the late Victorian period (CHAR 28);

Churchill's many newspaper articles and books commenting on the events of his time,

including his influential articles about international relations in the 1920's and 1930's and his notes, drafts and proofs for his important multi-volume work on the histories of the First and Second World Wars, and his *History of the English-Speaking Peoples* (CHAR 8 & CHUR 4); Churchill's notes and drafts for his great speeches, warning about the rise of Nazism in the 1930's (includes his speech after Munich in 1938), rallying the British Nation in the summer of 1940 (includes all his great Parliamentary speeches and texts for his broadcasts over the BBC), opposing Communist domination of Eastern Europe in 1946 (includes the *Iron Curtain* speech delivered at Fulton, Missouri), promoting greater European integration in the late 1940's (includes his speech at Zurich University and his address at the Hague), and wrestling with the problems of the hydrogen bomb and calling for a summit with the Soviet Union in the 1950's (CHAR 9 & CHUR 5).

Sir Winston Churchill's public and political correspondence from his many roles on the world stage, but perhaps most notably the very full series of personal telegrams and private office correspondence for his period as Prime Minister (CHAR 20), chronicling the issues and decisions of his wartime premiership on a daily basis, and shedding light on his relations with other Allied military and political leaders, including De Gaulle, Stalin and Roosevelt.

2 Place

Does the document contain crucial information about a locality important in world history and culture? For example, was the location itself an important influence on the events or phenomena represented by the document? Does it describe physical environments, cities or institutions that have since vanished?

The collection sheds light on the role of Britain on the world stage, from the heyday of Victorian Empire to post war decline. There is considerable material for the study of the following:

Political reform and social change in Britain – Churchill lived through and helped shape a time of great change, and the archive contains material on Edwardian social reforms, the transformation wrought by the First World War, and views of politicians, writers and society figures, as well as his constituents and ordinary members of the public from the 1930's to the 1950's (CHAR 1–CHAR 2 & CHUR 1- CHUR 2, CHAR 3-CHAR 7 & CHUR 3, CHAR 10-CHAR 27 & CHUR 6)

British policy in India – Churchill documents his own experiences in India and on the North West Frontier in Pakistan and Afghanistan in his contemporary letters and writings in the late 1890's (CHAR 28 and CHAR 8), describing his experiences in valleys and villages that are still being fought over today, while there is also a wealth of material relating to Indian independence in the 1930's (CHAR 2). Although Churchill opposed Indian independence, the archive contains correspondence with those engaged on all sides of debate, including Hindu and Moslem leaders such as Gandhi, Jinnah and Nehru ;

The shaping of Middle East – as Secretary of State for the Colonies, Churchill presided over the Cairo Conference of 1921 that drew up the boundaries of modern day Iraq and Transjordan. He was also the British Minister with responsibility for the Palestine mandate and for the implementation of the Balfour Declaration (CHAR 17). As Prime Minister during the Second World War, and as a statesman and Prime Minister after the war, he was one of the Allied leaders presiding over strategy in the region, and struggling to reconcile Jewish and Arab interests while managing the British retreat from Empire (CHAR 20, CHUR 2, CHUR 6).

The shaping of Europe – Churchill was a consistent advocate of a British role in Europe. He played a leading role in the events of the First World War, as First Lord of the Admiralty in 1914-15, and as Minister of Munitions in 1917-18 (CHAR 13 & CHAR 15), and he wrote regular newspaper articles on European affairs throughout the 1920's and 30's (CHAR 8). By keeping Britain in the war in 1940 he made himself and Britain a focal point for European resistance to Nazism and provided a launch pad for the liberation of North West Europe in 1944 (CHAR 20). He was one of the Allied leaders who helped to shape post war Europe at the Teheran, Yalta and Potsdam conferences (CHAR 23), and after the war he was an advocate for greater European unity, most notably articulated in his famous speeches at the Hague Congress and at the University of Zurich in 1946 (CHUR 5).

The rise of the United States as a global power – Churchill made repeated visits to the United

States between 1895 and 1961, and recorded his experiences in letters, articles and speeches. He recognised the growing power of the United States and sought to cultivate its political and business leaders, a policy which culminated in the “Special Relationship” and unprecedented political and military co-operation established with President Roosevelt after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor (CHAR 28, CHAR 2, CHAR 8, CHAR 20, CHUR 2, CHUR 6).

Global strategy – Churchill’s papers contain much information on the workings and roles of the League of Nations and the United Nations, as well as details of international conferences from the Treaty of Versailles in 1919, through the major conferences of the Second World War, to the creation of NATO and the Bermuda Summit of 1953.

3 People

Does the cultural context of the document’s creation reflect significant aspects of human behaviour, or of social, industrial, artistic or political development? Or does it capture the essence of great movements, transitions, advances or regression? Does it illustrate the lives of prominent individuals in the above fields?

The collection is important not only for the study of Churchill himself, undoubtedly one of the most influential and controversial figures of his age, but also sheds light through his correspondence and writings on other significant global personalities:

American Presidents, most notably his substantial personal correspondence with Presidents Roosevelt, Truman and Eisenhower (CHAR 20, CHUR 2, CHUR 6),

Members of the British Royal Family, including monarchs from King Edward VII to Queen Elizabeth II (see throughout personal and official classes),

President De Gaulle of France (CHAR 20, CHUR 2),

Marshal Stalin of Russia (CHAR 20),

Other British Prime Ministers, including Herbert Asquith, David Lloyd George, Stanley Baldwin, Neville Chamberlain, Clement Attlee, and Anthony Eden (CHAR 2, CHUR 2 and official classes),

Indian leaders, including Gandhi, Jinnah, and Nehru (CHAR 2, CHAR 20, CHUR 2)

TE Lawrence (“Lawrence of Arabia”) (CHAR 1, CHAR 2, CHAR 17),

Jan Smuts of South Africa (CHAR 1, CHAR 2, CHAR 20),

Chaim Weizmann of Israel (CHAR 1, CHAR 2, CHAR 20, CHUR 1, CHUR 2)

Leading figures in the League of Nations, United Nations and European movement, such as Eleanor Roosevelt and Jean Monnet (CHAR 20, CHUR 2),

International newspaper owners such as Lord Beaverbrook and Lord Rothermere,

As well as writers (HG Wells), painters (Walter Sickert), and actors (Laurence Olivier).

4 Subject and theme

Does the subject matter of the document represent particular historical or intellectual developments in the natural, social and human sciences? Or in politics, ideology, sport or the arts?

As I hope is clear from (1) (2) and (3) above, the collection features files on a huge range of historical subjects, from British political reform in the early twentieth century, to the British retreat from Empire and the emergence of new nations, to political, military and diplomatic strategy in the First and Second World Wars, to the development of the Atomic Bomb and Britain’s post war relations with Europe and the United States (again to name but a few).

5 Form and style

Does the document have outstanding aesthetic, stylistic or linguistic value? Or is it a typical exemplar of a type of presentation, custom or medium? Is it an example of a disappeared or disappearing carrier or format?

Churchill won the Nobel Prize for literature. The form and style of his writings is of great interest, in particular his original notes for his wartime speeches and broadcasts, revealing how he crafted and set out (in blank verse format to aid delivery) some of the most famous orations of modern times.

6 Social/ spiritual/ community significance:

Application of this criterion must reflect living significance – does documentary heritage have an emotional hold on people who are alive today? Is it venerated as holy or for its mystical qualities, or revered for its association with significant people and events?

(Once those who have revered the documentary heritage for its social/ spiritual/ community significance no longer do so, or are no longer living, it loses this specific significance and may eventually acquire historical significance.)

Sir Winston Churchill has become a global icon for democratic leadership, and his stand against fascism in 1940 is widely seen as a critical moment in modern history. The collection provides an incredible body of primary material for Churchill and the events of his premiership to be studied and reinterpreted by future generations.

6.0 Contextual information

6.1 Rarity

The collection contains a wealth of unique drafts, letters and papers that are not duplicated elsewhere. Examples include the personal letters Churchill received from Presidents Roosevelt, Truman, and Eisenhower, his early handwritten letters to his parents and his brother, and his annotated typescripts for his own letters, writings and speeches.

6.2 Integrity

The collection represents the papers assembled and used by Sir Winston Churchill during his lifetime and has been preserved intact giving it a powerful integrity. The importance of preserving its integrity was recognised by the Heritage Lottery Fund purchase of April 1995, which aimed to keep the collection intact, in Britain, in perpetuity.
