

FNL

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Saving the nation's written and printed heritage

Blavatnik Honresfield Library

In 2021, FNL led a consortium of eight institutions and raised £15m to save the Blavatnik Honresfield Library for the nation.

The Blavatnik Honresfield Library was formed towards the end of the 19th century by William Law (1836-1901), a Rochdale mill owner, who created an exceptional collection of English and Scottish manuscripts and printed books which had the Brontës at its heart, as well as manuscripts in the hands of Jane Austen, Robert Burns and Sir Walter Scott and a significant collection of about 1,400 printed books. It had been largely inaccessible for the last 80 years.

Manuscripts

FNL has donated the manuscripts to the following institutions:

Charlotte, Emily and Anne Brontë

The British Library, London and Yorkshire
The Brontë Parsonage Museum, Haworth
The Brotherton Library, University of Leeds

Jane Austen

The Bodleian Library, Oxford
Jane Austen's House, Chawton

Sir Walter Scott

The National Library of Scotland, Edinburgh
and Glasgow
Abbotsford: The Home of Walter Scott,
Melrose, Scotland.

Robert Burns

The National Library of Scotland
The Robert Burns Birthplace Museum, Alloway
(National Trust for Scotland)

Printed Books

FNL has donated the printed books to the following institutions

Abbotsford
Aberdeen University
Armagh Robinson Library, N. Ireland
Beckford's Tower
Birmingham University
Bishopsgate Institute
Bodleian Library
Bristol University
British Library
Brontë Parsonage
Brotherton Library
Cambridge University Library
Cardiff University
Chethams Library
Cowper and Newton Museum
Charles Dickens Museum London
Dove Cottage
Dr Johnson's House

Durham University
Edinburgh University
Edward Thomas Study Centre
English Folk Dance & Song Society,
Vaughan Williams Library Cecil Sharpe House
Essex University
Exeter University
Glasgow University
Guildhall Library, London
Halifax Antiquarian Society
Isle of Man Family History Society
Jane Austen's House
John Ryland's Library, University of Manchester
Keats Shelley House
Keats Shelley Memorial Association
Kent University Cartoon Archive
Lambeth Palace Library
Lincolnshire Archives: Tennyson Research Centre

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Littleborough History Society
Manchester Archives and Library
Manx National Heritage
Mitchell Library, Glasgow
Museum of English Rural Life, Reading
University
National Library of Scotland
National Library of Wales
Natural History Society of Northumbria
Newcastle Literary and Philosophical Society
Newcastle University: Children's Literature
Centre
Norfolk Record Office
Nottingham University
Oldham Archives
Pembroke College, Cambridge
Portico Library Manchester

Queen's University Belfast
Reading University
RIBA
Royal College of Music
Royal Conservatoire of Scotland
The Royal Library
Shakespeare Birthplace Trust
Sheffield University Library
Southampton University
St Andrews University
Strawberry Hill
Sussex University
The Leeds Library
Touchstones (Rochdale Archives)
V&A National Art Library
West Sussex Record Office
Winchester College

The manuscripts and printed books of the Blavatnik Honresfield Library, which have been inaccessible for some 80 years, are now be available for study by scholars, researchers, visitors and everyone in perpetuity.