



News Release

V&A archive services achieve National Accreditation

23rd November 2016

The Victoria and Albert Museum (V&A) has been awarded Archive Service Accreditation by The National Archives and partners. The V&A is one of only two national museums to have been awarded accreditation for their archive service, alongside the Imperial War Museums announced today. Accredited Archive Services ensure the long-term collection, preservation and accessibility of our archive heritage. Accreditation is the UK quality standard which recognises good performance in all areas of archive service delivery. Achieving accredited status demonstrates that the V&A has met defined national standards relating to management and resourcing; the care of its unique collections and what the service offers to its entire range of users.

The V&A holds the Archive of Art and Design, the V&A's institutional records, the UK's national collections of Theatre and Performance, and the archives held by the Museum of Childhood. All of the archive collections are accessible for everybody and free of charge at V&A Blythe House Study room or the Museum of Childhood. Full information about access can be found on the V&A's website www.vam.ac.uk/content/articles/a/archives. Archive collection items also regularly feature in public displays throughout the V&A's galleries, as well as national and international touring exhibitions, such as the recent V&A exhibition *Vivien Leigh: Public Faces, Private Lives* at the National Trust's Treasurer's House in York followed by Nyman's in Sussex.

Christopher Marsden, Senior Archivist at the V&A said, "We are delighted to have been awarded Archive Service Accreditation. For the first time our Search the Archives catalogue is available online and we have also launched the Design Archives Online project, both of which will open up our important archive collections to an international community of researchers. Accreditation recognises our role in the V&A's public and research programmes, and in the wider archive sector, and will inspire us to explore and develop new audiences for our archives."

Ramona Riedzewski, Head of Collections Management in the Department of Theatre and Performance at the V&A, said “it is a privilege to look after the UK’s National Collection of Performing Arts and to enable the enjoyment to all of our users ranging from academic researchers, students, theatre and industry professionals, family historians and theatre enthusiasts. Achieving archives accreditation is a major milestone for us and we can now comfortably look forward to our next big archive projects ahead.”

The Archive Service Accreditation Panel welcomed the Museum’s approach to collaborative working across thematic collections, and its positive planning for the future. They praised the online access now available to research collections, opening them up to a wider world, and encouraged the Museum to continue to develop its understanding of the potential of its research holdings and their audiences.

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Notes to editors

Archive Service Accreditation is supported by a partnership of the Archives and Records Association (UK), Archives and Records Council Wales, National Records of Scotland, Public Record Office of Northern Ireland, Scottish Council on Archives, The National Archives; and the Welsh Government through its Museums, Archives and Libraries Wales division.

For more information on Archive Service Accreditation visit

www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/accreditation

For more information on the V&A Design Archives Online project visit

www.vam.ac.uk/blog/tales-archives/introducing-design-archives-online

For more information on Search the Archives catalogue visit www.vam.ac.uk/archives

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