



Royal
Agricultural
Society of
England

The Society's Library, Archive and Artefacts

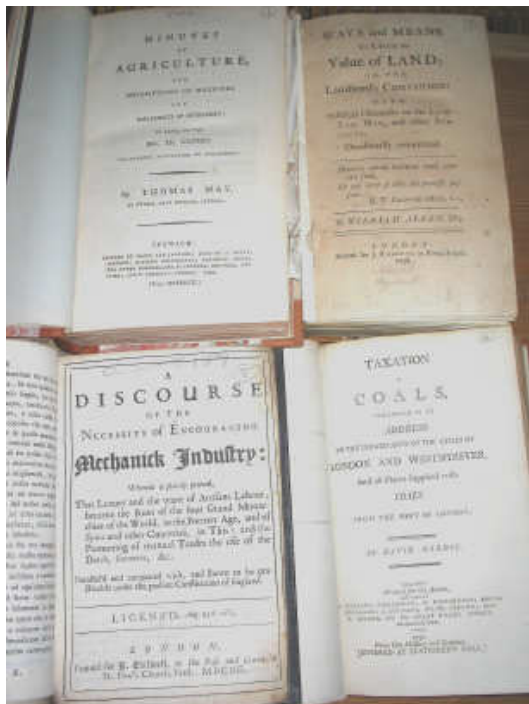
*An important and unique
collection*



All are welcome (individuals or groups), from the dedicated researcher to the casual browser. To arrange a visit, contact the Honorary Librarian either by telephone on 02476 853 076, by email phillips@rase.org.uk or at The Royal Agricultural Society of England, Stoneleigh Park, Warwickshire CV8 2LZ.

THE Library is as old as the Society and contains some 9000 books, a fifth of which were published before 1840 and a hundred before 1700 the earliest of which dates from 1486. Housed in the Arthur Rank Centre at Stoneleigh Park, Warwickshire, the collection specialises mainly in agricultural matters (in its widest sense) but it contains a number of books related to the development of the rural community. Authors featured include many of the principal writers of the 15th to 20th centuries. Long runs of early serials are featured including The Farmers' Magazine, The Agricultural Gazette and the Quarterly Journal of Agriculture and reflect the importance of developing agriculture in the 18th and 19th centuries. The Library is home to the prized collection known as The Gilbey Pamphlets – some 150 volumes which are a fascinating source of writings about agriculture and related subjects from the mid 18th to the end of the 19th century

The Souvenir of the 50th. Royal Show at Windsor in 1889



A selection of early books





Ceramic of 3rd. Earl Spencer, the Society's first President



Thomas William Coke, 1st Earl of Leicester (Coke of Norfolk)



Jethro Tull, inventor of the seed drill

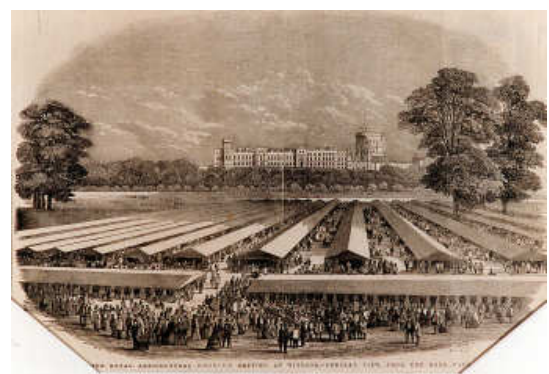
The Artefacts are in many ways complimentary to the Library in that they reflect not just the development of the Society itself but in a wider context that of the agricultural industry.

They contain a representative cross section of paintings of individuals, animals and rural scenes, many by well known artists of the day and prints depicting Royal Shows over some 170 years.

The collection includes charters, seals, ceramics, silverware and many other items of interest.



Royal Show Oxford 1839



Royal Show Windsor 1889

The Archive provides a fascinating insight into the history of one of the Country's leading learned societies that throughout its history has been at the 'cutting edge' of the development of technology in the land based industries with records going back to its formation in 1838. The earlier records are lodged in the Museum of English Rural Life at the University of Reading as are those of the 'Old' Board of Agriculture (1793-1822) which the Society also owns. The Society holds the National Foot & Mouth Disease Archive relating to the outbreak in 2001

The Archive also contains membership records and those relating to the Society's Long Service and other awards

The collection of memorabilia includes medals, badges, Royal Show programmes, invitations, menus etc. and other Society materials. It provides an interesting window on the Society's activities.



The Royal Charter granted by Queen Victoria in 1840

Part of the collection of medals and badges

