

THE RUSKIN

LIBRARY, MUSEUM AND RESEARCH CENTRE

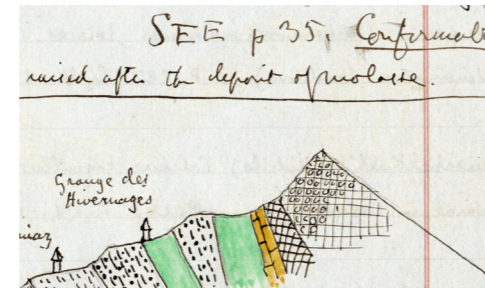
'We are grateful to the National Heritage Memorial Fund, the Education Trust Ltd and Whitehouse Trust, and our other benefactors. John Ruskin was a visionary, whose thinking is increasingly relevant in the 21st century. It seems entirely fitting that his collected works should reside at Lancaster; an institution that, from its foundation, has sought to contribute to creating a world of which Ruskin and other champions of reason and fairness would approve. Our ambitious plans will make his work more widely accessible – physically and digitally – locally, nationally and internationally, while protecting them for posterity.'

Professor Mark E. Smith, Vice-Chancellor, Lancaster University

'2019 marks 200 years since the birth of John Ruskin and so the acquisition of this important collection is very timely. The Ruskin Museum of the Near Future, is the perfect home for the archive. The Museum's plan to digitise it and share the work and life of Ruskin with more people than ever before is one of the key reasons why we at the National Heritage Memorial Fund felt compelled to support it.'

Ros Kerslake, CEO, National Heritage Memorial Fund

Poster:
Cloud Study – Over Coniston Water, 1880. John Ruskin © The Ruskin. **The Works of John Ruskin** (London: Cook & Wedderburn, 1905), VII, Plate 65



From the Director

As the leading critic of his age, Ruskin transformed the way we think about art and life. His remarkable ability to connect the social, the aesthetic and the scientific, combined with his far-sighted ideas, inspired some of the great social reformers of the twentieth century, from Gandhi to the architects of the welfare state. As an early environmentalist, Ruskin drew attention to our need to protect the natural world, laying the foundations of the National Trust and foreshadowing the work of modern ecologists. The Ruskin – Library, Museum and Research Centre will celebrate Ruskin's relevance to our world today, and explore how his ideas can help us shape a better future.

Our vision for The Ruskin is to be as ambitious as Ruskin himself. Our linked remit as a library, museum and research centre will enable us to become a model for a combined resource of this kind. Through contemporary exhibition practice, alongside events, learning and engagement activities, we will expand the value of this unique collection. Research will drive our exhibition and public programme, shaped by a revolution in public access to the Collection. Audiences will participate in our work, bringing fresh perspectives to our activities, challenging our assumptions, and feeling empowered to effect change. Ruskin once said: 'The really precious things are thought and sight, not pace.' Ruskin helps us to see, in his own words, with 'heartsight'. His works re-imagine and re-interpret our understanding of the world, combining critical thinking with sensitivity and creativity. He campaigned for education for all. Our launch exhibition, 'Museum of the Near Future' positions Ruskin as a compelling educator who connects learning, teaching and research with the pulse of daily life.

We are inviting you to make The Ruskin your place. By using it and getting involved in our projects we can make a real difference to people's lives. With this exhibition we are launching the first of our campaigns to support the conservation needs of the Collection. We have the largest number of Ruskin's magnificent Lecture Diagrams in the world. Some of these diagrams have remained unseen since Ruskin used them himself in his lectures. We have chosen to profile them at the beginning of the next stage of the journey of this extraordinary collection at Lancaster University. In welcoming you to our new exhibition we invite you to help us in following Ruskin's lead, encouraging all to look closely, see clearly and imagine freely through his works.

Professor Sandra Kemp
Director, The Ruskin – Library, Museum & Research Centre

The Ruskin's Mission & Values

Mission

The Ruskin is home to the leading collection of works by the epoch-defining writer, artist, environmentalist and social thinker John Ruskin. We believe in the power of this collection to explore the past and address the future. Through research, interpretation and preservation, working with visitors and specialists across the world, we will inspire creativity and promote debate across the arts and sciences on culture, heritage, landscape and the environment.

Values

Explore: making the collection available to everyone, everywhere
Exchange: encouraging debate and learning from each other
Experiment: embarking on new initiatives and nurturing new ideas

'On behalf of The Education Trust and The Whitehouse Trust, we are pleased and proud that it has been possible for the stewardship of this comprehensive Ruskin collection to transfer into the care and ownership of Lancaster University, after decades of association with my family. In this way we believe the University will be able to develop and enhance public access to, and engagement with, Ruskin's legacy. The transaction will allow The Education Trust to continue to focus on Brantwood, Coniston (John Ruskin's home from 1872 until his death in 1900). We are especially grateful to all who have made this possible, including the National Heritage Memorial Fund and other donors, and for the vision and support of a very important and valuable heritage collection.'

Charlotte Robins, Head of The Education Trust Limited

'The Ruskin Foundation is absolutely delighted in this bicentenary year that the future of the Whitehouse Ruskin Collection is to be assured in perpetuity by this transfer of title. Trustees are grateful to the National Heritage Memorial Fund and other funders, and to Education Trust Ltd, for making this possible, and especially to Lancaster University, whom we are confident will both continue to care for the collection and to promote the works and ideas of John Ruskin to an even wider public and academic audience. The Foundation has been privileged to have the care of the Collection over the past twenty years, and is proud to have played a part in securing its future.'

Jacqueline Whiteside, Chair of The Ruskin Foundation



Summary of the Collection

The Ruskin Whitehouse Collection is an unparalleled gathering of materials relating to John Ruskin (1819 – 1900) and his circle. The Collection was formed by the educationalist and Liberal MP, John Howard Whitehouse (1873 – 1955), and contains thousands of manuscripts, letters, books and artworks.

Among the more than 8,000 manuscripts in the Collection are the 29 volumes of Ruskin's diaries (1835 – 1888), of which only a selection have been published. Alongside these manuscripts are some 7,400 letters, which include correspondence with both family and friends, and many leading political and cultural figures. There are 1,500 drawings and 500 prints in the Collection. In addition to a large number of photographs, there are 125 daguerreotypes, mostly of Gothic architecture, made under Ruskin's direction at a time when this technology was in its infancy. In addition to hundreds of books from Ruskin's own library, the Collection includes a complete holding of books about Ruskin as well as an archive of transcripts, articles and cuttings. Every aspect of Ruskin's wide-ranging interests is represented, from religion and the arts to political economy to geology and the environment.

'200 years after his birth, Ruskin matters to us more than ever. The acquisition of this vitally important collection will enable Lancaster University to make his work as a writer, thinker and artist more fully accessible to scholars, in both physical and digital formats. I'm greatly looking forward to seeing this exhilarating potential translated into reality.'

Professor Dinah Birch, Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Cultural Engagement, University of Liverpool and Chair, Ruskin Advisory Board

'The Whitehouse Ruskin Collection is an incomparable resource, bearing witness to the impact of Ruskin and his legacy in shaping our views on art and its wider role within society, still resonating today. We are very proud to have supported this acquisition.'

Stephen Deuchar, Director of The Art Fund

Chamonix. Mer de Glace, Mont Blanc Massif, 1854. John Ruskin, Frederick Crawley
© The Ruskin, Lancaster University

Milk Thistle, 1874 (detail). John Ruskin
© The Ruskin, Lancaster University

Diary Notebook 1861-1863 (detail). John Ruskin
© The Ruskin, Lancaster University

Ferns on a Rock, 1875 (detail). John Ruskin
© The Ruskin, Lancaster University

Cloud Study (detail). John Ruskin
© The Ruskin, Lancaster University

Venice – Gothic Capital of Window Shaft, Casa Bernardo Mocenigo (detail). John Ruskin
© The Ruskin, Lancaster University

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LIBRARY, MUSEUM AND RESEARCH CENTRE

The Ruskin Whitehouse Collection is the world's largest assemblage of work by John Ruskin (1819 – 1900), the epoch defining writer, artist, environmentalist and social thinker.

In 2019, the purchase of The Ruskin Whitehouse Collection at Lancaster University was made possible by the generosity of the Education Trust Limited and the Whitehouse Trust and with the support of the following benefactors:

The National Heritage Memorial Fund

Art Fund

Garfield Weston Foundation

Bowland Trust

Friends of the National Libraries

John R Murray Charitable Trust

Guild of St George

Aldama Foundation

Pilgrim Trust

John S Cohen Foundation

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1919

J. H. Whitehouse (1873 – 1955) founds Bembridge School on the Isle of Wight in 1919.

1921

Education Trust Ltd (ETL) is founded to care for Bembridge School and its collections.

1932

J. H. Whitehouse purchases Brantwood, which opens to the public in 1934.

1992

MJP Architects are commissioned to design the Ruskin Library, led by Sir Richard MacCormac CBE, PPRIBA, FRSA, RA.

1957

Whitehouse Memorial Fund founded.

1990

The 'Ruskin Collection Project' is initiated following an agreement made between the Lord Lloyd of Kilgerran, Chairman of ETL and Professor H.J. Hanham, Vice Chancellor, Lancaster University.

The Ruskin Research Seminars, now in their 29th year, begin on 1st February.

1995

Construction begins on the Ruskin Library, supported by the National Heritage Memorial Fund, with the Esmée Fairburn Foundation, Baring Foundation, Pilgrim Trust and Bowland Charitable Trust.

The Mikimoto Lecture is established in memory of Ryuzo Mikimoto, founder of the Ruskin Library of Tokyo.

1998

The Ruskin Library opens on 9 May 1998 by HRH Princess Alexandra, Chancellor, Lancaster University and Patron of the Ruskin Foundation.

Awards and designations include Building of the Year (Independent on Sunday, 1996) and Millennium Award (Design Council, 1999).

1996

The Ruskin Whitehouse Collection is transferred to the Ruskin Library from Bembridge School.

2019

The Ruskin Whitehouse Collection at Lancaster University was made possible by the generosity of the Education Trust Limited and the Whitehouse Trust and with the support of the following benefactors:

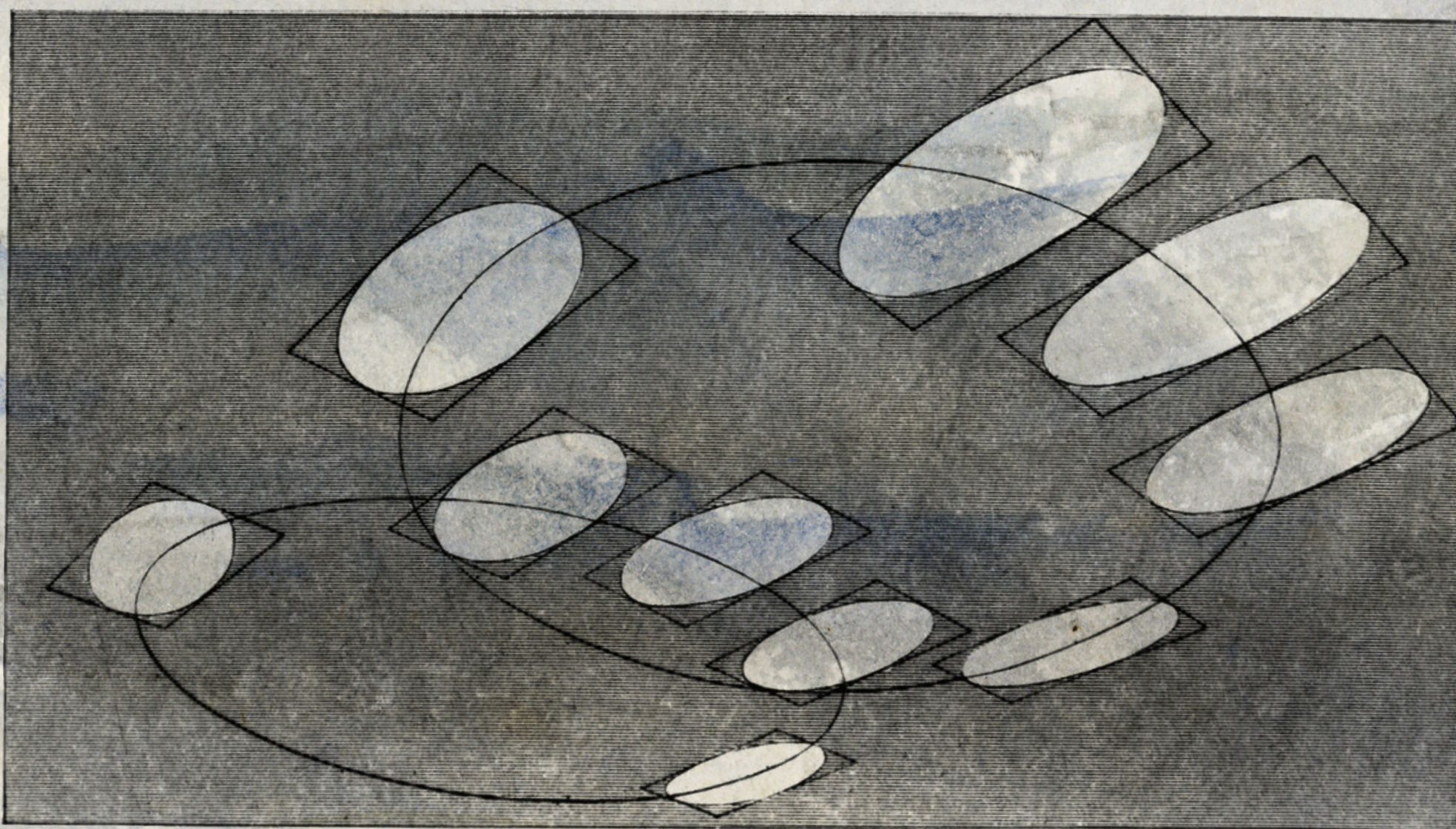
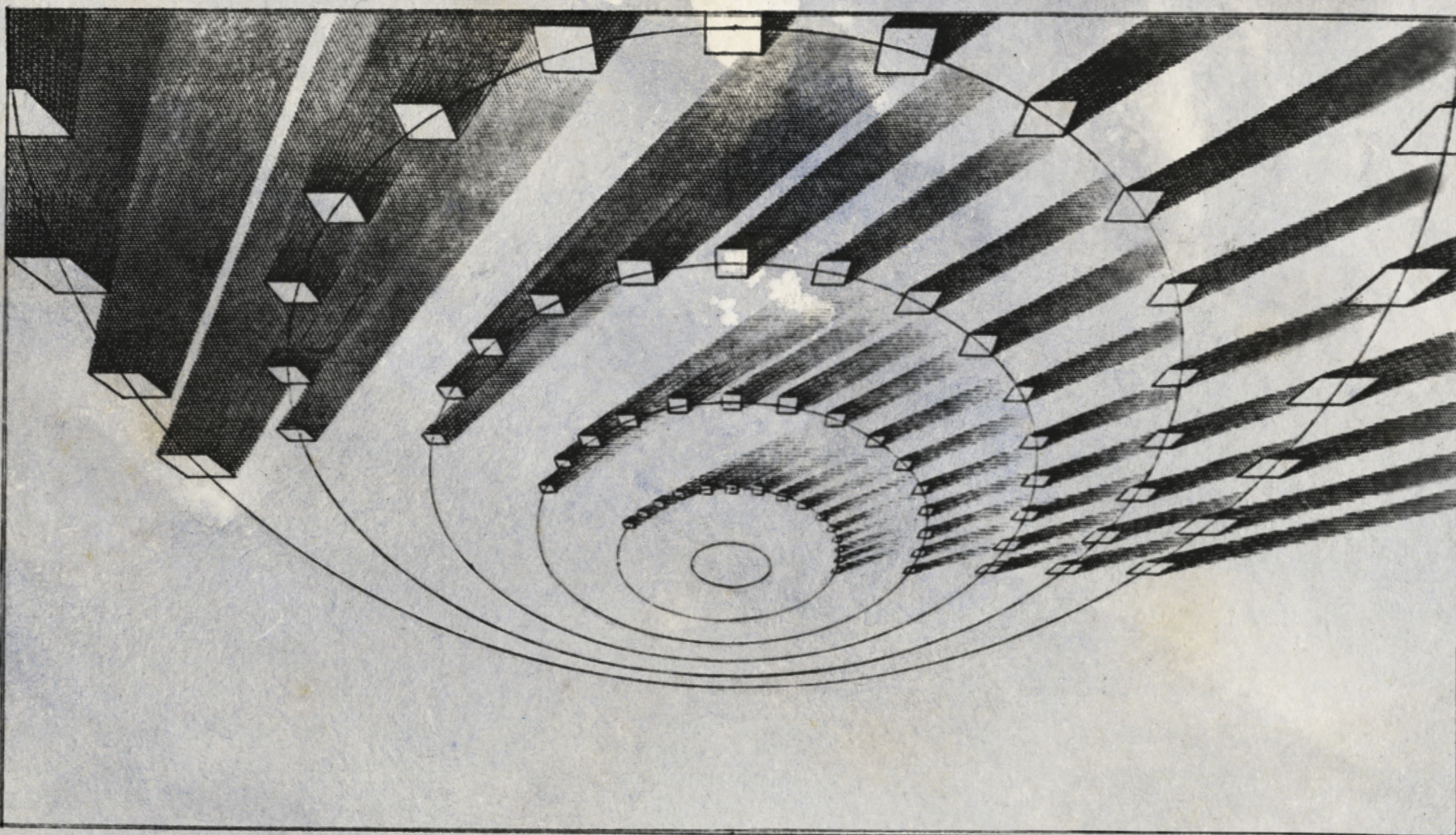
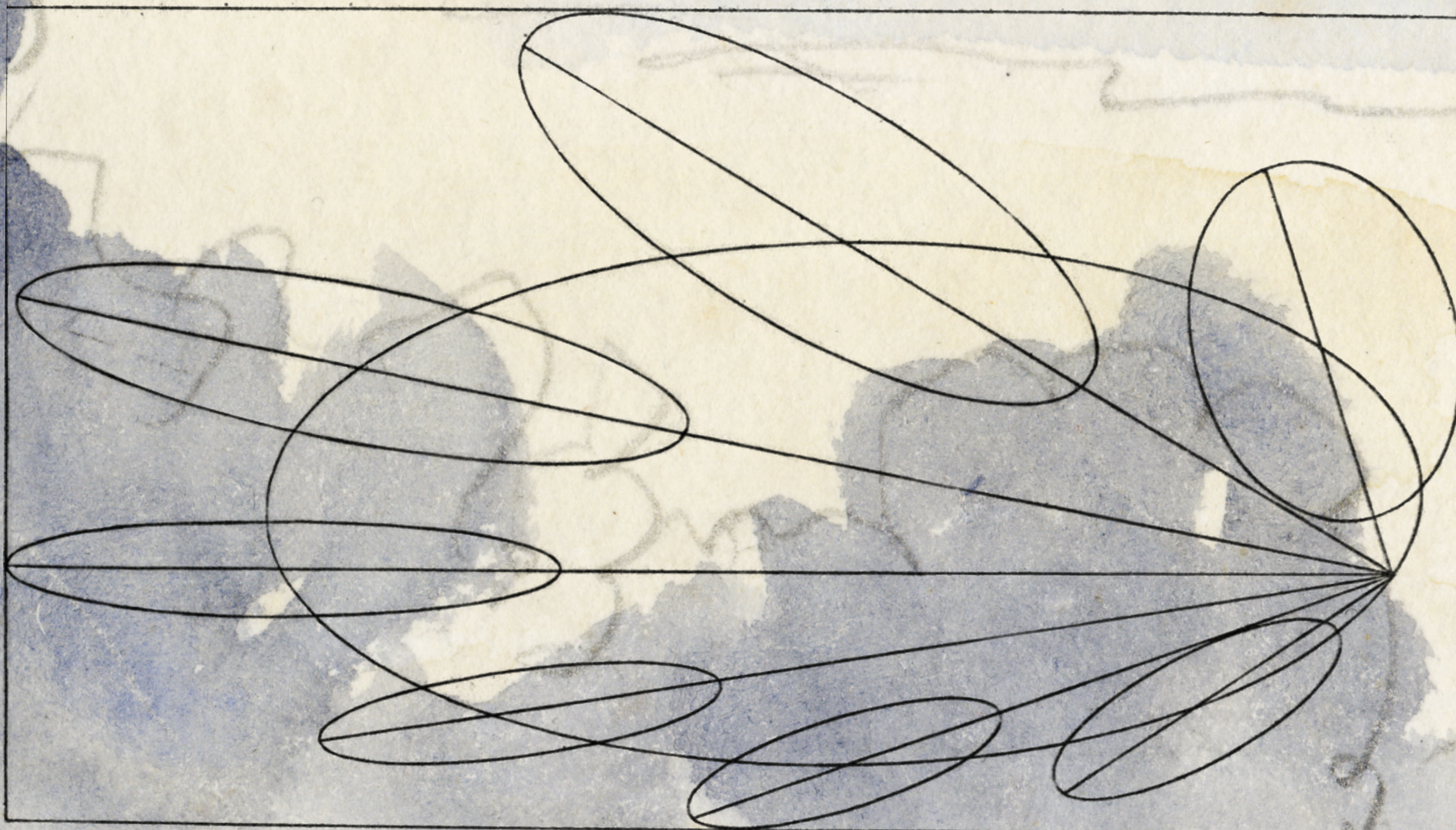
The National Heritage Memorial Fund, Art Fund, Garfield Weston Foundation, Bowland Trust, Friends of the National Libraries, John R Murray Charitable Trust, Guild of St George, Aldama Foundation, Pilgrim Trust, John S Cohen Foundation.

2019

**Launch of The Ruskin:
Library, Museum
and Research Centre**

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J. Ruskin.

J. Emslie
Allen & Co. Sc.