From the Director

As the leading critic of his age, Ruskin transformed the way we think about art and the natural world. His ability to link the visual and the aesthetic with the intellectual, combined with his passionate concern for ethical and social issues, made his ideas as relevant today as they were in the 19th century. From Gothic to the architecture of the day, he advocated a return to the natural world, laying the foundations for the National Parks movement and the conservation of natural beauty.

The Ruskin Library, Museum and Research Centre will celebrate Ruskin’s bicentenary in 2019, and explore how his ideas continue to influence contemporary debates. This exhibition will look at the development of art and society through Ruskin’s vision of nature and the environment.

Our vision for the Library is to remain as ambitious as Ruskin himself. Our current work as a library, museum and research centre will enable us to become a model for a new generation of researchers. Through contemporary exhibition practice, alongside courses, lectures and engagement activities, we will explore the value of this unique collection. Research will draw on our collection and public programme, shaping a new vision in public access to the Ruskin. Our aim is to push the boundaries of how we think about nature and art, engaging the public in new ways.

The exhibition will show how the Ruskin Library, Museum and Research Centre can inspire new ideas and connections.

Professor Sandra Kraay
Director, The Ruskin Library, Museum and Research Centre

The Ruskin’s Mission & Values

Mission
The Ruskin is home to the leading collection of works by the 19th-century literary and art critic John Ruskin. We believe in the power of this collection to explore and address the future. Through research, interpretation and promotion, working with writers and speakers across the world, we will inspire creative and public debate across the arts and science on culture, heritage, society and the environment.

Values
This exhibition is a celebration of Ruskin’s ideas and his vision for the future. It is an exploration of the role of art and culture in shaping our world. We are committed to making Ruskin’s ideas accessible to everyone, and to promoting his legacy for future generations.

Summary of the Collection

The Ruskin White House Collection is an expanded gathering of manuscripts relating to John Ruskin (1819 – 1900) and his circle. The Collection was formed by the educationist and ADL MP, John Howard Whitehouse (1817 – 1905), and contains thousands of manuscripts, letters, essays and articles.

Among the more than 8,000 manuscripts in the Collection are the 27 volumes of Ruskin’s letters (1849 – 1880), of which only a small number have been previously available. The Collection also includes some 2000 letters, which include correspondence with family and friends, as well as a large number of Ruskin’s own works, including more than 5000 drawings, including some 2000 letters, of which only a small number have been previously available. These works are a testimony to Ruskin’s influence and the vast number of people who read and were inspired by his ideas.

The Ruskin White House Collection is a unique resource, bearing witness to the impact of Ruskin and his ideas in shaping our world and our culture within society, and we are very proud to have supported this acquisition.

Stephen Deuchar, Director of the Art Fund

From the Ruskin Library, Museum and Research Centre

© Ruskin Library, Museum and Research Centre

The Ruskin Library, Museum and Research Centre is located in the historic town of Lancaster, England. The Centre is home to one of the most important collections of manuscripts and letters relating to John Ruskin (1819 – 1900) and his circle, and is open to visitors from all over the world.

The Ruskin Library holds over 30,000 manuscripts, letters, essays, articles and articles relating to John Ruskin, his circle and the wider context of his work. The Collection is open to visitors from all over the world, and is an important resource for scholars and students of art, culture and society.

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The Ruskin Whitestone Collection is the world’s largest assembly of works by John Ruskin (1819–1900), the much-admired designer, writer, and thinker.

In 1919, the purchase of The Ruskin Whitestone Collection at Lancaster University was made possible by the generosity of the Edith Wharton Trust and with the support of the following benefactors:

The National Heritage Memorial Fund
Art Fund
Gulf Oil Company
Rowland Trust
Friends of the National Library
John R. Murphy Charitable Trust
Guldford of St George
Aldaba Foundation
Pigman Trust
John’s Union Foundation

1972
Nautilus 160Gsm

1977
Universe Foundation

1999
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John R. Murphy Charitable Trust
Guldford of St George
Aldaba Foundation
Pigman Trust
John’s Union Foundation

1999
Universe Foundation

1992
MP Architects are commissioned to design the Ruskin Library, led by Sir Richard MacCormac OBE, RIBA, FRS, AA

1995
Construction begins on the Ruskin Library, supported by the National Heritage Memorial Fund, the Guldford Foundation, Pigman Trust and Rowland Charitable Trust

The Millennium Lecture is established in memory of Rupina MacCormac, founder of the Ruskin Library in 1989.

1996
Launch of The Ruskin: Library, Museum and Research Centre

1999
The Ruskin Library on 9 May 1998 by HRH Princess Alexandra, Chairwoman, Lancaster University and Patron of the Ruskin Foundation

1996
The Ruskin Whitestone Collection is transferred to the Ruskin Library from Bewerley School.

1997
Universe Foundation

1997
The Ruskin Collection Project is initiated following an agreement made between the Lord Mayor of Liverpool, Chairman of the Trust, and Chancellor, Lancaster University.

1999
The Ruskin Research Seminars, now in their 15th year, begin on 5th February.

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65. Cloud Perspective (Curvilinear)