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Dear Brigitte,

Edward Reeves Studio Archive

Thank you for inviting me to participate in the Edward Reeves Studio Archive Project.

I think it is very appropriate that the University of the Arts London is leading a partnership application to the Heritage Lottery Fund and I believe your enthusiasm and personal contribution to the project will be invaluable.

The Edward Reeves Studio Archive is an extremely rare, indeed probably unique, resource for the study of the history of commercial studio photography in Britain. The availability of the invoices, ledgers and comments books, with entries to accompany virtually every image, is exceptional. Its continuous operation over four generations marks this studio as almost certainly the longest operational studio in Britain, if not the world. A detailed analysis of this archive will help to inform our understanding of the workings of a commercial studio over more than eleven decades.

The approach you are taking of entering all the available information into a database and subsequent scanning of selected negatives before engaging volunteer 'citizen-researchers' to enhance the metadata is ground-breaking and effective.

I would like to record my wholehearted support for the project and offer my assistance as a member of the Management Group.

Good luck with the application.

With best wishes



Colin Harding
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