

Dear Brigitte Lardinois,

Re: Support for your Heritage Lottery application

Following my recent visit to the Edward Reeves Studio in Lewes I am writing to say that I am happy to support your bid for Heritage Lottery money.

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 commercial studios as well as shed light on the lives of the people in and around Lewes.

On a micro-level your project will share with the people of Lewes the story of their locality by making the archive accessible online.

At a macro-level the importance of the Edward Reeves Collection is that it is an extremely rare resource for the study of the history of commercial studio photography in Britain.

I am looking forward to coming back to Lewes soon to film in the Edward Reeves Studio for my forthcoming BBC series about Portraiture in Britain.

Kind regards



Professor Simon Schama