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## Our Mission

The Royal Oak Foundation inspires Americans to learn about, experience and support places of great historic and natural significance in the United Kingdom in partnership with the National Trust of England, Wales and Northern Ireland.
Dear Royal Oak Community:

On behalf of the Royal Oak Board of Directors and staff, we express our continued gratitude to you, our loyal community of members, donors and friends, who help sustain the Foundation’s mission to support the National Trust of England, Wales and Northern Ireland. Together, we preserve British history and landscapes and encourage experiences that teach and inspire. It is with pleasure that we present to you the 2015 Annual Report and share highlights from a very full and busy year.

We marked our 42nd year as an American affiliate of the National Trust in 2015. Having embarked on a number of changes – from new office space and staff to new programmatic initiatives, we have stayed true to our mission to inspire Americans to learn about, experience, and support places of great historic and natural significance in the UK. While honoring our past, we endeavor to better serve our Anglophile community in the United States.

Our 2015 Appeal for the National Trust’s Furniture Research and Publication Project allowed the Trust to grow their staff and appoint Dr. Wolf Burchard as the Royal Oak Paul Mellon Curator of Furniture Research. The 2015 Appeal also enabled a grant to the National Trust that will enhance catalogue entries for all furniture objects across the Trust’s collection making it accessible by researchers, curators and the curious all over the world. Additionally, this project will provide research and photography for a definitive new book, *Furniture in National Trust Houses*, by the Trust’s celebrated Curator of Furniture, Christopher Rowell.

Central to our mission is membership. Through Royal Oak membership, not only do you gain access to the National Trust’s 500 properties, you provide critical financial support for art and antiquities conservation, furniture restoration, academic scholarship and scientific research. In addition, you protect beautiful wild and cultivated landscapes and help develop enriching cultural heritage exhibitions and education programs.

As you review this Annual Report, we encourage you to reflect with us on a formative year of change – a year of successes and challenges – and a reminder for us at Royal Oak, we could not do our work without you.

Respectfully,

Lynne Rickabaugh
Chairman

Lori Brittle
Executive Director
EXPERIENCE & LEARN | Membership

Royal Oak is supported by a steady group of approximately 7,000 members. Members provide important support for our operations, and the fees are fully tax-deductible contributions. We want to help keep our members in touch with what they loved about their visit to the UK and give them ideas for their next trip, whenever that might be. We encourage all members to visit our social media feeds including the blog on our website, Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and Pinterest. Join our community of enthusiastic Anglophiles!

MEMBERSHIP LOYALTY

In 2015 we looked more closely at membership retention, and our main focus is continuing to highlight the benefits of being part of our community of history, nature, and preservation enthusiasts. As an investment in our future, a number of Royal Oak Board Members sponsor student memberships at their alma maters for students spending a semester abroad in the UK, so that they might experience the National Trust during their stay.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Membership Years</th>
<th>Number of Households</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5-9</td>
<td>907</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10-14</td>
<td>611</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15-19</td>
<td>510</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20-24</td>
<td>357</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25-29</td>
<td>413</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30+</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
EXPERIENCE & LEARN | Heritage Circle UK Study Day

There are various categories of membership ranging from Student & Young Professional to our upper level Heritage Circle memberships. Our Heritage Circle supporters continue to grow, as has our special access offerings for these members.

For instance in 2015, we had our first London Study Day for Heritage Circle members focused on the work of Robert Adam. It was fully subscribed and encouraged a number of people to join or upgrade their memberships.
For over 25 years, Royal Oak has offered public lecture programs. Royal Oak’s programming has brought some of Britain’s most respected scholars and curators to lecture to audiences across the United States. The lectures highlight significant scholarship and academic research on a wide range of topics regarding British history, architecture and design, decorative arts, and fine arts. With lead funding from the Drue Heinz Trust since 1992, Royal Oak has planned and executed over 1,000 lectures by 200 speakers in 66 U.S. cities.

In 2015 almost 3,600 people attended the total of 65 lectures given in 11 cities during our Spring and Fall program seasons. Highlights of 2015 included Dr. Tracy Borman’s lectures about Thomas Cromwell based on new material in her book, *Thomas Cromwell: The Untold Story of Henry VIII’s Most Faithful Servant*; the lectures of the Duke of Wellington on the bicentennial of the Battle of Waterloo and the family legacy of Apsley House and Stratfield Saye; and the lectures of Nicholas Ashley-Cooper, 12th Earl of Shaftesbury, relating to ongoing restoration of his family’s seat, St. Giles in Dorset. We presented two fascinating talks involving the Churchills: Dr. Michael Shelden spoke about Sir. Winston’s early life, the subject of his work, *Young Titan: The making of Winston Churchill*, and Sonia Parnell reviewed the findings of her new book *First Lady: The Life and Wars of Clementine Churchill*. 
EXPERIENCE & LEARN | Royal Oak Scholarship Funds

DAMARIS HORAN PRIZE FOR LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

The Damaris Horan Prize is a biennial residential fellowship with the Trust focused on landscape history and horticulture. Established by The Mudge Foundation and named for Royal Oak’s Executive Director from 1987 to 2003, the Horan Prize provides training and educational opportunities for individuals with a professional interest in the history, management and conservation of historic landscapes and gardens.

The 2015 Damaris Horan Prize was awarded to Justin Kegley of Pearl River, New York. Kegley’s project used cutting-edge drone photography to document Lancelot “Capability” Brown landscapes protected by the National Trust. The footage will ultimately be used in conjunction with the Trust’s development of programs to celebrate the tercentennial of Brown’s birth in 2016.

ATTINGHAM SUMMER SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIPS

Royal Oak awarded $30,000 to the American Friends of Attingham in support of full and partial scholarships for Americans participating in the 2015 Attingham Summer School.

Since its inception in 1952, the Attingham Summer School has hosted numerous American scholars, curators, architects and designers, acquainting them with the architectural and social history of the English country house over several centuries. Royal Oak’s support of over $555,000 to date has enabled over 153 Americans to participate in this program.
Property-Specific Grants to the National Trust of England, Wales & Northern Ireland
41 Years of Giving

1. 575 WANDSWORTH ROAD
   - Endowment for educational facility (2010)
   - Architectural conservation (2011)

2. ALA RONDE
   - Repairs to roof and chimney (1992)

3. ASHRIFF ESTATE
   - Restoration of the Icehouse (1976)

4. AVEBURY
   - Purchase of West Kennet Farm (1990-1)
   - Endowment (2006)

5. BARRINGTON COURT
   - Endowment (2005)

6. BELTON HOUSE
   - Acquisition of cabinet, 2 stands and coffer (1964)

7. BIDDULPH GRANGE
   - Restoration & conservation of gardens (1986-88)
   - Restoration of Chinese House (1990)

8. BLICKLING ESTATE
   - Restoration of Peter the Great Room (1986)
   - Restoration of Document Room (1990)
   - Gardeners' Apprenticeship (2006)
   - Library (2013)

9. BUCKLAND ABBEY
   - General restoration (1988)
   - Building repair (1989)

10. CALKE ABBEY
    - General restoration (1986)
    - Renovation of interiors (1986)
    - Garden restoration (1988)

11. CANONS ASHY
    - General restoration (1982)

12. CASTLE COOLE
    - Restoration of Regency curtains (2007)

13. CASTLE DROGO
    - Purchase of 5 tapestries (1983)
    - Restoration of roof, walls and windows (2010)

14. CASTLE WARD
    - Wardrobe (2007)

15. CHERREYBURN
    - Cataloging of Bewick Manuscripts (2007)

16. CHIRK CASTLE
    - Bedroom restoration (1990)
    - Gate restoration (1993)
    - Purchase of hall chairs (2006)

17. CLANDON
    - Conservation of a large-scale painting (2014)

18. CLOUDS HILL
    - Construction of security system (1979)

19. CRAGSIDE
    - Restoration of greenhouses (2000)

20. CROM ESTATE
    - Planting trees (1992)

21. CROOME COURT
    - Park restoration (2008)
    - Restoration of sash window door (2009)
    - Restoration of newly acquired house (2010)

22. DUDMASTON
    - Restoration of "The Dingle" (1983)

23. DURHAM PARK
    - Facsimile of Blathwayt Atlas (1961)
    - Restoration of festoon curtains (1984)
    - Acquisition of Cornelis de Heem painting (2014)
    - Roof repair and conservation (2014)

24. FOUNTAINS ABBEY & STUDLEY ROYAL
    - Maintenance and restoration of lakes (1984)

25. GIANT'S CAUSEWAY
    - Creation of visitor facilities, interpretation, paths (2010)

26. GODOLPHIN
    - Long-term restoration of castle and gardens (2007)

27. GREAT CHALFIELD MANOR
    - Construction of display case Tropnell's Cartulary (2007)
    - Acquisition of furnishings & books original to house (2012-13)

28. GREENWAY
    - Cataloging and conservation of collections (2007)
    - General restoration and conservation (2007-09)

29. HADRIAN'S WALL
    - Purchase of East Bogg Farm (1990)

30. HAM HOUSE AND GARDEN
    - Conservation of 17th-century wall hangings in the Queen's Antechamber (2012)

31. HARDWICK HALL
    - Endowment (1986)
    - Restoration & conservation of Gideon tapestries (2007-10)

32. HATCHLANDS PARK
    - Maintenance of Cobb Collection of historic musical instruments (1994)
    - Restoration of piano (2004)

33. HICDOTE MANOR GARDEN
    - Restoration of gardens (2003, 2007-11)

34. HILL TOP
    - Conservation of needlepoint (1991)

35. IKWORTH
    - Recreation of dining room silver display (2010)

36. IGTHAM MOTE
    - Public access (1984)
    - Endowments for continued restoration and preservation (1985, 1996-7, 2008)

37. KEDLESTON HALL
    - Collections purchasing (1987-88)
    - General endowment (1987-88)
    - Building repair (1988)
    - State Bed (2012)

38. KINGSTON LACY
    - Purchase of pair of W.J. Bankes watercolors (2014)

39. KNIGHTSHAYES COURT
    - Purchase of chandelier (1982)
    - Plant conservation program (2006)
    - Horan Prize – Betsy Anderson (2007)
    - General endowment (2009)

40. KNOLE
    - Restoration of State Coach (1983)
    - General fund (2004)
    - Conservation of Ballroom (2012-14)

41. LAMB HOUSE
    - Recreation of Henry James' study (1985)
    - General fund (1987-88)

42. LANHYDROCK
    - Horan Prize – Megan Blumstein (2012)

43. LLYNOD Y ISAF FARM
    - Farm purchase in honor of the Royal Wedding (2011)
    - Restoration of public footpath (2011)

44. LYMNE PARK
    - Purchase of library furniture (1981)
    - Tapestry restoration (2000)

45. MONK'S HOUSE
    - Restoration of shed and greenhouse (1982)
    - Purchase of Virginia Woolf's writing table (1983)
    - General fund (1979, 1988)

46. MOUNT STEWART
    - Restoration of stained glass windows (2007)
    - Horan Prize – Stephanie Bryan (2012)
    - Garden Restoration (2013)
    - Purchase of library collection (2013-14)
    - Conservation West Wing bedrooms/bathrooms (2014)
    - Redecoration of items in West Suite (2014)

47. NOSTELL PRIORY STABLES
    - Conservation of stables (2008)
    - Purchase of Hongs Bowl (2006)

48. NUFFIELD COURT
    - General fund (2012)

49. NYMANS GARDEN
    - Horan Prize – Phyllis Odessey (2010)
    - Acquisition/shipping of Oliver Messel painting (2014)

50. OAKHURST COTTAGE
    - Structural repairs (1984)

51. PENRHYN CASTLE
    - Re-graining ceilings (1990)
    - Roof repair (1993)

52. PLAS NEWYDD
    - General fund (2009)

53. POWIS CASTLE
    - Clive Museum (1985-6)
    - General fund (1987)

54. QUARRY BANK MILL
    - Restoration of water wheel (1981)
    - Reconstruction of Apprentice House (1985)
    - General maintenance (2014)

55. SANDHAM MEMORIAL CHAPEL
    - Restoration of Stanley Spencer murals (1999)

56. SEATON DELAVAY HALL
    - Preservation of the house (2010, 2013, 2014)
    - General fund (2011-12, 2014)

57. SHEFFIELD PARK GARDEN
    - Restoration in honor of the Queen Mother (2001)

58. SHUGBOROUGH ESTATE
    - Restoration of the Tower of the Winds (1986)

59. SISSINGHURST CASTLE GARDEN
    - Garden conservation (2011)
    - Recruitment recognition (2014)

60. SNOWDONIA NATIONAL PARK
    - Land acquisition (1998)
    - Tree planting in honor of Fiona Reynolds (2012)

61. STANEN
    - Purchase of William Morris furniture, carpet and tapestries (1982)

62. STOWE LANDSCAPE GARDENS
    - Tree planting (1992)
    - Recreation of route from New Inn to Bellgate Dr. (2009)
    - Horan Prize – Henry Horatio Joyce (2010)

63. STUDLAND BEACH AND NATURE RESERVE
    - Conservation of dinosaur prints (1997)

64. TATTON PARK
    - Conservation of architectural drawings (2008)

65. TEXTILE CONSERVATION STUDIO
    - General fund (2010)
COUNTRYSIDE & COASTLINE

CORNWALL COASTAL WALK
Endowment (1996, 2009)
Landscape and coastal conservation (2011, 2013)

LAKE DISTRICT
Restoration of wall at Watendlath (2013)
Maintenance of traditional stonework (2014)
Land acquisition (2014)

NEPTUNE COASTLINE CAMPAIGN
Property acquisition (1986, 1984-86)

PEAK DISTRICT
Moorland restoration (2010)

WALES
Endowment to the Fund for Wales (1994, 2006)
Gardeners Training (2013)

EDUCATION & LIBRARIES

COUNTRY HOUSE LIBRARIES

MINERVA CAMPAIGN
Education (1996-98)

TY MAWR WYBRNANT
Restoration of furnishings (1987)
Reconstruction of stone footbridge (1987)
Farmhouse restoration (1988)

TYNTESFIELD
Restoration of house (2002)
General fund (2005)
Horan Prize – Christina Selvuk (2005)

WADDESDON MANOR
General fund (2000)
Grant for educational programs (2009)

WALLINGTON
Purchase of 5 late-18th-century chairs (1979)
Conservation of Stable Tower (1983)

WASHINGTON OLD HALL
Furniture acquisition (1976, 1980)
Display collection (1980)

WEST WYCOMBE
Repair of lead lions (1981)

WESTBURY COURT GARDEN
Repair of urn and pineapple piers (1984)

WHITE CLIFFS OF DOVER
Signage for footpaths (2012)
New footpath development and maintenance (2013)

WIMPOLE ESTATE
Restoration of South Grand Avenue (1981)
Purchase of 100 lime trees (1984)

WIMPOLE HOME FARM
Construction of goat shed (1984)
Support and Revenue

- Contributions: 37%
- Membership dues: 35%
- Special events, net of direct expenses: 19%
- Educational programs: 7%
- Royalty income: 2%

Expenses

- Grants and scholarships: 12%
- Membership: 25%
- Programs: 37%
- Management and general: 7%
- Fundraising: 19%
## Statement of Activities

**Year ended December 31, 2015**

### Revenue, Gains & Support

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Contributions</td>
<td>$1,037,563</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Membership dues</td>
<td>793,195</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fundraising benefit</td>
<td>232,469</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less: direct expenses</td>
<td>(70,586)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Educational programs</td>
<td>289,702</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Royalty income</td>
<td>38,155</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less: royalty expenses</td>
<td>(225)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net investment income</td>
<td>1,040</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increase in cash surrender value</td>
<td>1,203</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other income</td>
<td>19,656</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Revenue, Gains & Supports** $2,342,172

### Expenses

**Program services**

- Grants and scholarships: 644,092
- Membership: 480,854
- Programs: 634,831

**Total Program Services** $1,759,777

**Supporting Services**

- Management and general: 229,457
- Fundraising: 391,427

**Total Supporting Services** $620,884

**Total Expenses** $2,380,661

### Other Revenue and Expenses

- Value of charitable remainder trusts: (6,132)
- Contributions - non-operating: 199,700
- Contributions - permanently restricted: 62,758
- Net investment income: 36,302

**Total Other Revenue and Expenses** $292,628

**Total Increase (decrease) in net assets** $254,139

**Net Assets, beginning of year** 6,401,441

**Net Assets, End of Year** $6,655,580

## Statement of Financial Position

**As of December 31, 2015**

### Assets

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cash and cash equivalents</td>
<td>$508,865</td>
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<tr>
<td>Investments</td>
<td>5,052,053</td>
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<tr>
<td>Accounts receivable</td>
<td>11,659</td>
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<tr>
<td>Unconditional promises to give</td>
<td>61,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unrestricted</td>
<td>2,846,624</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charitable remainder trusts receivable</td>
<td>543,711</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prepaid expenses and other assets</td>
<td>25,633</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash surrender value</td>
<td>35,788</td>
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<tr>
<td>Security deposit</td>
<td>20,276</td>
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<tr>
<td>Property and equipment at cost, net of accumulated depreciation</td>
<td>122,309</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributed works of art</td>
<td>54,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Assets** $6,720,518

### Liabilities and Net assets

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Accounts payable and other current liabilities</td>
<td>$320,617</td>
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<tr>
<td>Deferred Revenue</td>
<td>10,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deferred Rent</td>
<td>22,877</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Liabilities** $64,938

**Net assets*†**

- Unrestricted Board Designated: 4,365,804
- Unrestricted Operating: 1,141,115
- Permanently Restricted: 108,858
- Temporarily Restricted: 1,039,803

**Total Net Assets** $6,655,580

**Total Liabilities and Net Assets** $6,720,518

*Board designated funds in support of the Foundation’s mission include:
- **Royal Oak Legacy Fund** supports the Foundation’s work with the National Trust of England, Wales & Northern Ireland.
- **Ervin-DesChamps Fund** supports urgent conservation and acquisition priorities at the National Trust.
- **Royal Oak Programs Fund** supports the Royal Oak’s national lecture and educational programs in the United States.
- **Royal Oak Fund** supports educational, research and public outreach priorities at the National Trust.
The National Trust is home to nearly 70,000 objects of furniture and frames. Much of this impressive collection has remained undocumented. In 2015 The Royal Oak Foundation, in partnership with the Paul Mellon Centre for Studies in British Arts, helped fund an exhaustive research and cataloguing project for all furniture objects across the National Trust’s collection, and thus making this renowned collection accessible worldwide.

Royal Oak’s appeal raised $165,000 to enhance catalogue entries and publish them via the National Trust Collections online catalogue, an invaluable tool for scholars, curators and collectors. The funds also supported research and photography for a definitive new book, “Furniture in National Trust Houses,” by the Trust’s Curator of Furniture, Christopher Rowell, to be published by the Yale University in 2019.
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$30,000+
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Mr. Ken Jennings
Ms. Charlotte Moss and
Mr. Barry Friedberg
Mr. and Mrs. John E. Nash
Ms. Diane A. Nixon
Pamela L. and Bruce Coleman Perkins
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Ms. Jenny Fairservis
Ms. Mary Jean Farrington
Ms. Suzanne Fedunok
Ms. Cheryl Fields
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Ms. Marta Gasoi and
Mr. Steven Patton
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Mr. Terence Roper and Mr. Robert Churchill

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Joyce and Jim Schnobrich
Mr. and Mrs. William J. Seifert
Ms. Meg Kennedy Shaw
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Mr. William G. Stout
Ms. Jan Sweeney and Mr. James B. Jacobs
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Ms. Sarah Tanenbaum
Ms. Elizabeth Terry
Mrs. George I. Treyz
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Dr. and Mrs. J. Giles Waines
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Ms. Cynthia W. Woods
Ms. Mary Alice Wotring
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Mr. William Lee Younger, Jr.
Dr. William F. Zahner
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The Royal Oak gratefully acknowledges the following donors for their contributions from January 1 - December 31, 2015 in support of all aspects of the Foundation’s mission.

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The money raised will go into the Ronald Lee Fleming Lectures Fund which will continue to accept donations.

*Includes pledges received that have been discounted (per IRS rate) for individuals 69 years of age or younger.
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On October 27th Royal Oak celebrated its 18th annual Timeless Design Gala by honoring Dr. Susan Weber, Founder and Director of Bard Graduate Center, and The Kips Bay Decorator Show House.

Lisa White, Chairman of the National Trust’s Arts Advisory Panel and Editor of the Furniture History Society Journal, presented the 2015 Heritage Award to Dr. Weber, expressing her deep appreciation for Dr. Weber’s support of the study of decorative arts and material culture. Charlotte Moss, a past recipient of the Timeless Design Award and participant in the Kips Bay Decorator Show House, presented the 2015 Timeless Design Award to James Druckman, Chairman of the Kips Bay Boys & Girls Club, in recognition of the Show House’s dedication to groundbreaking design and civic philanthropy.

Royal Oak’s Gala proceeds support its conservation and education mission as the American partner of the National Trust of England, Wales and Northern Ireland.
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