

National Portrait Gallery
St Martin's Place
London WC2H 0HE

Recorded Information
020 7312 2463

Switch Board
020 7306 0055

www.npg.org.uk

The Heinz Archive & Library is located in the Gallery's administration offices on Orange Street.

Heinz Archive & Library
020 7321 6617

Appointments
archive@npg.org.uk

Enquiries
archiveenquiry@npg.org.uk

The Heinz Archive & Library is open by appointment only
Tuesday – Friday, 10.00 – 17.00

Closed 24 December – 1 January inclusive and public bank holidays.

All visitors and those attending consultation sessions on Wednesday afternoons should report to the Reception Desk.

Gallery opening times

Daily 10.00 – 18.00
Closure commences at 17.50

Thursdays and Fridays until 21.00
Closure commences at 20.50



Public transport 
London Underground Leicester Square
or Charing Cross
Buses to Trafalgar Square
Mainline Services Charing Cross

Access 020 7306 0055 
All visitor facilities are suitable for wheelchair access.
The Public Study Room is fitted with two induction loops, including one portable facility.
On request a leaflet is available in large print, email and Braille formats.
Magnifying sheets and torches are provided in the Public Study Room.
Request an Access leaflet for more information.

FRONT COVER **Jonathan Tyers and his family (detail)**,
by Francis Hayman, 1740.
All images National Portrait Gallery, London
and © National Portrait Gallery, London.

National Portrait Gallery

Face to face with your family history



Bring your family history to life using the National Portrait Gallery's unique collection of portraits and archive material

Family history at the National Portrait Gallery

The National Portrait Gallery was founded in 1856, with the aim of bringing history to life by collecting portraits of eminent British men and women and displaying them for the Nation. The Heinz Archive and Library is the first point of call for anyone researching British portraits. It also contains the historical records of the Gallery itself.

Search for a portrait of your ancestor

The Heinz Archive and Library holds over 600,000 images of portraits of famous and ordinary people held in public and private collections across the world. These are arranged alphabetically by family name and are easy to browse in the Archive & Library.

You can search our Reference Collection of over 80,000 original portrait prints and drawings, mostly of eminent people, dating from the 16th century to the present day. The Gallery also has more than 220,000 original photographic portraits. They date from the 1840s onwards and include the collections of several important photographic studios.

To make an appointment please contact us by emailing archive@npg.org.uk or calling 020 7321 6617

Have a picture of your ancestor and want more information?

If you have a portrait but do not know the sitter, date or artist, or just want more information, send a photograph and any information you have about it to us, either by post or to archiveenquiry@npg.org.uk. Please note that we cannot give valuations.

Our collected archives also include the sitter books, studio ledgers and correspondence of various portrait artists, including G.F. Watts, Sir William Beechey and Philip Alexius de László, and photographers, such as Madame Yevonde and Dorothy Wilding.

If you think your ancestor ever sat for a portrait or formal studio photograph these records might help you to find out more.



The Ballie Family (detail) after Thomas Gainsborough, c.1784



Hannah Idowu, Dideolu Awolowo and Obafemi Awolowo with their family by Bassano, 1972

Need to check reference sources at the Heinz Archive and Library?

Our library includes a wealth of reference books for family historians, including biographical dictionaries, social, professional and academic lists, and dictionaries of artists. We also provide onsite access to online resources such as the Oxford Dictionary of National Biography.

Want a high quality reproduction of a portrait?

Over 60,000 images from our collections are available to purchase as inexpensive digital prints from our award-winning Portrait Printer service. Starting from under £10, prints can be bought in a range of sizes and finishes including un-stretched A3 canvas.

Think your ancestor may have worked at the National Portrait Gallery?

We have records relating to Gallery staff from 1856 to the present day including personnel files and photographs of warding staff c. 1896-1960. We also have information about art students and amateur artists who made their own copies of Gallery portraits.

Further Information

Prints, drawings and photographs can be found and viewed online using the 'Search the Collection' facility at www.npg.org.uk/collections

You can search our archive catalogue online at archivecatalogue.npg.org.uk. You can check the catalogue online at librarycatalogue.npg.org.uk

Order prints by choosing your favourite portrait from the touch-screen in the main Gallery shop or order online. Bespoke prints and collectors reproductions made to your specification are also available at www.npg.org.uk/shop

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If you cannot find what you are looking for, please contact us at archiveenquiry@npg.org.uk