

Livingstone Online

Transcriptions of Livingstone Materials in the RSA (3 February 2008)

This release sees the publication of two letters held in the Archive of the [RSA](#) (Royal Society for the Encouragement of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce). The RSA was established in 1754 by William Shipley, a drawing master from Northampton, as the Society for the Encouragement of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce. Today it is a registered charity “encouraging and supporting innovation and creativity throughout society”. It undertakes varied research projects and hosts a lecture series, and has 27,000 Fellows.

The RSA Archive preserves and makes available to researchers the historical records of the Society's activities and administration. It holds two letters from David Livingstone both addressed to Peter Le Neve Foster (1809–1879), a barrister and Secretary of the Society from 1853 until his death. They were written when Livingstone had returned to Britain following the 'Zambesi Expedition' and was staying at Newstead Abbey. In these letters of [December 1864](#) and [February 1865](#), he requests information on the ivory market with reference to a lecture by Richard Owen delivered to the Society in 1857.

We are very grateful to Mr Rob Baker, Archivist and Records Manager at the RSA for his help and permission to publish the letters.



The RSA