

Rothschild family

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Jump to: [navigation](#), [search](#)

"House of Rothschild" redirects here. For the film, see [The House of Rothschild](#).

For the German surname "Rothschild", see [Rothschild \(disambiguation\)](#).

The Rothschild family



Current region

Monaco, Luxembourg, France, Austria, Switzerland, Liechtenstein, United Kingdom, United States, [Cayman Islands](#)

Information

Place of origin

[Frankfurt am Main](#)



A Rothschild house, [Waddesdon Manor](#) in [Waddesdon](#), Buckinghamshire, donated to charity by the family in 1957.





A house formerly belonging to the Viennese family (Schillersdorf Palace).



[Schloss Hinterleiten](#), one of the many palaces built by the Austrian Rothschild dynasty. Put into a trust fund charity by the family in 1905.



Beatrice de Rothschild's villa on the [Côte d'Azur](#), France



[Château de Montvillargenne](#). A Rothschild family house in [Picardy, France](#).

The **Rothschild family** (pron.: [/ˈrɒθs.tʃaɪld/](#), German: [\[ˈʁo:t.ʃɪlt\]](#), French: [\[ʁot.ʃild\]](#), Italian: [\[ˈrɔtʃild\]](#)), or more simply as **the Rothschilds**, is a family that established a European [banking dynasty](#) starting in the late 18th century that even came to surpass leading contemporary banking families such as [Baring](#) and [Berenberg](#). The family originates in [Frankfurt](#). Five lines of [the Austrian branch of the family](#) have been elevated to [Austrian nobility](#), being given hereditary titles of [Barons](#) of the [Habsburg](#) Empire by [Emperor Francis II](#) in 1816. Another line, of [the British branch of the family](#), was elevated to [British nobility](#) at the request of [Queen Victoria](#), being given a hereditary title of [Baron](#).^{[1][2]}

During the 1800s, when it was at its height, the Rothschild family is believed to have possessed by far the largest private [fortune](#) in the world as well as by far the largest fortune in [modern](#)

[world](#) history.^{[2][3][4]} The family's wealth is believed to have subsequently declined, as it was divided amongst hundreds of descendants.^[5] Today, Rothschild [businesses](#) are on a far smaller scale than they were throughout the 19th century, although they encompass a diverse range of fields, including: mining, banks, energy, mixed farming, wine, and charities.^{[6][7]}

Contents

- [1 Family overview](#)
- [2 The Napoleonic Wars](#)
- [3 International high finance](#)
- [4 English branch](#)
- [5 French branches](#)
- [6 Austrian branch](#)
- [7 Naples branch](#)
- [8 Jewish identity and positions on Zionism](#)
- [9 Modern business](#)
 - [9.1 The Rothschild Group](#)
 - [9.2 Edmond de Rothschild Group](#)
 - [9.3 RIT Capital Partners](#)
 - [9.4 Investment](#)
 - [9.5 Wine](#)
 - [9.6 Art and charity](#)
- [10 Cultural references](#)
- [11 Conspiracy theories](#)
- [12 Prominent descendants of Mayer Amschel Rothschild](#)
- [13 See also](#)
- [14 Notes](#)
- [15 Further reading](#)
 - [15.1 Documentary film](#)
- [16 External links](#)

Family overview

The first member of the family who was known to use the name "Rothschild" was Izaak Elchanan Rothschild, born in 1577. The name means "Red Shield" in old German. The family's ascent to international prominence began in 1744, with the birth of [Mayer Amschel Rothschild](#) in [Frankfurt am Main](#), Germany. He was the son of [Amschel Moses Rothschild](#), (born circa 1710),^[8] a [money changer](#) who had traded with the [Prince of Hesse](#). Born in the [ghetto](#) (called "[Judengasse](#)" or Jewish-alley) of [Frankfurt](#), Mayer developed a finance house and spread his empire by installing each of his five sons in the five main European financial centres to conduct [business](#). The Rothschild [coat of arms](#) contains a clenched fist with five arrows symbolizing the five dynasties established by the five sons of Mayer Rothschild, in a reference to [Psalm 127](#): "Like arrows in the hands of a warrior, so are the children of one's youth." The family motto appears below the shield: *Concordia, Integritas, Industria* (Unity, Integrity, Industry).^[9]

[Paul Johnson](#) writes "[T]he Rothschilds are elusive. There is no book about them that is both revealing and accurate. Libraries of nonsense have been written about them... A woman who planned to write a book entitled *Lies about the Rothschilds* abandoned it, saying: 'It was relatively easy to spot the lies, but it proved impossible to find out the truth'". He writes that, unlike the [court Jews](#) of earlier centuries, who had financed and managed European noble houses, but often lost their wealth through violence or expropriation, the new kind of international bank created by the Rothschilds was impervious to local attacks. Their assets were held in financial instruments, circulating through the world as stocks, bonds and debts. Changes made by the Rothschilds allowed them to insulate their property from local violence: "Henceforth their real wealth was beyond the reach of the mob, almost beyond the reach of greedy monarchs."^[10] Johnson argued that their fortune was generated to the greatest extent by [Nathan Mayer Rothschild](#) in London; however more recent research by [Niall Ferguson](#) indicates that greater and equal profits also were realised by the other Rothschild dynasties, including [James Mayer de Rothschild](#) in Paris, Carl von Rothschild in Naples and Amschel Mayer in Frankfurt.^[11]

Another essential part of Mayer Rothschild's strategy for future success was to keep control of their banks in family hands, allowing them to maintain full secrecy about the size of their fortunes. About 1906, the [Jewish Encyclopedia](#) noted: "The practice initiated by the Rothschilds of having several brothers of a firm establish branches in the different financial centers was followed by other Jewish financiers, like the [Bischoffsheims](#), [Pereires](#), [Seligmans](#), [Lazards](#), and others, and these financiers by their integrity and financial skill obtained credit not alone with their Jewish confrères, but with the banking fraternity in general. By this means Jewish financiers obtained an increasing share of international finance during the middle and last quarter of the nineteenth century. The head of the whole group was the Rothschild family...". It also states: "Of more recent years, non-Jewish financiers have learned the same cosmopolitan method, and, on the whole, the control is now rather less than more in Jewish hands than formerly."^[12]

Mayer Rothschild successfully kept the fortune in the family with carefully [arranged marriages](#), often between first or second [cousins](#) (similar to [royal intermarriage](#)). By the late 19th century, however, almost all Rothschilds had started to marry outside the family, usually into the aristocracy or other financial dynasties.^[13] His sons were:

- [Amschel Mayer Rothschild](#) (1773–1855): [Frankfurt](#), died childless, passed to sons of Salomon and Calmann
- [Salomon Mayer Rothschild](#) (1774–1855): [Vienna](#)
- [Nathan Mayer Rothschild](#) (1777–1836): [London](#)
- [Calmann Mayer Rothschild](#) (1788–1855): [Naples](#)
- [Jakob Mayer Rothschild](#) (1792–1868): [Paris](#)

The German family name "Rothschild" is pronounced approximately ROT-shillt in German, not wroth(s)-child as it is in English. The surname "Rothschild" is common in Germany, and the vast majority of the bearers of the name are unrelated to this family. Moreover, the German surnames "Rothschild" and "Rothchild" are not related to the Protestant surname "Rothchilds" from the United Kingdom.

Families by country:

- [Rothschild banking family of Germany](#)
- [Rothschild banking family of Austria](#)
- [Rothschild banking family of England](#)
- [Rothschild banking family of Naples](#)
- [Rothschild banking family of France](#)

The Napoleonic Wars



A landmark Rothschild Palace in [Frankfurt, Germany](#), Villa Günthersburg (photographed 1855)

The Rothschilds already possessed a significant fortune before the start of [Napoleonic Wars](#) (1803–1815), and the family had gained preeminence in the [bullion](#) trade by this time.^[14] From London in 1813 to 1815, [Nathan Mayer Rothschild](#) was instrumental in almost single-handedly financing the British war effort, organizing the shipment of bullion to the [Duke of Wellington](#)'s armies across Europe, as well as arranging the payment of British financial subsidies to their continental allies. In 1815 alone, the Rothschilds provided £9.8 million (in 1815 currency, about £566 million today when using the retail price index, and £6.58 billion when using average earnings) in subsidy loans to Britain's continental allies.^[15]



One of the smaller city houses, Vienna. A collection of far larger Viennese palaces known as [Palais Rothschild](#) were torn down during the Second World War.

The brothers helped coordinate Rothschild activities across the continent, and the family developed a network of agents, shippers, and couriers to transport gold across war-torn Europe.

The family network was also to provide Nathan Rothschild time and again with political and financial information ahead of his peers, giving him an advantage in the markets and rendering the house of Rothschild still more invaluable to the British government.

In one instance, the family network enabled Nathan to receive in London the news of Wellington's victory at the [Battle of Waterloo](#) a full day ahead of the government's official messengers.^[14] Rothschild's first concern on this occasion was to the potential financial advantage on the market which the knowledge would have given him; he and his courier did not immediately take the news to the government.^[14] It was then repeated in later popular accounts, such as that of [Morton](#).^{[16][17]} The basis for the Rothschild's most famously profitable move was made after the news of British victory had been made public. Nathan Rothschild calculated that the future reduction in government borrowing brought about by the peace would create a bounce in British government bonds after a two year stabilisation, which would finalise the post-war restructuring of the domestic economy.^{[15][16][17]} In what has been described as one of the most audacious moves in financial history, Nathan immediately bought up the government bond market, for what at the time seemed an excessively high price, before waiting two years, then selling the bonds on the crest of short bounce in the market in 1817 for a 40% profit. Given the sheer power of leverage the Rothschild family had at their disposal, this profit was an enormous sum.^[15]

Nathan Mayer Rothschild initially started his business in Manchester England in 1806, and gradually moved it to London, where in 1809 he acquired the location at 2 New Court in St. Swithin's Lane, City of London,^[14] where it operates today; he established [N. M. Rothschild and Sons](#) in 1811. In 1818, he arranged a £5 million loan to the [Prussian](#) government, and the issuing of [bonds](#) for government [loans](#) formed a mainstay of his bank's business. He gained a position of such power in the [City of London](#) that by 1825–6 he was able to supply enough coin to the [Bank of England](#) to enable it to avert a [market liquidity](#) crisis.

International high finance

"I have not the nerve for his operations. They are well-planned, with great cleverness and adroitness in execution – but he is in money and funds what Napoleon was in war." —[Baron Baring](#) on Nathan Rothschild^[18]



[Mentmore Towers](#), one of the many Rothschild mansions built in [Buckinghamshire](#)



[Rhodesia](#) was the location of [Rio Tinto](#)'s first major international expansion of mining activities.

In 1816, four of the brothers were each elevated to the hereditary nobility by Austrian Emperor [Francis I](#); moreover, a fifth brother, Nathan, was elevated in 1818. All of them were granted the Austrian title of [baron](#) or [Freiherr](#) on 29 September 1822. As such, some members of the family used "[de](#)" or "[von](#)" Rothschild to acknowledge the grant of nobility. Barons ([Knights](#)) who received their title from the Holy Roman Emperor are known as Barons of the **Holy Roman Empire**, Reichsfreiherr, although the title is sometimes shortened to Freiherr.

In 1847, [Sir Anthony de Rothschild](#) was made a hereditary [baronet](#) of the United Kingdom. In 1885, [Nathan Mayer Rothschild II](#) (1840–1915) of the London branch of the family, was granted the [hereditary peerage](#) title [Baron Rothschild](#) in the [Peerage of the United Kingdom](#).



The Frankfurt terminus of the Taunus railroad, financed by the Rothschilds. Opened in 1840, it was one of Germany's first railroads.

Rothschild family banking businesses pioneered international high finance during the industrialization of Europe and were instrumental in supporting railway systems across the world and in complex government financing for projects such as the [Suez Canal](#). During the 19th century, the family bought up a large proportion of the property in [Mayfair](#), London.

Major 19th century businesses founded with Rothschild family capital include:

- Alliance Assurance (1824) (now [Royal & SunAlliance](#));
- [Chemin de Fer du Nord](#) (1845)
- [The Rio Tinto mining company](#) (1873) (From the 1880s onwards, the Rothschilds had full control of Rio Tinto)^[19]
- [Eramet](#) (1880)
- [Imerys](#) (1880)
- [De Beers](#) (1888)

The family funded [Cecil Rhodes](#) in the creation of the African colony of [Rhodesia](#). From the late 1880s onwards, the family took over control of the Rio Tinto mining company.

The Japanese government approached the London and Paris families for funding during the [Russo-Japanese War](#). The London consortium's issue of Japanese [war bonds](#) would total £11.5 million (at 1907 currency rates; £902 million in 2012 currency terms).^[20]

The name of Rothschild became synonymous with extravagance and great wealth, and the family was renowned for its art collecting, for its palaces, as well as for its philanthropy. By the end of the century, the family owned, or had built, at the lowest estimates, over 41 palaces, of a scale and luxury perhaps unparalleled even by the richest royal families.^[15] The soon to be British Prime Minister [Lloyd George](#) claimed, in 1909, that [Lord Nathan Rothschild](#) was the most powerful man in Britain.^{[21][21]}

In 1901, with no male heir, the Frankfurt House closed its doors after more than a century in business. It was not until 1989 that the family returned, when [N M Rothschild & Sons](#), the British investment arm, plus Bank Rothschild AG, the Swiss branch, set up a representative banking office in Frankfurt.

English branch

Main article: [Rothschild banking family of England](#)

The Rothschild banking family of England was founded in 1798 by [Nathan Mayer Rothschild](#) (born 1777).

French branches

Main article: [Rothschild banking family of France](#)



[Château de Ferrières](#), the largest chateau of the 19th century, was built in 1854. It is set on a 30 km² (12 sq mi) estate. It was donated to charity by the family in 1975.

There are two branches of the family connected to France.

The first was son [James Mayer de Rothschild](#) (1792–1868), known as "James", who established [de Rothschild Frères](#) in Paris. Following the Napoleonic Wars, he played a major role in financing the construction of railroads and the mining business that helped make France an industrial power. James' sons [Gustave de Rothschild](#) and [Alphonse James de Rothschild](#) continued the banking tradition and was the guarantor of the 5 billion in reparations^[22] demanded by the occupying [Prussian](#) army in the 1870s [Franco-Prussian War](#).^[citation needed] By 1980, the Paris business employed about 2,000 people and had an annual turnover of 26 billion francs (\$5 billion in the currency rates of 1980).^[23]

But then the Paris business suffered a near death blow in 1982 when the socialist government of [François Mitterrand](#) nationalised and renamed it [Compagnie Européenne de Banque](#).^[citation needed] Baron [David de Rothschild](#), then 39, decided to stay and rebuild, creating a new entity [Rothschild & Cie Banque](#) with just three employees and \$1 million in capital. Today the Paris operation has 22 partners and accounts for a significant part of the global business.

Ensuing generations of the Paris Rothschild family remained involved in the family business, becoming a major force in international investment banking. The Rothschilds have since led the [Thomson Financial League Tables](#) in Investment Banking Merger and Acquisition deals in the UK, France, and Italy.

[James Mayer de Rothschild](#)'s other son, [Edmond James de Rothschild](#) (1845–1934) was very much engaged in philanthropy and the arts, and was a leading proponent of [Zionism](#). His grandson, Baron [Edmond Adolphe de Rothschild](#), founded in 1953 the [LCF Rothschild Group](#), a private bank. Since 1997, Baron [Benjamin de Rothschild](#) chairs the group. The group has €100bn of assets in 2008 and owns many wine properties in France ([Château Clarke](#), [Château des Laurets](#)), in Australia or in South Africa. In 1961, the 35 year old [Edmond Adolphe de Rothschild](#) purchased the company [Club Med](#), after he had visited a resort and enjoyed his stay.^{[24][25]} His interest in Club Med was sold off by the 1990s. In 1973, he bought out the [Bank of California](#), selling his interests in 1984 before it was sold to [Mitsubishi Bank](#) in 1985.

"No kings could afford this! It could only belong to a Rothschild."

— [Wilhelm I](#), Emperor of Germany, on visiting [Château de Ferrières](#).^[26]



[Château de la Muette](#)

A chateau of Baron Henri James de Rothschild, Paris

The second French branch was founded by [Nathaniel de Rothschild](#) (1812–1870). Born in London he was the fourth child of the founder of the British branch of the family, [Nathan Mayer Rothschild](#) (1777–1836). In 1850 Nathaniel Rothschild moved to Paris, ostensibly to work with his uncle James Mayer Rothschild. However, in 1853 Nathaniel acquired Château Brane Mouton, a vineyard in [Pauillac](#) in the [Gironde département](#). Nathaniel Rothschild renamed the estate, [Château Mouton Rothschild](#) and it would become one of the best known labels in the world. In 1868, Nathaniel's uncle, James Mayer de Rothschild acquired the neighboring [Chateau Lafite](#) vineyard.

Austrian branch

Main article: [Rothschild banking family of Austria](#)



[Grüneburgschlößchen](#), [Frankfurt](#), 1845, one of the Rothschilds' many German garden-mansions. This particular estate was destroyed in an allied bombing raid, 1944.

In [Vienna](#), [Salomon Mayer Rothschild](#) established a bank in the 1820s and the Austrian family had vast wealth and position.^[27] The crash of 1929 brought problems, and [Baron Louis von Rothschild](#) attempted to shore up the [Creditanstalt](#), Austria's largest bank, to prevent its collapse. Nevertheless, during [World War II](#) they had to surrender their bank to the Nazis and flee the country. Their [Rothschild palaces](#), a collection of vast palaces in Vienna built and owned by the family, were confiscated, plundered and destroyed by the Nazis. The palaces were famous for their sheer size, and for their huge collections of paintings, [armour](#), [tapestries](#), [statues](#) (some of which were restituted to the Rothschilds by the Austrian government in 1999). All family members escaped the Holocaust, some of them moving to the United States, and only returning to Europe after the war. In 1999, the government of Austria agreed to return to the Rothschild family some 250 art treasures looted by the Nazis and absorbed into state museums after the war.^[*citation needed*]

Naples branch



 [Villa Pignatelli](#), Naples, with views onto Mount Vesuvius
Main article: [Rothschild banking family of Naples](#)

The C M de Rothschild & Figli bank arranged substantial loans to the Papal States and to various Kings of Naples plus the Duchy of Parma and the Grand Duchy of Tuscany. However, in the 1830s, Naples followed Spain with a gradual shift away from conventional bond issues that began to affect the bank's growth and profitability. The [Unification of Italy](#) in 1861, with the ensuing decline of the Italian aristocracy who had been the Rothschild's primary clients, eventually brought about the closure of their Naples bank, due to declining forecasts for long-term business sustainability. However, in the early 19th century, the Rothschild family of Naples built up close relations with the [Vatican Bank](#), and the association between the family and the Vatican continued into the 20th century. In 1832, when [Pope Gregory XVI](#) was seen meeting Carl von Rothschild, observers were shocked that Rothschild was not required to kiss the Pope's feet, as was then required for all other visitors to the Pope, including monarchs.^[28]

“ Rothschilds... are the guardians of the papal treasure.”
-[Encyclopedia Judaica](#), 1901–1906, Vol. 2, p.497

Jewish identity and positions on Zionism

Jewish solidarity in the family was not homogeneous. Some Rothschilds were supporters of [Zionism](#), while other members of the family opposed the creation of the Jewish state. Lord [Victor Rothschild](#) was against granting asylum or even help to Jewish refugees during the Holocaust.^[22] In 1917 [Walter Rothschild, 2nd Baron Rothschild](#) was the addressee of the [Balfour Declaration](#) to the [Zionist Federation](#),^[29] which committed the British government to the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people.

After the death of [James Jacob de Rothschild](#) in 1868, [Alphonse Rothschild](#), his eldest son, who took over the management of the family bank, was the most active in support for [Eretz Israel](#).^[30] The Rothschild family archives show that during the 1870s the family contributed nearly 500,000 francs per year on behalf of Eastern Jewry to the [Alliance Israélite Universelle](#).^[31] Baron [Edmond James de Rothschild](#), [James Jacob de Rothschild's](#) youngest son was a patron of the first settlement in Palestine at [Rishon-LeZion](#), and bought from Ottoman landlords parts of the land which now makes up present-day Israel. In 1924, he established the Palestine Jewish

Colonization Association (PICA), which acquired more than 125,000 acres (50,586 ha) of land and set up business ventures.^[32] In [Tel Aviv](#), he has a road, [Rothschild Boulevard](#), named after him as well as various localities throughout Israel which he assisted in founding including [Metulla](#), [Zikhron Ya'akov](#), Rishon Lezion, and [Rosh Pina](#). A park in [Boulogne-Billancourt](#), Paris, the *Parc Edmond de Rothschild* (Edmond de Rothschild Park) is also named after its founder.^[33] The Rothschilds also played a significant part in the funding of Israel's governmental infrastructure. [James A. de Rothschild](#) financed the [Knesset](#) building as a gift to the State of Israel^[34] and the [Supreme Court of Israel](#) building was donated to Israel by [Dorothy de Rothschild](#).^[35] Outside the President's Chamber is displayed the letter Mrs. Rothschild wrote to the then current Prime Minister [Shimon Peres](#) expressing her intention to donate a new building for the Supreme Court.^[36]

Interviewed by [Haaretz](#) in 2010, [Baron Benjamin Rothschild](#), a Swiss-based member of the banking family, said that he supported the peace process: "I understand that it is a complicated business, mainly because of the fanatics and extremists – and I am talking about both sides. I think you have fanatics in Israel... In general I am not in contact with politicians. I spoke once with Netanyahu. I met once with an Israeli finance minister, but the less I mingle with politicians the better I feel." On the subject of religious identity, he stated that he held an open-minded attitude: "We do business with all kinds of countries, including Arab countries ... My oldest daughter's boyfriend is a Saudi. He is a great guy and if she will want to marry him, she can."^[37]

Modern business



The family has fully restored [Spencer House](#), [St. James's Park](#), London

Since the late-19th century, the family has taken a low-key public profile, donating many famous estates, as well as vast quantities of art, to charity, and generally eschewing conspicuous displays of wealth. Today, Rothschild businesses are on a smaller scale than they were throughout the 19th century, although they encompass a diverse range of fields, including: banking, asset management, financial advice, wine, and charities.^{[6][7]}

The Rothschild Group

Since 2003, a group of Rothschild banks have been controlled by *Rothschild Continuation Holdings*, a Swiss-registered holding company (under the chairmanship of [Baron David René de Rothschild](#)). Rothschild Continuation Holdings is in turn controlled by *Concordia BV*, a Dutch-registered master holding company. Concordia BV is managed by [Paris Orléans S.A.](#), a French-

registered holding company.^[38] Paris Orléans S.A. is ultimately controlled by *Rothschild Concordia SAS*, a Rothschild's family holding company.^[39] [Rothschild & Cie Banque](#) controls Rothschild banking businesses in France and continental Europe, while Rothschild's Continuation Holdings AG controls a number of Rothschild banks elsewhere, including [N M Rothschild & Sons](#) in London. Twenty percent of Rothschild Continuation Holdings AG was sold in 2005 to Jardine Strategic, which is a subsidiary of [Jardine, Matheson & Co.](#) of Hong Kong. In November 2008, [Rabobank](#) Group, the leading investment and private bank in the Netherlands, acquired 7.5% of Rothschild Continuation Holdings AG, and Rabobank and Rothschild entered into a co-operation agreement in the fields of [Mergers and Acquisitions](#) (M&A) advisory and Equity Capital Markets advisory in the food and agribusiness sectors.^[40] It was believed that the move was intended to help Rothschild Continuation Holdings AG gain access to a wider capital pool, enlarging its presence in East Asian markets.^[41]

[Paris Orléans S.A.](#) is a financial holding company listed on [Euronext](#) Paris and controlled by the French and English branch of the Rothschild family. Paris Orléans is the flagship of the Rothschild banking Group and controls the Rothschild Group's banking activities including [N M Rothschild & Sons](#) and [Rothschild & Cie Banque](#). It has over 2000 employees. Directors of the company include Eric de Rothschild, Robert de Rothschild, and Count Philippe de Nicolay.^[42]

[N M Rothschild & Sons](#), English investment bank does most of its business as a mergers and acquisitions advisor. In 2004, the investment bank withdrew from the gold market, a commodity the Rothschild bankers had traded in for two centuries.^[22] In 2006, it ranked second in UK M&A with deals totalling \$104.9 billion.^[43] In 2006, it publicly recorded a pre-tax annual profit of £83.2 million with assets of £5.5 billion.^[44]

Today, [the price of gold is still fixed](#) twice a day, at 10.30 am and 3.00 pm, at the premises of N M Rothschild by the world's main Bullion Houses - Deutsche Bank, HSBC, [ScotiaMocatta](#) and Société Générale. Informally, the gold fixing provides a recognized rate that is used as a benchmark for pricing the majority of gold products and derivatives throughout the world's markets. Every day at 10.30 and 15.00 local time, five representatives of investment banks meet in a small room at Rothschild's London headquarters on St Swithin's Lane. In the centre is the chairperson, who is by tradition appointed by the Rothschild bank, although the bank itself has largely withdrawn from the trading.^[45]

Edmond de Rothschild Group



The Large Mansion at [Gunnersbury Park](#), London

In 1953, one Swiss member of the family, [Edmond Adolphe de Rothschild](#) (1926–1997), founded the LCF Rothschild Group (now [Edmond de Rothschild Group](#)), based in [Geneva](#), with €100 billion in assets, which today extends to 15 countries across the world. Although this Group is primarily a financial entity, specialising in asset management and private banking, its activities also cover mixed farming, luxury hotels, and [yacht racing](#). Edmond de Rothschild Group's committee is currently being chaired by [Benjamin de Rothschild](#), Baron Edmond's son.

In late 2010, [Baron Benjamin Rothschild](#) said that the family had been unaffected by the [financial crisis of 2007–2010](#), due to their conservative business practices: "We came through it well, because our investment managers did not want to put money into crazy things." He added that the Rothschilds were still a small-scale, traditional family business, and took greater care over their clients' investments than American companies, adding: "The client knows we will not speculate with his money".^{[37][46]}

Edmond de Rothschild group includes these companies.

- [Banque privée Edmond de Rothschild](#) - Swiss private banking firm
- [Compagnie Financière Edmond de Rothschild](#) - French private bank
- La Compagnie Benjamin de Rothschild
- Cogifrance - Real estate
- Compagnie Vinicole Baron Edmond de Rothschild - Wine making firm

RIT Capital Partners

In 1980, [Jacob Rothschild, 4th Baron Rothschild](#) resigned from N M Rothschild & Sons and took independent control of Rothschild Investment Trust (now [RIT Capital Partners](#), one of the UK's largest investment trusts), which has reported assets of \$3.4 billion in 2008.^[47] It is listed on [London Stock Exchange](#). Lord Rothschild is also one of the major investors behind [BullionVault](#), a gold trading platform.^[48]

RIT Capital stores a significant proportion of its assets in the form of [physical gold](#). Other assets include oil and energy-related investments.^[49]

Investment

In 1991, [Jacob Rothschild, 4th Baron Rothschild](#) founded J. Rothschild Assurance Group (now [St. James's Place](#)) with [Sir Mark Weinberg](#). It is also listed on [London Stock Exchange](#).^[50]

In 2001, the Rothschild mansion located at 18 Kensington Palace Gardens, London, was on sale for £85 million, at that time (2001) the most expensive residential property ever to go on sale in the world. It was built in marble, at 9,000sq ft, with underground parking for 20 cars.^[51]

In December 2009, [Jacob Rothschild, 4th Baron Rothschild](#) invested \$200 million of his own money in a [North Sea oil](#) company.^[52]

In January 2010, [Nathaniel Philip Rothschild](#) bought a substantial share of the [Glencore](#) mining and oil company's market capitalization. He is also buying a large share of the aluminium mining company [United Company RUSAL](#).^[53]

During the 19th century, the Rothschilds controlled the [Rio Tinto mining corporation](#), and to this day, Rothschild and Rio Tinto maintain a close business relationship.

In 2012, RIT Capital Partners announced that it is to buy a 37 per cent stake in a [Rockefeller family](#) wealth advisory and asset management group. The deal, focusing on asset-management, marks the first time that these two well-known families have collaborated.^[54] Commenting on the deal, David Rockefeller, a current [patriarch](#) of [Rockefeller family](#), said: "The connection between our two families remains very strong."^[55]

Wine



[Château Lafite Rothschild](#), Bordeaux. Alongside [Château Mouton Rothschild](#), it is perhaps the most prestigious of the many Rothschild wine estates

The Rothschild family has been in the winemaking industry for 150 years.^[56] In 1853 [Nathaniel de Rothschild](#) purchased [Château Brane-Mouton](#) and renamed it [Château Mouton Rothschild](#). In 1868, [James Mayer de Rothschild](#) purchased the neighbouring Château Lafite and renamed it [Château Lafite Rothschild](#).

Today Rothschild family owns many wine estates: their estates in France include [Château Clarke](#), [Château Clerc-Milon](#), [Château d'Armailhac](#), [Château Duhart-Milon](#), [Château Lafite Rothschild](#), Château de Laversine, [Château des Laurets](#), [Château L'Évangile](#), Château Malmaison, Château de Montvillargenne, [Château Mouton Rothschild](#), [Château de la Muette](#), [Château Rieussec](#), Château Rothschild d'Armainvilliers. They also own wine estates across North America, South America, South Africa and Australia.

Especially, [Château Mouton Rothschild](#) and [Château Lafite Rothschild](#) are classified as **Premier Cru Classé** -- *i.e.*, [First Growth](#), the status referring to a classification of wines primarily from the Bordeaux region of France.

Art and charity

The family once had one of the largest private art collections in the world, and a significant proportion of the art in the world's public museums are Rothschild donations which were sometimes, in the family tradition of discretion, donated anonymously.^[57]

Cultural references



The Neo-Gothic [Castle de Haar](#)

In the words of the *Daily Telegraph*: "This multinational banking family is a byword for wealth, power – and discretion... The Rothschild name has become synonymous with money and power to a degree that perhaps no other family has ever matched."^[58]



The Neo-Gothic [Rothschildschloss](#), Waidhofen

The story of the Rothschild family has been featured in a number of films. The 1934 Hollywood film titled *The House of Rothschild*, starring [George Arliss](#) and [Loretta Young](#), recounted the life of [Mayer Amschel Rothschild](#). Excerpts from this film were incorporated into the Nazi propaganda film *Der ewige Jude* (*The Eternal Jew*) without the permission of the copyright holder. Another Nazi film *Die Rothschilds* (also called *Aktien auf Waterloo*) was directed by [Erich Waschneck](#) in 1940. A Broadway musical entitled *The Rothschilds*, covering the history of the family up to 1818, was nominated for a [Tony Award](#) in 1971. [Nathaniel Mayer \("Natty"\) Rothschild, 1st Baron Rothschild](#) appears as a minor character in the historical-mystery novel *Stone's Fall*, by [Iain Pears](#). The Rothschild name is mentioned by [Aldous Huxley](#) in his novel *Brave New World*, among many names of historically affluent persons, scientific innovators, and others. The character, named Morgana Rothschild, played a relatively minor role in the story. The name Rothschild used as a synonym for extreme wealth inspired the song "[If I Were a Rich Man](#)", which is based on a song from the [Tevye the Dairyman](#) stories, written in the [Yiddish](#) as *Ven ikh bin Rotshild*, meaning "If I were a Rothschild".^[*citation needed*]

In France, the word "Rothschild" was throughout the 19th and 20th centuries a synonym for seemingly endless wealth, neo-Gothic styles, and epicurean glamour.^[59] The family also has lent its name to "le [goût Rothschild](#)," a suffocatingly glamorous style of living whose decorative elements include neo-Renaissance palaces, extravagant use of velvet and gilding, vast collections of armour and sculpture, a sense of [Victorian horror vacui](#), and the highest masterworks of art. Le goût Rothschild has much influenced designers such as [Robert Denning](#), [Yves Saint Laurent](#), [Vincent Fourcade](#), and others.

"Yes, my dear fellow, it all amounts to this: in order to do something first you must be something. We think Dante great, and he had a civilisation of centuries behind him; the House of Rothschild is rich and it has required much more than one generation to attain such wealth. Such things all lie much deeper than one thinks."
—[Johann Wolfgang von Goethe](#), October 1828^[60]

 This section requires [expansion](#). *(July 2011)*

Conspiracy theories

Over more than two centuries,^{[16][17]} the Rothschild family has frequently been the subject of [conspiracy theories](#).^{[61][62][63]} These theories take differing forms, such as claiming that the family controls the world's wealth and financial institutions,^{[64][65]} or encouraged or discouraged wars between governments. Discussing this and similar views, the historian [Niall Ferguson](#) wrote, "As we have seen, however, wars tended to hit the price of existing bonds by increasing the risk that a debtor state would fail to meet its interest payments in the event of defeat and losses of territory. By the middle of the 19th century, the Rothschilds had evolved from traders into fund managers, carefully tending to their own vast portfolio of government bonds. Now having made their money, they stood to lose more than they gained from conflict. The Rothschilds had decided the outcome of the [Napoleonic Wars](#) by putting their financial weight behind Britain. Now they would sit on the sidelines."^[66]

Prominent descendants of Mayer Amschel Rothschild

See also: [Genealogy of the Rothschild family](#)

Prominent lineal descendants of Mayer Amschel Rothschild include amongst many others:

This is an [incomplete list](#), which may never be able to satisfy particular standards for completeness. You can help by [expanding it](#) with [reliably sourced](#) entries.



Baron David René de Rothschild, current French chairman of N M Rothschild & Sons and formerly of [De Beers](#)



A Rothschild Villa, in Königstein Germany, photographed in 1900



Lord Ferdinand von Rothschild (1839–1898)



 [Sybil Cholmondeley](#), Marchioness of Cholmondeley (1894–1989), painted by [John Singer Sargent](#)



 [Halton House](#), a Rothschild family mansion in Buckinghamshire, England



 [Baroness Pannonica de Koenigswarter](#)



Lionel de Rothschild, whose colt won the 1879 [Epsom Derby](#)



[Palace of Baron Albert von Rothschild](#), Vienna, (photo 1884)



Vermeer's *The Astronomer*, donated to charity by the family in 1982



[Palace Nathaniel Rothschild](#), Vienna



 [Hôtel Salomon de Rothschild](#), Paris



 [Ascott House](#)



 Exbury House, a Rothschild estate in England.



 [Hôtel Lambert](#), Paris

- Major Alexander Karet, (1905–1976) ^{[67][68]}
- Princess Agnès de La Tour d'Auvergne-Lauraguais, (born 1972)
- [Prince Alexandre Louis Philippe Marie Berthier](#), (1883–1918), died fighting in World War I
- [Albert Salomon von Rothschild](#) (1844–1911), the once majority shareholder of [Creditanstalt](#)

- [Alfred Charles de Rothschild](#) (20 July 1842 – 31 January 1918)
- [Alice Charlotte von Rothschild](#) (1847–1922) close friend of [Queen Victoria](#)
- [Aline Caroline de Rothschild](#) (1865–1909), French socialite
- Alice Rothschild (1985-), a Rothschild and the partner of [Zac Goldsmith](#), after his divorce of [Sheherazade Ventura-Bentley](#)^[69]
- Lady Aline Caroline Cholmondeley (1916–)^[citation needed]
- [Baroness Afdera Franchetti](#) (born c. 1931), a former wife of Henry Fonda, from the noble Italian Jewish Franchetti family
- Baroness Alix Hermine Jeannette Schey de Koromla (1911–1982)^[70]
- [Alphonse James de Rothschild](#) (1827–1905)
- [Amschel Mayor James Rothschild](#) (1955–1996, Paris), patron of motor racing
- Princess Andréa de La Tour d'Auvergne-Lauraguais (born Paris 1972)^[citation needed]
- [Anthony Gustav de Rothschild](#) (1887–1961), horse-breeder
- [Anthony James de Rothschild](#) (born 1977)
- [Anselm von Rothschild](#) (1803–1874), Austrian banker
- Anselm Alexander Carl de Rothschild (1835–1854)^[citation needed]
- [Sir Anthony de Rothschild, 1st Baronet](#) (1810–1876)
- Antoine Armand Odélic Marie Henri de Gramont, 13th Duke of Gramont, (1951–)^[71]
- Alain James de Rothschild (1910–1982)^[citation needed]
- Lady Barbara Marie-Louise Constance Berry (born 1935)
- Count Armand de Cossé-Brissac (1967–)
- Miriam Caroline *Alexandrine* de Rothschild
- Lord Charles Robert Archibald Grant
- [Ariane de Rothschild](#)
- Ariella de Rothschild
- Arthur de Rothschild (1851–1903)
- [Benjamin de Rothschild](#) (born 1963, Paris)
- Princess Béatrice de Broglie (born 1913)
- [Béatrice Ephrussi de Rothschild](#) (1864–1934)
- [Bethsabée de Rothschild](#) (1914–1999)
- [Carl Mayer von Rothschild](#) (1788–1855)
- Cécile Léonie Eugénie Gudule Lucie de Rothschild (1913–1995)
- [Charlotte de Rothschild](#)
- [Charlotte Henriette de Rothschild](#) (born 1955), British opera singer
- [Charlotte von Rothschild](#)(1818–84)
- Count Charles-Emmanuel Lannes de Montebello (born 1942)
- [Charles Rothschild](#) (1877–1923), banker and entomologist
- Constance Flower, 1st Baroness of Battersea, (1843–1931)^[citation needed]
- [David Cholmondeley, 7th Marquess of Cholmondeley](#) (1960–), [Lord Great Chamberlain of England](#)
- [David Mayer de Rothschild](#) (b. 1978), billionaire^[72] British adventurer and environmentalist
- [David René de Rothschild](#) (born 1942)
- Diane Cécile Alice Juliette de Rothschild (1907–)^[citation needed]
- [Edmond Adolphe de Rothschild](#)
- [Edouard Etienne de Rothschild](#), (born 1957)

- [Édouard Alphonse James de Rothschild](#) (1868–1949) financier and polo player
- Prince Edouard de La Tour d'Auvergne-Lauraguais, (1949–)
- [Edmond James de Rothschild](#) (1845–1934)
- [Edmund Leopold de Rothschild](#) (1916–2009)
- [Elie de Rothschild](#) (1917–2007)
- Princess Elisabeth de Broglie (1920–)
- Elisabeth Clarice de Rothschild (born 1952)
- [Emma Rothschild](#) (born 1948)
- Esther de Rothschild (born 1979)
- [Evelina de Rothschild](#) (1839–66)
- [Evelyn Achille de Rothschild](#) (1886–1917), died fighting for the British army in World War I
- [Sir Evelyn de Rothschild](#) (born 1931), banker
- Francesca Diane de Rothschild (1919-1998), philanthropist
- Count Gabriel Antoine Armand, (1908–1943), a soldier of the French Resistance.
- [Gustave Samuel de Rothschild](#) (1829-1911)
- [Guy de Rothschild](#) (1909–2007)
- [Ferdinand James von Rothschild](#) (1839–1898)
- [Hannah Primrose, Countess of Rosebery](#) née Hannah Rothschild (1851–1890)
- Heidi Magdalena de Rothschild (1933), socialite
- [Henry Herbert, 7th Earl of Carnarvon](#), (1924–2001)
- [Henri James de Rothschild](#) (1872–1946)
- Henry Herbert, 6th Earl of Carnarvon (1898–1987)
- [Duke Hélié Marie Auguste Jacques Bertrand Philippe](#), (1943), 10th Duke of Noailles
- [Henriette Rothschild](#) (1791–1866) married [Sir Moses Montefiore](#) (1784–1885)
- Count Henri de Gramont (1909–1994)^[*citation needed*]
- [Hugh Cholmondeley, 6th Marquess of Cholmondeley](#) (1919–90), [Lord Great Chamberlain](#) of England
- [Jacob Rothschild, 4th Baron Rothschild](#), (born 1936), investment banker
- [James Armand de Rothschild](#) (1878–1957)
- [James Mayer Rothschild](#) (1792–1868)
- Joachim Von Rothschild (1929–1998)
- Julius de Rothschild (1981-)
- Lady Lavinia Anne Alix de Rothschild, of the Rothschild and [Borghese family](#)
- [Neil Primrose, 7th Earl of Rosebery](#) (1929–)
- [Neil James Archibald Primrose](#) (1882–1917), MP, killed fighting in World War I
- Nelly Rachel de Rothschild (born 1947)
- [Baroness Nica de Koenigswarter](#) (née Baroness Pannonica Rothschild) (1913–1988), patron of bebop and jazz writer - often called "The Jazz Baroness"
- [Baron Léon Lambert](#) (1929–1987), Belgium art collector^[73]
- [Lamasnipes de Rothschild](#) (1844–1915)
- [Leopold de Rothschild](#) (1845–1917)
- [Leopold David de Rothschild](#) (1927–)
- Leonora de Rothschild (1837–1911)
- [Lionel Nathan Rothschild](#) (1808–1879)
- [Louis Nathaniel de Rothschild](#) (1882–1955)

- Countess Magdalene-Sophie von Attems, (1927–)
- Maria de Rothschild (1894-1937)
- [Marie-Hélène de Rothschild](#) (1927–94), French socialite
- [Maurice de Rothschild](#) (1881-1957)
- [Mayer Amschel de Rothschild](#) (1818–1874)
- Marguerite Corisande Alexandrine Marie de Gramont (1920–1998), later Baroness de Gunzburg, daughter of the Count de Gramont, Officier of Légion d'honneur and Croix de guerre
- Maria Beatrice de Rothschild, grand-daughter of the Princess de Marsiconovo
- [Miriam Louisa Rothschild](#) (1908–2005), famous [entomologist](#) and [zoologist](#)
- [Lionel Walter Rothschild, 2nd Baron Rothschild](#) of the United Kingdom (1868–1937)
- [Nathaniel de Rothschild](#) (1812–1870)
- [Nathan Mayer Rothschild](#) (1777–1836)
- [Nathan Mayer Rothschild, 1st Baron Rothschild](#) of the United Kingdom (1840–1915)
- [Nathaniel Charles Jacob Rothschild, 4th Baron Rothschild](#) of the United Kingdom (born 1936)
- [Nathaniel Robert de Rothschild](#) (1946), French financier
- [Nathaniel Mayer Victor Rothschild, 3rd Baron Rothschild](#) of the United Kingdom (1910–1990)
- [Nathaniel Philip Rothschild](#) (born 1971), a co-chairman of Atticus Capital, a £20 billion [hedge fund](#)^[74]
- [Nathaniel Anselm von Rothschild](#) (1836–1905), Austrian socialite
- [Sir Philip Sassoon, 3rd Baronet](#) (1888–1939), British [First Commissioner of Works](#) and [Under-Secretary of State for Air](#)
- Count Philippe de Nicolay (born 1955), great-grandson of Salomon James de Rothschild, he is a director of the Rothschild group.^[42]
- [Philippe de Rothschild](#) (1902–1988), vintner
- [Philippine de Rothschild](#) (born 1935), vintner
- [Jacqueline Rebecca Louise de Rothschild](#), born 6 November 1911, chess and tennis champion
- [Harry Primrose, 6th Earl of Rosebery](#) (1882–1974) Earl of Roseberry
- [Raphael de Rothschild](#) (1976–1997)
- [Salomon James de Rothschild](#), (1835–1864)
- [Lady Serena Dunn Rothschild](#), (born 1935)
- Countess Sophie von Löwenstein-Scharffeneck, (1896–1978)
- [Lady Sybil Grant](#) (1879–1955), British writer
- [Sybil Cholmondeley, Marchioness of Cholmondeley](#), (1894–1989)
- Valentine Noémi von Springer, (1886, d. 1969)
- Victoria Katherine Rothschild (1953–)
- [Walter Rothschild, 2nd Baron Rothschild](#), zoologist
- [Wilhelm Carl von Rothschild](#)
- Zachary Ryan de Rothschild (1997-)
- Philippe Michael von Krause
- Hannah Rothschild, writer and documentary film-maker (born 1962)

Prominent marriages into the family include, amongst many others:

This is an *[incomplete list](#)*, which may never be able to satisfy particular standards for completeness. You can help by *[expanding it](#)* with *[reliably sourced](#)* entries.

- [Maurice Ephrussi](#) (1849–1916), of the [Ephrussi banking dynasty](#)^[75]
- [Ben Goldsmith](#) (1980–), son of financier [James Goldsmith](#)
- Anita Patience Guinness (1957), of the [Guinness family](#), married Amschel Mayor James Rothschild^[76]
- Cora Guggenheim (1873–1956), of the [Guggenheim family](#), married Louis F. Rothschild (1869–1957)
- [Abraham Oppenheim](#) (1804–1878), of the [Oppenheim Family](#), married Charlotte Beyfus (1811–1887)
- [Aline Caroline de Rothschild](#) (1865–1909) married [Sir Edward Sassoon, 2nd Baronet, of Kensington Gore](#) (1856–1912), of the [Sassoon family](#)
- Carola Warburg Rothschild (1894–1987), philanthropist, born into the [Warburg family](#)^[77]
- Sara Louise de Rothschild (born 1834), married the [Baron Raimondo Franchetti](#) (born 1829)
- Baron Eugène de Rothschild (1884-1976) married [Countess Kitty Wolff de Schonborn-Buchheim](#) (1885-)^[78]
- Bertha Clara de Rothschild (1862) married [Prince Alexandre de Wagram](#)
- Bertha Juliet de Rothschild (1870) married Baron Emmanuel Leonino
- Lili Jeanette von Goldschmidt-Rothschild (1883-1929), married Baron Philippe Schey de Koromla
- [Elisabeth Pelletier de Chambure](#) (1902–1945), the only member of the Rothschild family to die in the holocaust.
- Antoine Agénor Armand (1879–1962), of the Naples Rothschild lines, married Countess Éleine Greffulhe, daughter of [Princess Élisabeth de Caraman-Chimay](#)
- Hannah Mayer Rothschild (1815–1864) married [Hon. Henry Fitzroy](#) (1807–1859), of the family of the [Dukes of Grafton](#)
- Edouard Alphonse James de Rothschild (1868-1949) married in 1905 the Baroness Alice Germaine de Halphen (1884-1979)
- Count François de Nicolay (1919–1963), of the [House of Nicolay](#), married Marie-Hélène Naila Stephanie Josina van Zuylen van Nyevelt
- [Marguerite de Rothschild](#) in 1878 married Antoine Alfred Agénor, 11th [Duc de Gramont](#), (1851–1921),
- [Dorothy de Rothschild](#) (1895–1988), on her death she left the largest probated estate in Britain
- [George Herbert, 5th Earl of Carnarvon](#) married [Almina Victoria Maria Alexandra Wombwell](#), the illegitimate daughter of [Alfred de Rothschild](#)
- [Pauline de Rothschild](#) (1908–1976), fashion designer and translator of Elizabethan poetry
- In 1923, James Nathaniel Charles Léopold Rothschild, son of Henri James Nathaniel Charles Rothschild and Mathilde Sophie Henriette de Weisweiler, married Claude du Pont of the [Du Pont family](#).^[79]
- Lady Irma Pauahi Wodehouse (1897), of the [Wodehouse family](#)^[70]
- Prince Louis Philippe Berthier, (1836–1911)
- [Jeanne de Rothschild](#) (1908–2003), actress
- [Nadine de Rothschild](#) (1932-), French actress and author

- Princess Sophie de Ligne (1957–), of the [House of Ligne](#), married Philippe de Nicolay (born 1955), a director of the Rothschild group,^[42] and the great-grandson of [Salomon James de Rothschild](#)
- [Liliane de Rothschild](#) (1916–2003) art collector
- [David Rene de Rothschild](#) married [Princess Olimpia Anna Aldobrandini](#), of the [House of Borghese](#) and the [House of Bonaparte](#).^[70]
- Baron Robert Philippe de Rothschild married Nelly Beer, a great-grand-niece of [Giacomo Meyerbeer](#)
- [Richard Francis Roger Yarde-Buller, 4th Baron Churston of Churston Ferrers and Lupton](#), (1910–1991), married Olga Alice Muriel Rothschild
- [Serena Dunn Rothschild](#) (b. 1935), grand-daughter of [Sir James Hamet Dunn, 1st Baronet](#)
- [Lynn Forester de Rothschild](#) (born 1954), business woman
- Edward Maurice Stonor (1885–1930), son of [Francis Stonor, 4th Baron Camoys](#)^[citation needed]
- Lady Pamela Wellesley Grant, (born 1912), great-great-grand-daughter of [The Duke of Wellington](#), married Lieutenant Charles Robert Archibald Grant, great-great-grandson of Mayer Amschel de Rothschild
- Baroness Rozsika Edle von Wertheimstein^[4]
- Count Etienne van Zuylen van Nijvelt of the [House of Van Zuylen van Nijvelt](#) – married Baroness Hélène de Rothschild (1863–1947).^[80]
- Baron Sigismund von Springer (1873–1927), married Baroness Valentine Noémi von Rothschild (1886–1969), after whom the asteroid [703 Noëmi](#) is named
- In 1943 Baron Elie Robert de Rothschild (1917–2007), married Lady Liliane Elisabeth Victoire Fould-Springer, grand-aunt of actress [Helena Bonham Carter](#)^[81]

See also

- [Ascott House](#)
- [Avenue Foch](#)
- [Bethmanns and Rothschilds](#)
- [Cecil John Rhodes](#)
- [Château de Montvillargenne](#)
- [Château Lafite-Rothschild](#)
- [Château Mouton Rothschild](#)
- [De Beers](#)
- [Eramet](#)
- [Hôtel de Marigny](#)
- [Hôtel Salomon de Rothschild](#)
- [Hotel Lambert](#)
- [Imerys](#)
- [Napoleonic Wars](#)
- [Old Money](#)
- [Palais Rothschild](#)
- [Rothschild \(Fabergé egg\)](#)
- [Rothschild properties in and around Buckinghamshire](#)
- [Rio Tinto Mining Group](#)

- [The House of Rothschild \(1934 film\)](#), addresses Rothschild roles in the Napoleonic era
- [Vaux-de-Cernay Abbey](#)

Notes

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Further reading

- [Niall Ferguson](#): *The House of Rothschild: Money's Prophets, 1798–1848* ([ISBN 0-14-024084-5](#))
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Documentary film

- [Ascent of Money: A Financial History of the World](#) – The early history of the Rothschild's family business feature in the second of a four part series by [Niall Ferguson](#), aired on [Channel Four](#)