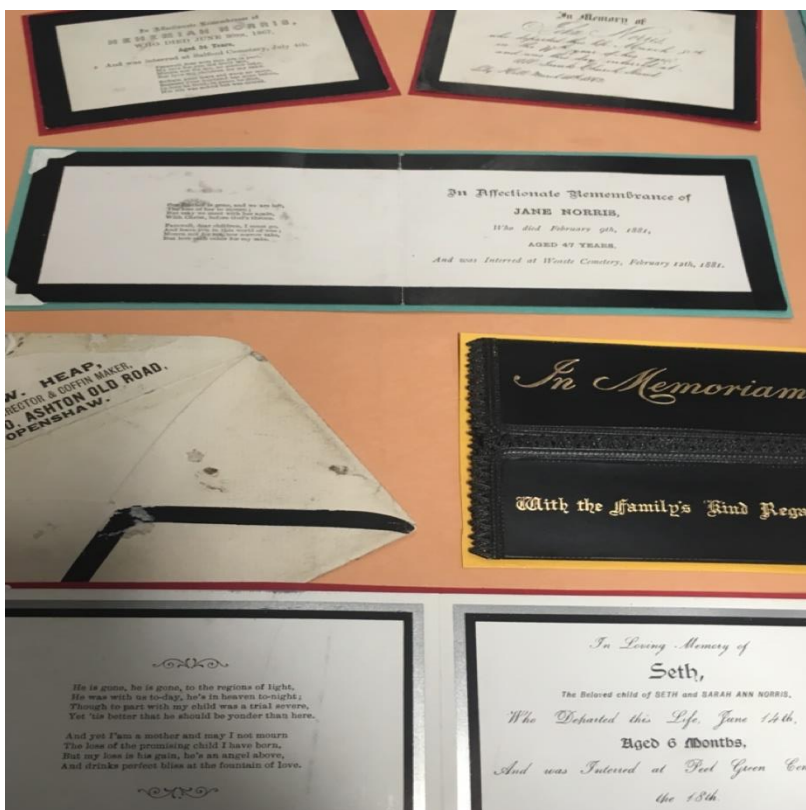


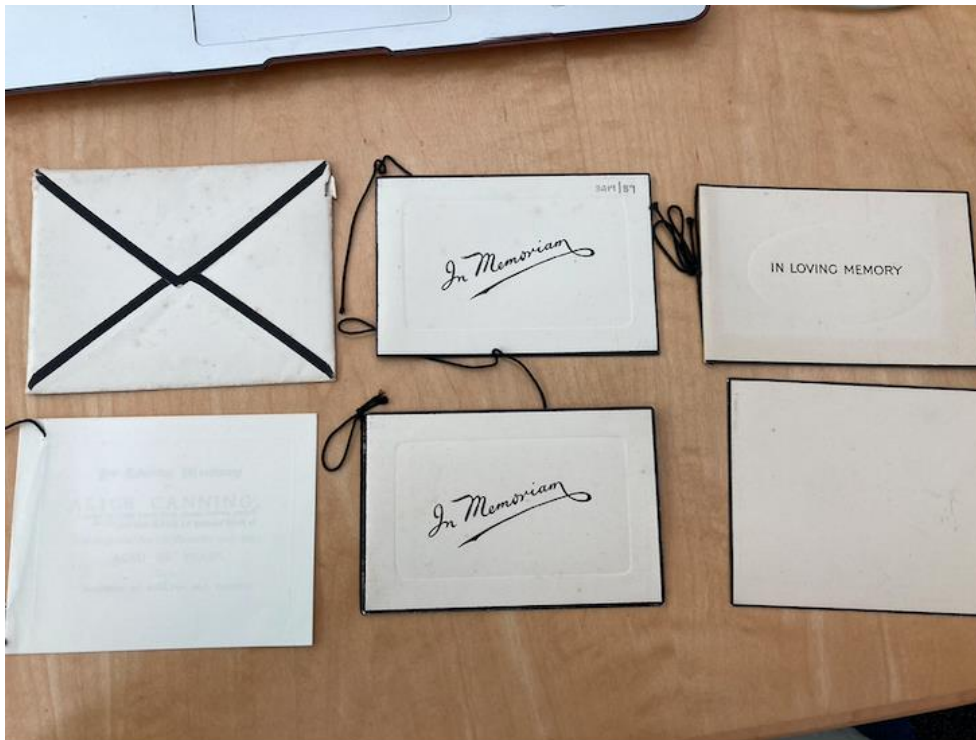
Dilara Scholz – PhD History Academic year 2022/23

Doctoral School Research Award/Lionel Butler Award – The Material Culture of Mourning in the United Kingdom through the Lens of Material Culture

The financial support provided by the Doctoral School Research Award (Lionel Butler) enabled me to further my personal and most importantly academic development beyond the opportunities as a self-funded PhD-student. Thanks to this financial support I had the chance to undertake valuable in-person research at museums and archives that I would have otherwise not been able to visit. Due to the visual nature of my topic most objects and documents are not accessible or viewable online and have to be looked at in person in order to make sense of them and to understand their materiality and meaning for nineteenth century society. Due to the pandemic, the essential part of my project – the in-person research at archives and museums – had come to a halt for a large part of my studies, severely impacting the way I had to work.



With this support I had the unique chance to make up for the lost time and visit different locations in the of South of England and far beyond and sometimes even multiple times to revisit documents and objects to take a look at a broader range of objects and material, which helped me to foot the argument of my thesis on a firmer base. Looking at a vast range of sources all around the country gave me new insights and even inspired me to change some parts of my thesis.



One of the locations I visited was the Winchester City Archive, a place that I would have otherwise not visited but it turned out that it held an essential source that became a key item for the conclusion of my thesis and confirmed my theory. With this award I was also able to go to Brighton and Manchester and view objects and documents there that I would have otherwise not been able to use for my project which provided valuable input. Many of the places I visited were also in and around London and thanks to this award I was able to go on research trips multiple a week and develop a solid network of source material. In addition to doing “fieldwork” it was an amazing experience to visit and see so many different places around the country

and to get a sense of what their archives, museums (and sometimes universities) look like and to meet different archivists and curators while gaining a unique sense of England's heritage sector.



In addition to the opportunities this award facilitated, receiving an award for one's project is highly motivating and testifies to the research project's value to the institution, to the extent that it is being supported financially.

I am extremely grateful for the opportunities which the Lionel Butler award allowed me to facilitate and for Royal Holloway and my supervisor Professor Jane Hamlett, for the support with my application and for encouraging me to take the opportunity and apply. I would encourage all (and especially self-funded) PhD-students to make

use of these opportunities and to have faith in their projects and ability to compete with other applications.