



Do you recognise the symbol below? Is it a tepee, maybe a camping tent symbol for a state, province or camping business? Or Maybe it is a symbol for a mountain? Maybe it is an A designed on a standardised test to trick children? Well, really, none of these will do. I hope you become very familiar with this symbol, because it represents a place that should be very familiar to anyone in the Charlotte Mason education movement. This symbol is the logo for the Armitt Museum and Library.

What is the Armitt Museum and Library? It is a small library and museum in Ambleside, England that celebrates the culture of the English Lake District. The Armitt's website says, "Founded by poets, artists and writers as the quintessence of the cultural Lake District. The Armitt is one of Britain's rarest small museums." Charlotte Mason was one of these poets, artists and writers, and she was a founding member of the Armitt. These are true statements and you will know them as true if you have ever been to the Armitt as many of us know it. It is small and it is rare. It contains extraordinary cultural material from the Lake District such as exquisite water colours by Beatrix Potter and paintings by Kurt Schwitters. But why is it important to the Charlotte Mason education movement and why should we even care?

First, it is important to the Charlotte Mason education movement because it houses something very dear to those of us who like to research and study the life and work of Charlotte Mason. Not because we make an idol of her, but because that is what researchers do when they are trying to understand an educational genius such as Charlotte Mason. It would be very much like a theologian studying the theology of Jonathan Edwards or any theologian. The Armitt houses Mason's archive. It is our source to understanding her. While the Charlotte Mason Digital Collection is becoming increasingly important to us all and provides easy access to the archive that has been digitised, the Armitt remains the place that houses the physical archive the whole of which has not been digitised. That's another project for someday soon we hope. But for now the question remains, why should we even care?

Second, we would never want the archive to go into storage or to someplace where it will not be taken care of. Is this a possibility? Maybe. Funds are limited and needed for the constant care of such archives as Mason's, Potter's and others that are housed at the Armitt. This cost money, resources and time.

Third, the Armitt is privately funded. It does not have a local, state or national government behind it. It is only funded by those who value the contents of the Museum and Library. Those contents are extremely important to us. We want all the contents of the museum preserved and especially the Mason archive. Without the Mason archive our research and study would be limited.

You can help by becoming a Friend of the Armitt. The application is a PDF file on this page which can be downloaded. You can complete the form, including your email, scan it and email it to [administrator@charlottesmasoninstitute.com](mailto:administrator@charlottesmasoninstitute.com) or you can mail it with a cheque to P. O. Box 20571, Roanoke, VA 24018. It will be tax deductible.

Or you can mail it by post directly to the Armitt at this address: ARMITT MUSEUM & LIBRARY, The Membership Secretary, Friends of the Armitt Trust, Rydal Rd, Ambleside LA22 9BL. You can pay the fee by using Paypal for the Armitt. The email is [info@armitt.com](mailto:info@armitt.com).

The suggested fee is \$40 to become an individual member.