University Museums and Special Collections Services

Department of English Literature

Dissertations Subject Explorer
Using Special Collections materials for your dissertation

The University Special Collections is made up of a large number of rare books, archives, manuscripts and other materials. The range of the material available means that the collections can form the basis of your dissertation in a number of ways. Dissertations could focus on, for instance, the study of a single author, a comparative analysis of two or more authors, a study of aspects of form, style, genre or literary movement, the application of a particular methodology to particular materials, such as genetic criticism (the study of the writing process). Materials from Special Collections can also be used as contributory or supplementary texts to your dissertation focus. Whatever your topic might be, it is worth searching Special Collections because the materials you find can add a unique dimension to your work and enliven your dissertation. Basing your dissertation on archive materials means that your dissertation is more likely to produce original research. Some of the collections have rarely, or never, been consulted by established scholars which makes this kind of work especially exciting. Using unique source materials can raise important and challenging questions about, for instance, authenticity, readership, historicity and authorship. This kind of research will equip you with demonstrable and transferable skills which could prepare you for further research or employment.

The materials in Special Collections are made up of predominantly:

- Rare books
- Archives from publishers
- Archives from authors
- Manuscripts
- Proofs of books
- Book reviews and reader reports
- Contractual materials
- Correspondence

These are the items that you may have seen on the Library’s Enterprise catalogue as ‘NON-LOAN’. The collections have been acquired and accumulated over the years through donations from authors and companies or by friends, colleagues and relatives, and some have been purchased by the University. The most useful materials for dissertations in English or English joint honours are those found amongst the publishing records, author archives, and rare books. The publishers’ archives include records from Routledge publishers, including letters written by Aldous Huxley; Macmillan publishers, including extensive materials relating to the African Writers Series and letters from Chinua Achebe; George Allen and Unwin publishers which contains letters from D. H.
Lawrence, George Orwell, E. M. Forster and W. H. Auden; the Charles Elkin Mathews Collection which includes letters from James Joyce, W. B. Yeats as well as Ezra Pound. For most of the authors listed above, there are only a few letters and some are unrelated to their own works. This Subject Explorer focuses on authors and collections with larger amounts of material. The collections of authors’ papers includes the University’s world famous Samuel Beckett collection which includes hundreds of letters, manuscripts, stage files, articles and artwork relating to Beckett. The Rare Book Collections include the Children’s Collection which currently comprises over 6,000 books and journals written for children. One notable item held in Rare Books is a first edition of Darwin’s On the Origin of Species from 1859 which is held in the Cole collection, while the archives contain a manuscript of Thomas Hardy’s poem We Field-Women which can be found in the papers of Gerald and Joy Finzi.

**Where are the archives? How do I access items?**

Special Collections is located a short walk away from the Whiteknights campus, it shares a building with the Museum of English Rural Life (MERL) on Redlands Road opposite the Royal Berkshire Hospital. It is best to plan your visit so that you are guaranteed a place in the Reading Room and the material you want to see is available and ready for you. The easiest way to do this is to email specialcollections@reading.ac.uk stating which day you would like to use the Reading Room and which material (with references) you would like to see.

Many archive collections and rare books have been catalogued and appear on the Enterprise catalogue, these items can be searched online. You can use the search filters on the left-hand side of the page to narrow your search down to some of the individual collections, for example the Beckett Collection or the Children’s Collection. The Reading Room also holds catalogues of some of the collections that do not appear on Enterprise, the Special Collections A-Z list on the website will tell you the Manuscript (MS) number for a particular collection, you can then ask the staff in the Reading Room for the catalogue you require. Catalogues differ as to how they organize the references for materials; the staff in the Reading Room can help with making sense of the catalogues and handlists. Some collections will remain uncatalogued and unavailable though, so do check you can actually access them beforehand.

All Special Collections items cannot be borrowed and so have to be read and studied in the Reading Room at Special Collections. The Reading Room has desks with power points and photography is allowed (some collections have restrictions), and for students this is £3 per day for an unlimited number of photos. If you are using Special Collections materials for the first time you will need to fill in a quick registration form in the Reading Room. The most important rules are no food, drink and pens, so don’t forget to bring your own pencil and paper or laptop. For further details on Reading Room procedures see [www.reading.ac.uk/special-collections/using/sc-using-readingroom.aspx](http://www.reading.ac.uk/special-collections/using/sc-using-readingroom.aspx)
How to use this Subject Explorer

The Subject Explorer has been produced to highlight the range of material held at Special Collections and to suggest ideas for dissertation topics. The document has been ordered thematically and can be browsed or searched via the index which includes authors, major titles and subject areas. Many of the entries will overlap and connect with each other in several ways. In most cases the documents, titles and call numbers given are only examples of what is available. If you are particularly interested in an author or theme then it is worth doing your own searching on Enterprise to see what else the Library and Special Collections holds. Although many handlists are available online, some are only available in hard copies at Special Collections. The staff at Special Collections are there to help you and can be contacted by email or phone, and you are always welcome to talk to a member of staff in person.

Important note: Before using some archive collections prior permission is needed. For example, this is the case for the Publishing group Random House which owns the Hogarth Press (MS 2750), Jonathan Cape (JC), Chatto & Windus (CW), The Bodley Head (BH), John Lane (JL), and Secker & Warburg.
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Section 1: Children’s Fiction

Aesop’s Fables

Although his actual historical existence is uncertain, the fables of Aesop (c. 620 BC – 564 BC) are among the most well-known Classical writing. There are several editions of Aesop’s Fables in the Children’s Collection.

Possible topics include:

1) Animals in children’s literature

2) Morality and wider questions about allegory in children’s literature

3) Different editions of the “same” text

4) How is Aesop presented as a historical figure?

See in the Main Library:

1) The fables of Æso paraphras’d in verse (1668), John Ogilby; introduction by Earl Miner (1965), STORE--89525.

Call numbers in Special Collections:

1) The fables of Aesop, and others; with designs on wood, by Thomas Bewick, (1823), CHILDREN’S COLLECTION--888-AES.

2) The baby’s own Æsop: being the fables condensed in rhyme with portable morals, pictorially pointed by Walter Crane ; engraved and printed in colours by Edmund Evan (1887), CHILDREN’S COLLECTION--888-AES.

3) The Favourite Book of Fables: With Numerous Illustrations (1894), CHILDREN’S COLLECTION--888-AES.


5) Fables of Aesop, and others: translated into English. With instructive applications: and a print before each fable, Samuel Croxall (1825), CHILDREN’S COLLECTION--888.6-AES.
Alice in Wonderland

Lewis Carroll (the pseudonym of the mathematician Charles Lutwidge Dodgson) wrote Alice’s Adventures Under Ground in the early 1860s. This was published in 1865 as Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland. The book has been translated into over 150 languages.

Possible topics include:

1) What makes a modern fairy tale?

2) Adaptation onto stage and screen

See in the Main Library:

1) The Making of the Alice books: Lewis Carroll’s uses of earlier children’s literature, Ronald Reichertz (1997), 823.89-CAR/REI.

2) Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland, Lewis Carroll; edited by Richard Kelly (2000), 823.89-CAR.

Call numbers in Special Collections:

1) Through the Looking-glass, and what Alice found there, Lewis Carroll; with fifty illustrations by John Tenniel (1872), CHILDREN’S COLLECTION--823.8-CAR.

2) Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland, Lewis Carroll; with forty-two illustrations by John Tenniel (1879 printing), CHILDREN’S COLLECTION--823.8-CAR.


4) The Story of Lewis Carroll Told for Young People, by the real Alice in Wonderland Miss Isa Bowman. With a diary and numerous facsimile letters written to Miss Isa Bowman and others. Also many sketches and photos by Lewis Carroll and other illustrations (1900), CHILDREN’S COLLECTION--823.8-CAR/BOW.
Representations of Egypt and the Near East

There are numerous examples of children’s books concerning travel, voyage and adventure, many of which are set in Egypt and the Near East.

Possible topics include:

1) Ideas of the ‘foreign’ and the ‘native’; representations of the Near East
2) Adventure, exploration and discovery in nineteenth century children’s fiction; travel as an opportunity to be pious
3) Travel, danger and adolescence; constructions of masculinity
4) Representations of conflict and violence; guns in nineteenth century children’s literature
5) Constructions of ancient Egypt and the geography and landscape of Egypt

See in the Main Library:

1) Orientalism, Edward W. Said (1978), 950.07-SAI.

Call numbers in Special Collections:

1) A Chapter of Adventures, or: Through the Bombardment of Alexandria, G. A. Henty [1891], CHILDREN’S COLLECTION--823.8-HEN.

2) The Cat of Bubastes: A Tale of Ancient Egypt, G.A. Henty [1889], CHILDREN’S COLLECTION--823.8-HEN.

3) The Young Pilgrim, or, Alfred Campbell’s Return to the East. And his Travels in Egypt, Nubia, Asia Minor, Arabia Petraea, &c. &c, Mrs Hofland (1826), CHILDREN’S COLLECTION--915-HOF.

Fairy Tales and Folk Tales

Fairy tales and folk stories can be traced back to the medieval period and became popular in the late 17th century in France but it was only in the 19th century that they started to be collected and recorded.

Possible topics include:

1) Traditions of orality
2) Storytelling and the idea of the public
3) Fairy tales and the family

See in the Main Library:


Call numbers in Special Collections:

1) Stories and Fairytales Vols 1 and 2, Hans Christian Andersen (1893), CHILDREN’S COLLECTION--839.813-AND.

2) Stories for the Young, Hans Christian Andersen [n.d.], CHILDREN’S COLLECTION--839.8-AND.

3) Arabian Fairy Tales, retold by Amina Shah (1969), CHILDREN’S COLLECTION--398-SHA.

4) Pacala and Tandala: And other Rumanian Folk-Tales, compiled, translated and edited by Jean Ure; illustrated by Charles Mozley (1960), CHILDREN’S COLLECTION--398-URE.


6) Grimms' Fairy Tales, illustrated by J. Monsell (1924), KNOWLSON/BECKETT COLLECTION--398.21-GRI.

See also: Charles Perrault
Farms and Farming in Children’s Literature

There are several fictional and educational books in the Children’s Collection on farms and farming. See also books in the MERL Library (classification 9470).

Possible topics include:

1) Labour, work and machinery

2) Growth, produce, production and population

3) Ideas of voice, speech and dialect

See in the Main Library:

1) Following the tractor, Susan Steggall (2014), TEACHING PRACTICE FOLIO--823.92-STE.

Call numbers in Special Collections:

1) Orlando (the Marmalade Cat) Buys a Farm, Kathleen Hale (1972), CHILDREN’S COLLECTION FOLIO--823.9-HAL.

2) The Buttercup Farm Family, Enid Blyton (1951), CHILDREN’S COLLECTION--823.9-BLY.

3) On the Farm, James Gardner [n.d.], CHILDREN’S COLLECTION FOLIO--631-GAR.

4) The Farm, Margaret Élise Gagg (1965), LADYBIRD 563/02.
Food and Cooking

There are several books in the Children’s Collection which could be used for projects concerning childhood and food.

Possible topics include:

1) Ideas about childhood and consumption

2) Notions of nutrition

3) Process, custom and culture

4) Food and history

See in the Main Library:

1) *Feast or Famine?: food and children’s literature*, edited by Bridget Carrington and Jennifer Harding (2014), EBOOK.


Call numbers in Special Collections:


2) *Three Little Cooks* Lucy Crump (1905), CHILDREN’S COLLECTION--641-CRU.

3) *The Scouts’ Cook Book*, The Scouts Association (1959), CHILDREN’S COLLECTION--369-SCO.

4) *A Round Dozen*, stories by Louisa May Alcott; selected and with a foreword by Anne Thaxter Eaton; illustrated by Tasha Tudor (1963), CHILDREN’S COLLECTION--813.4-ALC.
The Orlando series by Kathleen Hale (1898-2000)

Kathleen Hale was a British writer and illustrator and the creator of the series featuring ‘Orlando the marmalade cat’.

Possible topics include:

1) Family and domesticity

2) Reading illustration and ideas of scale

3) Animals and constructions of gender

See in the Main Library:

1) Orlando, the Marmalade Cat: a Seaside Holiday, Kathleen Hale (1979), CHILDREN’S FICTION FOLIO--HAL.

Call numbers in Special Collections:

1) Orlando (the marmalade cat) buys a farm, Kathleen Hale (1942), CHILDREN’S COLLECTION FOLIO--823.9-HAL.

2) Orlando (the marmalade cat) keeps a dog, Kathleen Hale (1971), CHILDREN’S COLLECTION FOLIO--823.9-HAL.

3) Orlando (the marmalade cat) buys a cottage, Kathleen Hale (1971), CHILDREN’S COLLECTION FOLIO--823.9-HAL.

4) Orlando (the marmalade cat): his silver wedding, Kathleen Hale (1994), CHILDREN’S COLLECTION FOLIO--823.9-HAL.
Mrs Molesworth (1839-1921)

The Children's Collection holds around 75 books by Mary Louisa Molesworth, a popular Victorian children's author from Manchester. Her books were illustrated by artists such as Walter Crane and Leonard Leslie Brooke.

Possible topics include:

1) Amusement and morality
2) Victorian fiction for girls

See in the Main Library:

1) *Mrs Molesworth: a Biography*, Jane Cooper (2002), 823.89-MOL/COO.
2) *The Cuckoo Clock*, Mrs. Molesworth (2007), 823.89-MOL.

Call numbers in Special Collections:

1) *The Cuckoo Clock*, Mrs Molesworth; illustrated by Walter Crane. (1877, 1888 printing), CHILDREN'S COLLECTION--823.8-MOL.
2) *The Girls and I: A Veracious History*, Mrs Molesworth; illustrated by L. Leslie Brooke (1892), CHILDREN'S COLLECTION--823.8-MOL.
3) *The Children of the Castle*, Mrs Molesworth; illustrated by Walter Crane (1890, 1903 printing), CHILDREN'S COLLECTION--823.8-MOL.
4) *My New Home*, Mrs Molesworth; illustrated by L. Leslie Brooke (1894, 1901 printing), CHILDREN'S COLLECTION--823.8-MOL.
5) "Carrots: just a little boy*, Mrs Molesworth; with seven page illustrations by Walter Crane [n.d.], CHILDREN'S COLLECTION--823.8-MOL.
6) *Little Mother Bunch*, Mrs Molesworth; with a colour frontispiece and three black and white illustrations by Elizabeth Earnshaw (1890, [1911?] printing), CHILDREN'S COLLECTION--823.8-MOL.
Charles Perrault (1628-1703)

The Children’s Collection holds texts by the French author Charles Perrault who pioneered the literary fairy tale and was best known for his *Histoires Ou Contes du Temps Passé* (also known as *Stories, or Tales of Past Times*) published in 1697.

**Possible topics include:**

1) The material could be used for a joint honours dissertation English and French

2) Ideas of retelling

3) Ideas of writing and orality in fairy tales

**See in the Main Library:**

1) *The Complete Fairy Tales*, Charles Perrault; translated with an introduction and notes by Christopher Betts (2009), 843.47.


**Call numbers in Special Collections:**

1) *Histories or Tales of Past Times Told by Mother Goose with Morals*, written in French by M. Perrault, & Englished by G. M., Gent.; newly edited by J. Saxon Childers (1925), CHILDREN’S COLLECTION--398-PER.

2) *Perrault's Popular Tales*, edited from the original editions, with introduction ... by Andrew Lang., (1888), CHILDREN’S COLLECTION--398-PER.


**See also:** Fairy Tales and Folk Tales
Robinson Crusoe

The Crusoe collection consists of over a hundred editions and retellings of Robinson Crusoe (first published in 1719) by Daniel Defoe, one of the first novelists in English.

Possible topics include:

1) Retellings and repetition

2) Ideas of what constitutes a collection

3) Ideas of masculinity/femininity

Call numbers in Special Collections:

1) The Life, and Strange Surprising Adventures of Robinson Crusoe; of York, Mariner..., Daniel Defoe (vol. 2 only, 1747), CRUSOE COLLECTION--A1747.

2) The novelist's magazine. Vol. 4, containing Gil Blas, and Robinson Crusoe (1781), RESERVE--808.83-NOV.


4) The exploits of Robinson Crusoe, mariner, of York. Exhibiting a concise and clear narrative of his living twenty-eight years in an uninhabited island, on the coast of America: ..., Written originally by himself, and now first abridged from the genuine original copy, presented to the editor by a descendant of the family. Illustrated with cuts. To which is prefixed, some account of the editor of the first edition [Daniel Defoe], [179-], CRUSOE COLLECTION--A179-.

5) The Young Crusoe, or the Shipwrecked Boy. Containing an Account of his Shipwreck, and Residence for Several Months Alone, Upon an Uninhabited Island, Barbara Hofland (1829), CHILDREN'S COLLECTION--823.7-HOF.

6) A Short Robinson Crusoe, retold by F.H. Lee from Daniel Defoe; illustrated by Honor C. Appleton (1932), CRUSOE COLLECTION--A1932.

Wizard of Oz

The Wonderful Wizard of Oz by the American author L. Frank Baum was first published in 1900. Since then it has become one of the most popular children’s books of all time and had numerous adaptations on screen and stage. Baum wrote many other works set in the Land of Oz and his publishers Reilly & Lee continued the series after his death with different authors. The Wizard of Oz Collection contains over 200 editions.

Possible topics include:

1) What makes a modern fairy tale?

2) Film and Theatre adaptations

See in the Main Library:

1) The Wonderful Wizard of Oz, Frank L. Baum; with pictures by W. W. Denslow (1987 reprint), TEACHING PRACTICE--813.49-BAU.

2) L. Frank Baum: Creator of Oz, Katharine M. Rogers (2002), 813.49-BAU/ROG.

3) Oz Before the Rainbow: L. Frank Baum's 'The Wonderful Wizard of Oz' on stage and screen to 1939, Mark Evan Swartz (2002), 791.437-WIZ.

Call numbers in Special Collections:

1) The Wonderful Wizard of Oz, L. Frank Baum; with pictures by W.W. Denslow (1900), WIZARD OF OZ COLLECTION--001.

2) The Book Collector's guide to L. Frank Baum and Oz, Paul R. Bienvenue with Robert E. Schmidt (2009), REFERENCE--813.49-BAU/BIE.
Section 2: Children’s Non-fiction

Bibles for Children

The Children’s Collection has several children’s Bibles. The major preoccupation of these texts is about how the Bible and its stories can be communicated and taught to a young audience.

Possible topics include:

1) How these texts construct the child through ideas of education

2) The juxtaposition within the text between writing and speaking in relation to education

3) Which parts of the Bible are seen as appropriate for adaptation? And what kind of language is seen as appropriate for children?

See in the Main Library:

1) *The Bible for Children: from the age of Gutenberg to the present*, Ruth B. Bottigheimer (1996), 220-BOT.

Call numbers in Special Collections:

1) *Mamma’s Bible Stories for Her Little Boys and Girls: A Series of Reading Lessons Taken From the Bible and Adopted to the Capacities of Very Young Children*, Lucy Wilson (1857), CHILDREN’S COLLECTION--220-MAR.

2) *Scripture Readings for Schools and Families: With Comments. Genesis to Deuteronomy*, Charlotte Yonge (1879), CHILDREN’S COLLECTION--221-YON.

3) *The Child’s Bible: Being a Consecutive Arrangement of the Narrative and other Portions of Holy Scripture in the Words of the Authorised Version; with Upwards of Two Hundred Original Illustrations* published by Cassell (1868-70), CHILDREN’S COLLECTION FOLIO--220.

4) *Scripture history, including the lives of the most celebrated apostles, &c. designed particularly for the improvement of youth*, Rev. I.B. Watkins (1823), CHILDREN’S COLLECTION--220-WAT 1-2.
**Education: Science**

From the beginning of the Victorian period onwards there was huge increase in the number of educational texts on the sciences.

**Possible topics include:**

1) Ideas of education and knowledge

2) How is the teacher constructed as a figure in children’s educational texts?

3) The connection and separation between education and amusement in children’s educational texts

**See in the Main Library:**

1) *Books in Victorian Elementary Schools*, Alec Ellis (1971), 371.32-ELL.


**Call numbers in Special Collections:**

1) *Elementary Anatomy and Physiology, for Schools and Private Instruction; with lessons on Diet, Intoxicating Drinks, Tobacco, and Disease...,* William Lovett (1851), CHILDREN’S COLLECTION--611-LOV.

2) *The Sciences: A Reading Book for Children*, Edward S. Holden [1902], CHILDREN’S COLLECTION--500-HOL.

3) *Wonders of Animal-Life*, Erna Pinner and Monica Shorten [n.d.], CHILDREN’S COLLECTION--591-SHO.
Flowers and Wild Flowers

There are lots of books in the Children’s Collection devoted to flowers and in particular wild flowers.

Possible topics include:

1) What kind of child do these texts assume? How does the idea of the child that loves and seeks out flowers operate within these texts?

2) Ideas about learning in opposition to the ‘natural’ and the pleasurable

3) Education as a supplement to experience. How is the child constructed through education in these texts?

See in the Main Library:

1) All About Flowers, Claire Throp (2015), TEACHING PRACTICE--582.13-THR.

Call numbers in Special Collections:

1) Our Wild Flowers familiarly described and illustrated, Louisa Anne Twamley (1843), CHILDRENS’S COLLECTION--581-MER.

2) Flower legends, B.P. Standen (1913), CHILDREN’S COLLECTION--635-STA.

3) Flower Legends, retold by M. C. Carey (1921), CHILDRENS’S COLLECTION--398-CAR.


5) The Children’s Book of Wild-Flowers and the Story of Their Names, Garath H. Browning [1927], CHILDRENS’S COLLECTION--581-BRO.

6) British Trees, and How to Name Them at a Glance, Without Botany, Forster Robson [1918?], CHILDRENS’S COLLECTION--582-ROB.

7) Here’s Flowers: An Anthology of Flower Poems, compiled by Joan Rutter with an introduction by Walter De La Mare (1937), RESERVE--821.08-RUT.
Margaret Gatty (1809-1873)

Margaret Gatty was a children’s writer and also author of scientific works in the nineteenth century. She was the editor of *Aunt Judy’s Magazine* which was published by George Bell and Sons. There are letters from Gatty in the George Bell and Son’s Collection.

**Possible topics include:**

1) Morality tales for children

2) Narrative perspective, audience, address and hierarchy

**See in the Main Library:**


**Call numbers in Special Collections:**

1) George Bell & Sons Archive, MS 1640. The majority of Gatty’s correspondence is at MS 1640/309, at the following numbers (e.g. 1640/309/267): 267, 364, 405-406, 424-425, 428. There are other items at MS 1640/232/1, MS 1640/310/1 and MS 3741.


3) *Parables From Nature*, Margaret Gatty, with notes on the natural history; and illustrations by W. Holman Hunt, Otto Speckter, L. Frölich, E. Burne Jones, Harrison Weir, J. Tenniel, J. Wolf, and others. With *Memoir of the Author* by her daughter, Juliana Horatia Ewing (1880), CHILDREN’S COLLECTION--823.8-GAT.
Hieroglyphic Versions of the Bible

There are some examples of ‘hieroglyphic’ bibles in the Children’s Collection.

Possible topics include:

1) Ideas of illustration, reading and education

2) Is illustration a supplement to or substitute for the text?

3) Ideas of education and its relation to amusement

4) Versioning and the idea of the original.

Call numbers in Special Collections:

1) The modern hieroglyphical Bible: designed to promote the amusement and instruction of youth. Being a selection of the most remarkable events and important practical truths of the Old and New Testament: arranged according to the order of the sacred Scriptures. To which is added, the lives of the four evangelists [1815], CHILDREN’S COLLECTION--220-BIB.

2) A curious hieroglyphick Bible ; or, Select passages in the Old and New Testaments, represented with emblematical figures, for the amusement of youth : designed chiefly to familiarize tender age, in a pleasing and diverting manner, with early ideas of the Holy Scriptures. To which are subjoined, a short account of the lives of the evangelists, and other pieces, illustrated with cuts (1794), CHILDREN’S COLLECTION--220-BIB.
History of England

There are many nineteenth and early twentieth century books in the Children’s Collection on teaching children English history.

Possible topics include:

1) Ideas of Englishness

2) Representations of historical objects and landmarks; religion and nation

3) Ideas of selection and value, inclusivity and exclusivity

4) The figure of the teacher

5) Questions of authorship, voice and narration in relation to the child

See in the Main Library:


Call numbers in Special Collections:

1) Around and About Old England, Clara L. Matéaux [188-?] CHILDREN’S COLLECTION--942-MAT.

2) Mrs. Markham’s History of England From the First Invasion by the Romans to the end of the Reign of George the Third, Mrs Markham (1882), CHILDREN’S COLLECTION--942-MAR.

3) Poetical Chronology of Ancient and English history: with historical and explanatory notes, Ricahrd Valpy (1801), CHILDREN’S COLLECTION--909-VAL.

4) True Stories from English History, Maria Elizabeth Budden [n.d.], CHILDREN’S COLLECTION--942-BUD.

5) Short stories founded on European history: England: (third series), [n.d.], CHILDREN’S COLLECTION--942-SHO.
Ladybird Collection

Ladybird books were originally founded in 1915 by the publisher Wills and Hepworth. The collection covers over 900 books and 700 boxes of original artwork including artists such as C.F. Tunnicliffe, Rowland Hilder and Allen Seaby.

Possible topics include:

1) Constructions of gender in childhood

2) Illustrations and education

See in the Main Library:


Call numbers in Special Collections:

1) Ladybird by Design, Lawrence Zeegen (2015), REFERENCE--741.6420942-LAD/ZEE.

2) The Ladybird Story: Children's Books for Everyone, Lorraine Johnson and Brian Alderson (2014), 070.50942-LAD/JOH.


4) British Birds and their Nests, MS 5336/101.
Arthur Mee (1875-1943)

Arthur Mee was a journalist and editor who created The Children's Encyclopaedia and The Children's Newspaper.

Possible topics include:

1) Ideas about race

2) Representations of children in the media

3) Children and advertising

See in the Main Library:


Call numbers in Special Collections:

1) 'New Children's Encyclopaedia', ed. Arthur Mee (1910), CHILDREN'S COLLECTION--052.


4) 'Children's Encyclopaedia Magazine', ed. Arthur Mee (1911), CHILDREN'S COLLECTION--052.


7) Heroes of the Flag, Arthur Mee [1924], CHILDREN'S COLLECTION--920-MEE.


10) The Children's Shakespeare: in Shakespeare's Own Words, arranged by Arthur Mee; illustrated from famous paintings [n.d.], CHILDREN'S COLLECTION--822.3-SHA.

11) Letters to John Derry from Arthur Mee, MS 4057.

The letters cover the period from 1905, when Mee first contacted Derry about writing for his publications, until 1936, not long before Derry's death. Most concern the day-to-day business of the material Derry contributed. Publications mentioned include the Children's Encyclopaedia, Children's Newspaper, Arthur Mee's Hero Book, The Children's Bible and The King's England (often referred to by its working title Motherland). There are also letters which record in more depth Mee's thoughts and opinions, not only about his work but also about current affairs. The collection also includes some letters written by staff working on Arthur Mee publications, in particular Stella Hancock and the art editor and writer Hugo Tyerman.

12) Letter from Arthur Mee to Lady Astor, sending a copy of his new publication, I See all (the first pictorial encyclopaedia), 1928. MS 1416/1/1/754.
Natural History

The Children’s Collection has many nineteenth century and early twentieth century books on natural history.

Possible topics include:

1) Natural history, fiction and religion

2) The curious child; the child that questions their surroundings. What kind of child do these texts construct?

3) Ideas about childhood in relation to ideas of development and nature

4) Ideas about classification

Call numbers in Special Collections:

1) *A Description of More Than Three Hundred Animals, Including Quadrupeds, Birds, Fishes, Serpents, and Insects...*, Thomas Boreman (1812), CHILDREN’S COLLECTION--590-BOR.

2) *A catechism of natural history, or, The animal kingdom displayed being a concise, easy, and familiar description of beasts, birds, fishes, and insects : for the use and instruction of youth*, William Pinnock (1821), CHILDREN’S COLLECTION--590.


3) *The Nature Book: A Popular Description by Pen and Camera of the Delights and Beauties of the Open Air* (1908), CHILDREN’S COLLECTION FOLIO--574-NAT.

4) *Half Hours With a Naturalist: Rambles Near the Shore*, J. G. Wood (1899), CHILDREN’S COLLECTION--578-WOO.

Orbis Sensualium Pictus

The *Orbis Sensualium Pictus* (Visible World in Pictures) by the Czech scholar John Amos Comenius (Jan Amos Komenský) was published in 1658. The Children’s Collection holds two copies: one in Latin, German, French and Italian, the other in English with Latin terms. It is often thought of as being the first picture book for children.

Possible topics include:

1) Joint honours English and German, Italian or French

2) History of Children’s education

3) Ideas of education and structure

See in the Main Library:

1) *Orbis Sensualium Pictus* : 1659, Jan Amos Comenius ; translated by Charles Hoole (1970), STACK--420.8-ENG/222.

2) *Orbis Sensualium Pictus*, Joannes Amos Comenius; with an introduction by James Bowen (1967), 478-COM.


Call numbers in Special Collections:

1) *Joh. Amos Comenii Orbis Sensualium Pictus. Qvadrilingvis Emendatus...*, Johann Amos Comenius (1755), CHILDREN'S COLLECTION--478-COM.

2) *Joh. Amos Comenii Orbis sensualium pictus : hoc est omnium principalium in mundo rerum, & in vita actionum, pictura & nomenclatura = Joh. Amos Comenius's Visible world: or, A nomenclature, and pictures, of all the chief things that are in the world, and of men's employments therein ; in above 150 cuts / written by the author in Latin and High Dutch... ; translated into English by Charles Hoole (1777)*, CHILDREN'S COLLECTION--478-COM.

3) *Janua linguarum novissime ab ipso authore recognita, aucta, emendata, & cum aeneis typis illustrata...* (1665), XRESERVE--478.6-BET.
Mary Martha Sherwood (1775-1851)

Mary Martha Sherwood (née Butt) was a children’s author noted for her evangelical themes. The Children’s Collection holds around 70 books by Mary Sherwood. Some examples are given below.

Possible topics include:

1) Children’s literature and didacticism
2) Religion and the evangelical
3) Redemption and corruption

See in the Main Library:

1) The Life and Times of Mrs. Sherwood (1775-1851) from the diaries of Captain and Mrs Sherwood, Mary Martha Sherwood; edited by F. J. Harvey Darton [1910], STACK--823.79-SHE/LIF.


3) Mrs Sherwood and Her Books for Children: a study, M. Nancy Cutt. With facsimile reproductions of The Little Woodman and his Dog Caesar, and, Saffrona and Her Cat Muff (1974), 823.79-SHE/CUT.

Call numbers in Special Collections:

1) The History of Little Henry and his Bearer, Mary Martha Sherwood (1817), CHILDREN'S COLLECTION--823.7-SHE.

2) The Little Woodman, and his dog Caesar, Mary Martha Sherwood (1818), CHILDREN'S COLLECTION--823.7-SHE.

3) The History of the Fairchild Family; or, the child's manual: being a collection of stories calculated to shew the importance and effects of a religious education, Mary Martha Sherwood (1819), CHILDREN'S COLLECTION--823.7-SHE.

4) Boys Will be Boys, or, The Difficulties of a Schoolboy's life: A Schoolboy's Mission, Mary Martha Sherwood (1860), CHILDREN'S COLLECTION--823.7-SHE.
Section 3: 19th Century Literature

Charles Dickens (1812-1870)

Special Collections holds many works by Charles Dickens, considered to be one of the greatest authors of the nineteenth century. In addition, Dickens’ daughter, Mary (known as Mamie), wrote a ‘short biography of my father’ and his granddaughter Mary Angela Dickens adapted his works as children’s stories.

Possible topics include:

1) Ideas of literary legacy

2) Adaptations of Dickens

3) The idea of Dickens as a literary figure for children

See in the Main Library:


Call numbers in Special Collections:

Works 1-8 are all at RESERVE--823.83.

1) The Posthumous Papers of the Pickwick Club (1837)

2) The Life and Adventures of Nicholas Nickleby (1839)

3) Dealings with the Firm of Dombey and Son (1846-1848) – the original parts

4) Bleak House (1853)

5) Little Dorrit (1855-1857) – the original parts

6) Our Mutual Friend (1865)

7) Sketches by Boz (1867)
8) The Mystery of Edwin Drood (1870)

9) The Old Curiosity Shop (1861), OVERSTONE 15B/15-16.


12) The Personal History of David Copperfield (1865), OVERSTONE 15B/10-11.

13) The Life of Charles Dickens, John Forster (1873-1874), MARK LONGMAN LIBRARY 823.83 DIC/FOR.

14) Charles Dickens, Mamie Dickens (1885), CHILDREN'S COLLECTION--823.8-DIC/DIC.

15) Children's Stories From Dickens, Mary Angela Dickens, edited by Edric Vredenburg (1912), CHILDREN'S COLLECTION--823.8-DIC.

16) A Tale of Two Cities: Retold for Children, Alice F. Jackson (c. 1920), CHILDREN'S COLLECTION--823.8 DIC.

Thomas Hardy (1840-1928)

The Macmillan archive holds letters relating to the novelist and poet Thomas Hardy and Special Collections also holds a manuscript of one of Hardy's poems. The correspondence relates to permissions for the use of some of Hardy's poetry and also requests for attendance at Hardy's funeral. These materials could contribute to dissertations on Hardy.

Possible topics include:

1) Presentations of rural life and language
2) Class and gender

See in the Main Library:

1) *Thomas Hardy*, Patricia Ingham (2003), 823.89-HAR/ING.

Call numbers in Special Collections:

1) There are some items relating to Thomas Hardy in the Macmillan Collection at MAC HAR. For further ideas on rural life there are many books in the MERL Library.

2) *We field-women* [poem] [manuscript], Thomas Hardy, MS 1399.

Coventry Patmore (1823-1896)

Patmore was a nineteenth century poet best known for the narrative poem *The Angel in the House*. Special Collections holds published materials and also letters from Patmore to his publisher George Bell and Sons.

**Possible topics include:**

1) Narrative perspective and gender

2) Marriage

3) The Victorian feminine ideal

**See in the Main Library:**

1) *The life and times of Coventry Patmore*, Derek Patmore [1949], 821.89-PAT/PAT. (also in SC).

2) *Mind and Art of Coventry Patmore* (1957), 821.89-PAT/REI.

3) *Coventry Patmore*, Edmund Gosse (1905), STORE--45730.

**Call numbers in Special Collections:**

1) *The Angel in the House*, Coventry Patmore (2 vols., 1854-56), RESERVE--821.89-PAT.

2) *Coventry Patmore*, E.J. Oliver (1956), MARK LONGMAN LIBRARY--821.89-PAT/OLI.

3) There are over 30 items of correspondence from Patmore with George Bell & Sons, for example MS 1640/332/189 and MS 1640/275/160-163, MS 1640/275/167-178.
William Hale White, who used the pseudonyms Mark Rutherford and Reuben Shapcott, was a novelist, a prolific contributor to newspapers, and literary critic.

**Possible topics include:**

1) Fictional autobiographies
2) Non-conformity in the 19th century

**See in the Main Library:**

1) *The Autobiography of Mark Rutherford Dissenting Minister*, edited by his friend Reuben Shapcott; edited with an introduction by William S. Peterson (1990), 823.89-RUT.

2) *The Revolution in Tanner’s Lane*, Mark Rutherford; edited by his friend Reuben Shapcott [n.d.], STORE--10619.

3) *Autobiography and Deliverance*, Mark Rutherford; with an introduction by Basil Willey (1969), 823.89--RUT.

4) *Clara Hopgood*, Mark Rutherford (1936), STORE--10617.

5) *Catharine Furze*, Mark Rutherford [1925], STORE--10616.

**Call numbers in Special Collections:**

1) Hale White Collection, MS 2873 (not on Enterprise). There is one envelope with a letter and a handwritten manuscript by Hale White.

2) There is also material from the Chatto & Windus archive about republishing Rutherford’s works. Correspondence concerning works by Mark Rutherford (pseud. of William Hale White) (1831-1913) (Hogarth Press), CW 250/13; CW 359/5; CW 393/16; CW 423/2.


4) *Letters to Three Friends*, Mark Rutherford (1924), MS 4991/42.
John Todhunter (1839-1916)

John Todhunter is best known as a poet and literary critic, but was also a doctor of medicine, painter and composer. Todhunter maintained his connections with the Irish literary revival and much of his later work is concerned with re-interpreting Irish myths and legends, and with Irish history. Materials in the archives include author’s papers, letters and manuscript material, journals and diaries and published materials.

Possible topics include:

1) The Celtic Revival
2) The Rhymers’ Club

See in the Main Library:

1) Laurella: and Other Poems, John Todhunter (1876), STORE--46707.
2) From the Land of Dreams, John Todhunter (1918), STORE--46708.
3) True Tragedy of Rienzi: Tribune of Rome, John Todhunter (1881), STORE--46706.

Call numbers in Special Collections:

1) John Todhunter Collection, MS 202 (4 boxes). A handlist is available here: http://www.reading.ac.uk/web/FILES/special-collections/todhunter.pdf. There is also a handlist in the Reading Room which contains transcriptions from the correspondence.

2) The Book of the Rhymers' Club (1892), RESERVE--821.808-RHY.
3) The Second Book of the Rhymers' Club (1894), RESERVE--821.808-RHY.
4) Correspondence (with George Bell & Sons): Todhunter, J. 1873 May 17, MS 1640/308/196.
Section 4: Fin de Siècle Literature

Aubrey Beardsley (1872-1898)

There are several rare books and other items with illustrations by Aubrey Beardsley who was noted for his decadent, and sometimes controversial, pen and ink drawings. One notable example is Oscar Wilde’s *Salome: A Tragedy in One Act*. Beardsley also co-founded and illustrated *The Yellow Book* and *The Savoy*, periodicals dedicated to aestheticism in literature and art. There are also several issues of illustrations by Beardsley which were privately printed.

**Could be used for projects such as:**

1) Joint honours degrees with History of Art or Typography

2) Victorian Literature

3) Nineteenth century book illustration

**See in the Main Library:**

1) *Aubrey Beardsley* by Stephen Calloway, 741.942-BEA/CAL (also at SC).

**Call numbers in Special Collections:**

1) Aubrey Beardsley Collection, MS 160. A handlist is available here: [http://www.reading.ac.uk/web/FILES/special-collections/beardsley.pdf](http://www.reading.ac.uk/web/FILES/special-collections/beardsley.pdf) There is also a handlist in the Reading Room which contains transcriptions from the correspondence. Look through and call up items of interest.

2) *Salome: A Tragedy in One Act*, translated from the French of Oscar Wilde, illustrated by Aubrey Beardsley, RESERVE--822.89-WIL.


See also: **Oscar Wilde**
Pearl Craigie (1867-1906)

Pearl Craigie was the author of a number of plays and novels under the pseudonym John Oliver Hobbes. Born in the USA, she grew up in Britain. She was President of the Society of Women Journalists in 1895 and also a member of the Anti-Suffrage League. The collection comprises letters written by Craigie during the period 1898-1905 to Bishop William F. Brown, who at the time was a Roman Catholic priest in charge of a ‘slum’ parish in South London, and two scrapbooks, one relating to an American visit 1905-1906 and the other containing cuttings about her death and funeral in 1906.

Possible topics include:

1) Gender politics
2) Comedy
3) Self cultivation

See in the Main Library:

1) ‘The Ambassador’ in Female Playwrights of the Nineteenth Century, ed. Adrienne Scullion (1996), 822.808-FEM.

The following works are in the off-site store: A Study in Temptations, and, A bundle of Life; The Ambassador; The Flute of Pan: a romance; The Dream and the Business.

Call numbers in Special Collections:

1) Pearl Craigie Collection, MS 2133A (4 boxes). The collection is not yet catalogued. Box 3 contains the article John Oliver Hobbes: Her Life and Work by Margaret Maison.

2) The Priest and the Playwright, M.F. Brown (2009), 942.1-BRO.

3) Robert Orange: being a continuation of the history of Robert Orange, M.P., and a sequel to the School for saints, John Oliver Hobbes (1900), XRESERVE--823.89-HOB.

4) The Vineyard, John Oliver Hobbes (1904), XRESERVE--823.89-HOB.

5) Pearl Mary Tereson Craigie to the Editor of the Academy 29 November 1902, Ventnore [postmark], Elkin Mathews Collection, MS 392/1/1/846.

6) The Brilliant Mrs Craigie, article by Margaret Maison in The Listener, CW R/2/8.
**Edwin John Ellis (1841-1916) and W.B. Yeats (1865-1939)**

Edwin John Ellis edited the works of William Blake with W.B. Yeats, published a volume of his own verse and two novels, and illustrated Shakespeare’s sonnets and other books. Ellis and Yeats were also part of the ‘Rhymers’ Club’ which published two volumes of poetry. The Edwin John Ellis collection includes letters from W. B. Yeats and manuscript material from Ellis and Yeats.

**Possible topics include:**

1) Problems of Editorial works

2) A genetic study

**See in the Main Library:**

_The Works of William Blake, poetic, symbolic, and critical/ edited with lithographs of the illustrated “prophetic books” and a memoir and interpretation by Edwin John Ellis and William Butler Yeats. (1893)_

1) _Works vol. 1: Memoir; Literary period; Symbolic system, STACK--821.69-BLA._

2) _Works vol. 2: Interpretation and paraphrased commentary; Blake the artist; Some references, STACK--821.69-BLA._

3) _Works vol. 3: Poetical sketches; Songs of innocence; Songs of experience, STACK--821.69-BLA._

**Call numbers in Special Collections:**

1) Edwin John Ellis Collection, MS 293 (2 boxes). A detailed handlist is available in the Reading Room. You can call up specific items of interest; also ask for MS 991 Yeats/Ellis papers (additional, not in the catalogue).

2) _The Book of the Rhymers’ Club_ (1892), RESERVE--821.808-RHY.

3) _The Second Book of the Rhymers’ Club_ (1894), RESERVE--821.808-RHY.

4) _The Celtic Twilight: Men and Women, Dhouls and Faeries, W.B. Yeats; with a frontispiece by J.B. Yeats_ (1893), RESERVE--821.912-YEA.
Violet Fane (1843-1905)

Mary Montgomery Currie was a novelist, poet and essayist, who wrote as Violet Fane.

Possible topics include:

1) Aristocratic life

2) Violet Fane and her place in the media

3) Compile and introduce an anthology of selected poems by Violet Fane

Call numbers in Special Collections:

1) Violet Fane Collection, MS 2608 (15 boxes). A handlist is available here: https://www.reading.ac.uk/web/FILES/special-collections/Violet_Fane_Ms_2608.pdf

The collection is fairly extensive. Some examples of items of interest are:

2) A manuscript in a leather case written on the back of cards. Manuscripts of poems and essays, part of her memoirs. MS 2608/5/8/3 in this box contains an essay on beauty. In the same file is a short piece of writing called ‘A description of Sarah Bernhardt’. There are several notebooks with poems in. MS 2608 Violet Fane: Box 5.

3) Several envelopes with cuttings in concerning Violet Fame and her husband, Sir Philip Henry Currie, published poems and obituaries. MS 2608 Violet Fane: Box 4.

4) Poems (Vols. 1 and 2), Violet Fane [1892], RESERVE: 821.89-FAN

5) Autumn Songs, Violet Fane (1889), RESERVE: 821.89-FAN.
John Gray (1866-1934)

John Gray was a poet of the aesthetic movement and a friend of Oscar Wilde, Aubrey Beardsley and Marc-André Raffalovich. He also translated many works of the French Symbolists into English for the first time.

Possible topics include:

1) The aesthetic movement
2) Poetry and religion
3) Poetry and translation

See in the Main Library:

1) In the Dorian Mode: a Life of John Gray, 1866-1934, Brocard Sewell (1983), STACK--821.89-GRA/SEW.
2) The Man who was Dorian Gray, Jerusha Hull McCormack (2000), 821.89-GRA/MAC.
3) The Poems of John Gray, edited by Ian Fletcher (1988), 821.89-GRA.
4) The Selected Prose of John Gray, compiled by Jerusha Hull McCormack (1992), 821.89-GRA.

Call numbers in Special Collections:

1) Silverpoints, John Gray (1893), RESERVE--821.89-GRA.
2) Spiritual Poems: chiefly done out of several languages, John Gray [1896], RESERVE--821.89-SPI.

See also: Aubrey Beardsley, Oscar Wilde
Richard Marsh (1857-1915)

Richard Marsh was born Richard Bernard Heldmann. He was a prolific writer, producing more than 60 popular novels as well as short stories and several plays. Perhaps his best known work was *The Beetle, a Mystery* published in 1897.

Possible topics include:

1) Comedy

2) Gothic and sensation

See in the Main Library:


2) *A Woman Perfected*, Richard Marsh [1912], STORE--34958.

3) *A Royal Indiscretion*, Richard Marsh [1910], STORE--34956.

Call numbers in Special Collections:

1) Richard Marsh Collection, MS 2051 (3 boxes). A handlist is available here: http://www.reading.ac.uk/web/FILES/special-collections/Richard_Marsh_MS_2051.pdf

The collection consists of typescripts and manuscripts, many fragmentary, of articles; novels, including: *The Interrupted Kiss, Too Strange Not to be True, The Land of Tweedledum: Where the Children Rule*, and *The House with the Open Window* (Book one of *The Beetle*); short stories and plays, including *Sir Frank's Engagement, The Colonel's Cane, Mr Justice Gray, and A Corner in Bohemia.*
Robert Harborough Sherard (1861-1943)

Robert Harborough Sherard was a journalist, biographer and novelist, best known today for his friendship with Oscar Wilde and his publications in Wilde's defence.

Possible topics include:

1) Constructions of reputation

2) Biography and narrative perspective

3) Reception by contemporary media

See in the Main Library:


2) Twenty Years in Paris: Being some Recollections of a Literary Life, Robert Harborough Sherard (1905), STORE--12388. (also in SC)

Call numbers in Special Collections:


2) Diary relating to Oscar Wilde Twice Defended, 27 May 1933 – 27 May 1939, MS 1047/2/2.

3) This file contains four copies of letters from Oscar Wilde, MS 1047/1/1 V-Z.

4) This file contains letters from Lord Alfred Douglas, MS 1047/1/1 D.

5) Newspaper Cuttings, MS1047/3/1-9.

6) Newspaper cuttings relating to Oscar Wilde, HARBOROUGH SHERARD COLLECTION--MS 1047/3/9.
Oscar Wilde (1854-1900)

Oscar Wilde was an Irish author, playwright and poet who was the greatest proponent of the Decadent movement in Britain.

Possible topics include:

1) Aestheticism and decadence
2) Victorian attitudes to sexuality and morality

See in the Main Library:

1) *Oscar Wilde*, edited by Jarlath Killeen (2011), 822.89-WIL/OSC.

2) *Wilde Discoveries: Traditions, Histories, Archives*, edited by Joseph Bristow [2013], 822.89-WIL/WIL.

3) *The Cambridge Companion to Oscar Wilde*, edited by Peter Raby (1997), 822.89-WIL/CAM.

4) *Oscar Wilde: a Biography*, H. Montgomery Hyde (1976), 822.89-WIL/HYD.

5) *Bibliography of Oscar Wilde*, Stuart Mason; with a note by Robert Ross (1914), STACK--822.89-WIL/MAS (also in SC).


Call numbers in Special Collections:

1) *A House of Pomegranates*, Oscar Wilde (1891), RESERVE--822.89-WIL.

2) *Salome: a Tragedy in one act*, translated from the French of Oscar Wilde; illustrated by Aubrey Beardsley (1894), RESERVE--822.89-WIL.

3) *The Ballad of Reading Gaol*, C.3.3. [1899], RESERVE--822.89.


See also: *Aubrey Beardsley, Robert Harborough Sherard, John Gray*
Section 5: Early 20th Century Literature

Ford Madox Ford (1873-1939)

The Allen and Unwin (AU) collection holds a substantial amount of material relating to the English writer and critic Ford Madox Ford. This includes readers’ reports (RR) on The Great Trade Route, Vive Le Roy, Mightier than Swords, Wheels of the Plough and correspondence (C) regarding The March of Literature and Mightier than the Sword.

Possible topics include:

1) What factors are necessary to make a book publishable?

2) Reception studies

See in the Main Library:


2) Vive le Roy, Ford Madox Ford (1937), STORE--33885.

Call numbers in Special Collections:

1) Reader’s report by David Unwin on Wheels of the Plough by Ford Madox Ford, 1943, AURR 11/1/35.

2) Reader’s report by Bernard Miall on an untitled MS (14 articles) by Ford Madox Ford, 1940, AURR 8/1/50.

3) Letters to and from Ford Madox Ford, 1939, AUC 58/19.

4) Letters to and from Ford Madox Ford, 1938, AUC 53/17.

5) Reader’s report by Malcolm Barnes on Collected poems by Ford Madox Ford, 1937, AURR 6/1/35.

6) Reader’s report by Edward Crankshaw on Vive le Roy / by Ford Madox Ford, AURR 6/1/07.
Roy Horniman (1874-1930)

Roy Horniman was a playwright and novelist whose original works include *Israel Rank*, which, after his death, became the basis for the film *Kind Hearts and Coronets*.

Possible topics include:

1) Could be used for a joint honours dissertation for Film and Theatre studies on adaptation

2) Comedy, satire and anti-Semitism

3) Class and social hierarchy

See in the Main Library:

1) *Kind Hearts and Coronets*, Michael Newton (2003), 791.437-KIN.

Call numbers in Special Collections:

1) Papers of Roy Horniman, MS 5104 (27 boxes). A handlist is available here: http://www.reading.ac.uk/web/FILES/special-collections/Roy_Horniman_MS_5104.pdf

The collection consists of manuscripts and typescripts of poems, articles, plays, both originals and adaptations, including *Bellamy the Magnificent, Idols, The Coster Duke*, and *The Missing Hero*; novels including *A Non-conformist Parson, Israel Rank, Jenny, and Winifred, The Romance of Beauty*; and short stories including *Billy's Fortune* and other stories. Examples of materials include:

Adaptation manuscript materials on *Bellamy the Magnificent: An Extravaganza* MS 5104/1-2. Manuscript material of *Israel Rank* and also adaptation manuscript materials. MS 5104/22.

2) *Israel Rank*, Roy Horniman (1948), 823.912-HOR.

3) *Bellamy the Magnificent: An Extravaganza*, Roy Horniman (1912), 823.912-HOR.

5) Correspondence with Chatto & Windus concerning Roy Horniman (including Graham Greene), 1944-1946, CW 100/17.

6) Author's retail and statement ledger, 1892-1910, CW B/1/2. Horniman is on p. 351 and 468.

7) Stock book 6, c. 1902-1911, Includes Lord Cammarleigh’s Secret, Bellamy the Magnificent and Israel Rank, CW B/2/17.
John Dos Passos (1896-1970)

John Dos Passos was a radical American novelist and artist. There is correspondence (C) to and from Dos Passos in the Allen and Unwin (AU) collection and also readers’ reports (RR) concerning, amongst other things, censorship issues all relating to the anti-war novel *One Man’s Initiation: 1917* which was first published in 1920.

Possible topics include:

1) Censorship

2) Literature and war

3) Alienation

See in the Main Library:

1) *One Man’s Initiation: 1917*, John Dos Passos (1969), 813.52-DOS.

2) *U.S.A.: The 42nd parallel; Nineteen-nineteen; The Big Money*, John Dos Passos (1950), 813.52-DOS.


4) *Twentieth Century Odyssey: the Life of John Dos Passos*, Townsend Ludington (1980), 813.52-DOS/LUD.

Call numbers in Special Collections:

1) Reader’s report by Bernard Miall on *One Man’s Initiation* by John Dos Passos (1919), AURR: A/1/51.

2) Letters to and from John Dos Passos, 1919-1922, AUC 2/10.

Sylvia Townsend Warner (1893-1978)

Sylvia Townsend Warner was a novelist and poet and a member of the ‘Bright Young Things’ in 1920s London. For many years she was in a relationship with Valentine Ackland.

Possible topics include:

1) Presentations of bisexuality in the early 20th Century

2) The position of women

See in the Main Library:


2) Kingdoms of Elfin, Sylvia Townsend Warner (1977), STORE--57265.

Call numbers in Special Collections:


2) Lolly Willowes: or The Loving Huntsman, Sylvia Townsend Warner (1928), FINZI--23C/44.

3) Mr. Fortune’s Maggot, Sylvia Townsend Warner (1927), FINZI--23C/45.

4) Summer Will Show, Sylvia Townsend Warner (1936), FINZI--23C/53.

5) Review file for ‘Kingdom’s of Elfin’ by Sylvia Townsend Warner, CW R/13/34.


7) There are many review files in the Chatto & Windus archive for Warner’s works, e.g. Review file for ‘Lolly Willowes: or, the loving huntsman’ by Sylvia Townsend Warner; with wood engravings by Reynolds Stone, 1967, CW R/3/47.
Section 6: Late 20th Century Literature

Brian Aldiss (1925 -)

Brian Aldiss is one of Britain's most notable writers of science fiction, and also writes in other genres. His best-known work is the *Heliconia* Trilogy.

**Possible topics include:**

1) Constructions of technology  
2) Ideas of genre  
3) Notions of State

**See in the Main Library:**


**Call numbers in Special Collections:**

1) Brian Aldiss Collection, MS 4201 (9 boxes). A handlist is available here:  
[http://www.reading.ac.uk/web/FILES/special-collections/Brian_Aldiss_MS_4201.pdf](http://www.reading.ac.uk/web/FILES/special-collections/Brian_Aldiss_MS_4201.pdf)  
The collection contains notes for stories and articles, including *Heliconia* and autobiographical notes; seventeen typescripts or proof copies of Aldiss' work; illustrative material for science fiction; articles written by and about Aldiss; copies of published work by Aldiss and other authors; various issues of the periodical *Locus* 1974-1993; and sundry other papers, including the record of an interview with Deng Xiao Ping in 1979, and the typescript of a conversation between Aldiss and Harry Harrison.


3) The Jonathan Cape archive holds Correspondence relating to the publication of:  
*Frankenstein Unbound; The Eighty Minute Hour; The Malacia Tapestry; Last Orders and Other Stories; Enemies of the System; New Arrivals, Old Encounters; Moreau's Other Island.*

Samuel Beckett (1906-1989)

Samuel Beckett was one of the most important writers of the twentieth century. His novels and plays have been hugely influential on modern literature and he was awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1969. Special Collections is home to the biggest collection of Beckett related material in the world, and is administered by the Beckett International Foundation. The Collection is a source for innumerable dissertation topics which can be developed along a variety of lines. The Beckett International Foundation supports work in this area, for information about the foundation see www.beckettfoundation.org.uk. Also see http://www.reading.ac.uk/special-collections/collections/sc-beckett.aspx Please note that Beckett manuscripts are usually only available as photocopy facsimiles and special permission is needed to view original manuscripts.

Possible topics include:

1) Genetic studies

2) Performance studies

See in the Main Library:


2) Beckett at Reading: catalogue of the Beckett manuscript collection at the University of Reading, Mary Bryden, Julian Garforth, Peter Mills (1998), 843.912-BEC/BRY (also at SC)

Call numbers in Special Collections:

1) Complete draft manuscript of Samuel Beckett’s novel Murphy, MS 5517. Six autograph notebooks with handwritten alterations by the author.

Gerda Charles (1914–1996)

Gerda Charles was the author of novels and short stories, *The Crossing Point; A Slanting Light; The Destiny Waltz* and *A Logical Girl* are all held in Special Collections. She was also a journalist and reviewer who contributed to papers including the ‘New Statesman’, ‘New York Times’, ‘Daily Telegraph’ and ‘Jewish Chronicle’.

**Possible topics include:**

1) Jewish fiction
2) Women’s writing
3) Writing Jewish experience

**See in the Main Library:**


**Call numbers in Special Collections:**

1) Gerda Charles Collection, MS 4629 (32 boxes). A handlist is available here: [http://www.reading.ac.uk/web/FILES/special-collections/charles.pdf](http://www.reading.ac.uk/web/FILES/special-collections/charles.pdf)

2) *The True Voice; The Crossing Point; A Slanting Light; A Logical Girl; The Destiny Waltz*, GERDA CHARLES, MS 4629: BOX 33.


4) *To what extent have the forgotten books of Gerda Charles been mistakenly identified as Jewish, Golders Green novels? : is there evidence to suggest that, that in writing a critique of the social mores of post-war Britain, Charles takes a standpoint influenced by Victorian classic literature?*, Gerald Geoffrey Reilly (2012), FOLIO--823.912-CHA/REI.
Rosalind Laker (1921-2012)

Barbara Ovstedal mostly wrote using the pseudonym Rosalind Laker. Her historical novels and romances have been translated into over 20 languages.

Possible topics include:

1) The Historical novel

2) Cover and dust jacket design

Call numbers in Special Collections:

1) Rosalind Laker Collection, MS 5507 (6 boxes). The archive collection has not been catalogued and is not available on Enterprise but a box list is available. It includes:


Research notes on a variety of subjects relating to her novels.

Personal letters and correspondence concerning royalties.

Copies of short stories.

Contracts and agreements.

Taped interviews.

2) Sovereign's Key, Rosalind Laker (1969), ROSALIND LAKER COLLECTION--001.


John Wain (1925-1994)

John Wain was an English novelist, poet and critic. His novels include *Hurry on Down*, *The Contenders* and *Young Shoulders*. He was a lecturer in English at the University of Reading from 1947 to 1955. He was associated with the group ‘The Movement’.

Possible topics include:

1) John Wain and journalism

2) Ideas of Post-war British Society

See in the Main Library:

1) *Hurry on Down: a novel*, John Wain (1953), 823.914-WAI.

Call numbers in Special Collections:


5) *Young Shoulders*, John Wain (1982), WAIN COLLECTION--C/43.

6) John Wain Collection, MS 2739 (2 boxes). The collection consists of correspondence, photographs, poems, novels, plays, and broadcast scripts.

7) [Collection of articles, reviews, essays, stories, fiction etc. published in newspapers and journals by or about John Wain], (1955-1981), WAIN COLLECTION FOLIO--E/10.

Section 7: Early 20th Century Poetry

Valentine Ackland (1906-1969)

Mary Kathleen Macrory Ackland changed her name to Valentine Ackland in the late 1920s. Although her poetry was featured in literary journals during her lifetime, the majority was published after her death. She was also known for her relationship with Sylvia Townsend Warner.

Possible topics include:

1) Depictions of gender
2) Self-reflection

See in the Main Library:


Call numbers in Special Collections:

1) Gerald and Joy Finzi Collection, MS 1399. The collection contains typescript poems collected by the Finzis, including over 700 poems by Valentine Ackland arranged by Sylvia Townsend Warner. There are also letters to Joy Finzi from Valentine Ackland. (collection is uncatalogued).

2) Whether a Dove or Seagull, Sylvia Townsend Warner and Valentine Ackland (1934), FINZI--23C/58.

3) Twenty-eight poems, Valentine Ackland (1957), FINZI--23C/61.


7) Correspondence concerning For Sylvia / by Valentine Ackland (1906-1969) (Chatto & Windus), CW 374/1 and CW 397/1.
Alun Lewis (1915-1944)

Alun Lewis was a Welsh writer of war poetry and prose, Special Collections holds correspondence (C) between Lewis and the publishers Allen and Unwin (AU) relating to his poetry. There is also correspondence between Mrs Lewis and the publishers, one letter delivers the news of the untimely death of her husband.

Possible topics include:

1) War poetry
2) Collected poetry; the process of making a collection
3) How do the author’s letters frame his own works?

See in the Main Library:

3) *In the Green Tree*, Alun Lewis; with a preface by A.L. Rowse, a postscript by Gwyn Jones and a sonnet by Vernon Watkins; drawings by John Petts (1948), STORE--50289.
4) *Selected Poetry and Prose*, Alun Lewis; with a biographical introduction by Ian Hamilton (1966), 821.912-LEW.

Call numbers in Special Collections:

1) Letters to and from Alun Lewis, Mainly contains typescripts of his short stories including the author’s original tss of a) Orange grove / and b) Ward “O” 3 (b) /.

Holographs, typescripts and carbon typescripts, AUC 197/6.

R.L. Mégroz (1891-1968)

Rodolphe Louis Mégroz was a British writer, poet and critic.

Possible topics include:

1) Genetic studies of Mégroz's poetry

2) Problems of Editorial Works

See in the Main Library:


Call numbers in Special Collections:


The collection consists of personal papers, photographs and letters; autobiographical notes; poems; plays; short stories; articles; radio scripts; notes for books on various subjects; transcripts of interviews and a considerable amount of correspondence with literary figures and others including Arthur St John Adcock (73 letters), Gordon Bottomley (29 letters), Marten Cumberland (137 letters and cards), Cecil H. Lay (more than 200 letters), Walter de la Mare (120 letters and cards), Chris Massie (142 letters), Thomas Moult (70 letters and cards), Seumas O'Sullivan (31 letters), Herbert E. Palmer (71 letters and cards), Ronald Ross (36 letters) and Osbert Sitwell (33 letters and a reference).

2) *Personal Poems*, R.L. Mégroz (1919), ELKIN MATHEWS COLLECTION.

3) Letters from Rudolphe Louis Mégroz (1891-), John Lane Correspondence, JL 13/4.


5) *Walter De La Mare: a biographical and critical study*, R.L. Mégroz (1924), MARK LONGMAN LIBRARY--821.912-DEL.
Nicholas Moore (1918-1986)

Nicholas Moore was a poet and editor whose work was well known and respected in the 1940s but which then fell out of favour. His uncle was Thomas Sturge Moore (see below). There are several manuscripts and letters to Ian Fletcher in the collections.

Possible topics include:

1) Romanticism
2) Poetry anthologies

See in the Main Library:


Call numbers in Special Collections:

1) *The Island and the Cattle: Poems*, Nicholas Moore [1941], RESERVE: 821.914-MOO.


3) Nicholas Moore Collection, MS 2765. One folder with 4 signed TS poems by Moore; 5 letters and 10 postcards from Nicholas Moore to Ian Fletcher.

Thomas Sturge Moore (1870-1944)

Thomas Sturge Moore was a poet, a critic of art and of literature, a wood-engraver and a dramatist. Materials held in the archives include author's papers and published material.

Possible topics include:

1) Mythology
2) Ideas about morality and rationality
3) Ideas about beauty

See in the Main Library:

1) Sturge Moore and the Life of Art, Frederick L. Gwynn (1952), STORE--47776.
2) W.B. Yeats and T. Sturge Moore: Their Correspondence, 1901-1937, edited by Ursula Bridge (1953), STORE--49059.

Call numbers in Special Collections:

1) Thomas Sturge Moore Collection, MS 165 (1 box).

There is a handlist in the Reading Room. The collection consists mainly of correspondence; 41 letters and 19 postcards from Thomas Sturge Moore, 1937-1943, and 16 letters and 8 postcards from Marie Sturge Moore (some on behalf of her husband), 1938-1947, to John Gawsworth [Terence Ian Fytton Armstrong]; envelopes; poems by Thomas Sturge Moore; poem by John Gawsworth; galley proofs of poems by Thomas Sturge Moore published in Fifty years of modern verse edited by John Gawsworth; galley proofs of poems by Michael Field published in Fifty years of modern verse with corrections by Thomas Sturge Moore; MS introductory speech by John Gawsworth to a lecture by Thomas Sturge Moore.

Edward Harold Physick, known as E.H. Visiak, was a poet and a notable Milton scholar. His work includes the poetry *Buccaneer Ballads*, *Flints and Flashes* and *The Battle Fiends*. There are several letters from John Masefield who wrote the introduction to Visiak's *Buccaneer Ballads*.

**Possible topics include:**

1) Poetry and World War I

2) Horror

**See in the Main Library:**


**Call numbers in Special collections:**

1) *Buccaneer Ballads*, E.H. Visiak (1910), ELKIN MATHEWS COLLECTION.

2) *Flints and Flashes*, E.H. Visiak (1911), ELKIN MATHEWS COLLECTION.

3) *The Battle Fiends*, E.H. Visiak (1916), ELKIN MATHEWS COLLECTION.

4) E.H. Visiak Collection, MS 5096 (5 boxes). A handlist is available here: [http://www.reading.ac.uk/web/FILES/special-collections/visiak.pdf](http://www.reading.ac.uk/web/FILES/special-collections/visiak.pdf)

5) Correspondence: Visiak, E.H., George Bell and Sons. MS 1640/281/398.

6) Publicity file for E. H. Visiak, BH1 APU/393.

William Butler Yeats was an Irish poet and playwright who had a notable interest in mysticism. He won the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1923. The Charles Elkin Mathews Collections contains correspondence written by Yeats.

Possible topics include:

1) What can this correspondence tell us about the process of writing poetry?

2) What did Yeats mean by ‘the schools and movements of our new generation’?

Call numbers in Special Collections:

1) Charles Elkin Mathews Collection, MS 392 (3 boxes). A handlist is available here: http://www.reading.ac.uk/web/FILES/special-collections/Elkin_Mathews_MS_392.pdf

2) Letter from W. B. Yeats to Mathews, 6 July 1894, Chiswick, ELKIN MATHEWS COLLECTION--392/1/1/689-692.

3) Letter from W. B. Yeats to Mathews, 7 April [1895], Sligo, ELKIN MATHEWS COLLECTION--392/1/1/737-740.


6) Letter from W. B. Yeats, Arthur Symons and other to Mathews, 17 March 1903, ELKIN MATHEWS COLLECTION--392/1/1/850.


8) Letter from Mathews to W. B Yeats, [1919], ELKIN MATHEWS COLLECTION--392/1/1/1024.

9) Letter from W. B. Yeats to Mathews, 6 April 1919, Dundrum, Co. Dublin, ELKIN MATHEWS COLLECTION--392/1/1/1028.
10) Photograph of W. B. Yeats [c. 1880], ELKIN MATHEWS COLLECTION--392/8/5.


13) Samhain ["Edited for the Irish Literary Theatre", Edited by W.B. Yeats.], 7 intermittent volumes (1901-1908), RESERVE--820.5.

See also:

**Donald Gordon Collection, (not catalogued or on Enterprise)**

Donald J. Gordon (died 1977) was Professor of English at the University of Reading. The collection consists of about 500 printed volumes by and about W.B. Yeats and other Irish writers of the period, collected by Professor Gordon.

**Artworks and letters of William Thomas Horton, MSS 174, 289 (not catalogued or on Enterprise)**

The collection contains paintings and drawings by the symbolist artist William Thomas Horton (1864-1919), together with transcripts of letters from H. Rider Haggard, W.B. Yeats and others. He became involved in spiritualism in his graphic work, and was influenced by the French artist Théophile-Alexandre Steinlen. Horton's imagery was often powerful and original, and inspired, he believed, by some occult influence.
Section 8: Late 20th Century Poetry

Taner Baybars (1936-2010)

Taner Baybars was born in Cyprus in 1936, and contributed to literary magazines in Cyprus and Turkey before moving to England in the 1950s where he adopted English as his literary language. He was a member of ‘The Group’ of poets. The collection includes manuscripts of novels, short stories and poetry, along with manuscripts of translations of work by the Turkish poet Nâzim Hikmet (1902–1963) and correspondence with him.

Possible topics include:

1) Baybars as a ‘Turkish’ poet and writer
2) Literary language and translation

See in the Main Library:

1) *Trap For the Burglar*, Taner Baybars (1965), STORE--76192.

Call numbers in Special Collections:

1) Taner Baybars Collection, MS 3263. A handlist is available here: [http://www.reading.ac.uk/web/FILES/special-collections/Taner_Baybars_MS_3263_amended.pdf](http://www.reading.ac.uk/web/FILES/special-collections/Taner_Baybars_MS_3263_amended.pdf)

The collection can also be searched on Enterprise.


3) Correspondence relating to the publication of *Selected Poems* by Nazim Hikmet (1902-1963), JC 79/3.

4) *To Catch a Falling Man*, Taner Baybars (1963), TANER BAYBARS COLLECTION--001.

See also: The Group Papers
The Group

‘The Group’ was made up of poets who met in London in the 1950s and 1960s. They included Fleur Adcock, Taner Baybars, Kevin Crossley-Holland, Christopher Hampton, George MacBeth, Edward Lucie-Smith, Philip Hobsbaum, Alan Brownjohn, Alan Marshfield, Adrian Mitchell, Peter Porter, Peter Redgrove, Ted Hughes and Martin Bell.

Possible topics include:

1) What makes a ‘group’ of poets?

2) British post-War poetry

See in the Main Library:


Call numbers in Special Collections:

1) The Group papers, MS 4457 (4 boxes). A brief handlist is available here: http://www.reading.ac.uk/web/FILES/special-collections/The_Group_MS_4457.pdf

The collection contains around 170 duplicated worksheets containing poems by 74 poets. There is also considerable correspondence between various poets and Ian Fletcher, much of it related to the exhibition The Group which he mounted in the library of Reading University in 1974.

2) Binder containing quantity of TS of poetry written by number of poets eg. Fleur Adcock, George MacBeth, Peter Porter, sent to Taner Baybars as a member of a writers’ group, also notes (one dated 1963) sent by Edward Lucie-Smith in whose house the meetings were held, MS 3263/38.
Edwin Morgan (1920-2010)

Edwin Morgan was the first Makar, or Poet Laureate, of Scotland. He was a prolific poet and translator. The collection consists of poems, translations and letters from Morgan to fellow poets Ian Fletcher and Peter Russell.

Possible topics include:

1) Joint honours dissertation with Italian
2) What questions do comments and marginalia raise about translation?
3) What issues are encountered in the translation of poetry specifically?

See in the Main Library:

2) *Collected Poems*, Edwin Morgan (1990), 821.914-MOR.
3) *Poems of thirty years*, Edwin Morgan (1981), 821.914-MOR.

Call numbers in Special Collections:

1) Edwin Morgan Collection, MS 2002 (1 folder). The collection contains poems and translations from French, Italian and Anglo-Saxon by Edwin Morgan; letters from Morgan to Ian Fletcher and Peter Russell.
2) *Poems from Eugenio Montale*, translated by Edwin Morgan (1960), RESERVE: 851.912-MON.
3) *The Cape of Good Hope*, Edwin Morgan (1955), RESERVE--821.914-MOR.
Peter Porter (1929-2010)

Peter Porter was an Australian poet who lived in England and who was a member of ‘The Group’. The materials in the archives include notebooks and manuscript materials.

Possible topics include:

1) Satire
2) Reference and allusion
3) Death

See in the Main Library:

1) *Ancient and Modern Poems*, Peter Porter (1964), STACK--821.914-POR.
3) *After Martial*, Peter Porter (1972), STORE--50274.
5) *Collected Poems*, Peter Porter (2 vols., 1999), 821.914-POR.
6) *Max is Missing*, Peter Porter (2001), STACK--821.914-POR.

Call numbers in Special Collections:

1) Peter Porter Collection, MS 1221. The collection consists of 4 folders and 4 exercise books containing notes and drafts for poems, some of which were published in *After Martial* and *The Last of England*.

See also: The Group Papers
Bernard Spencer (1909-1963)

Spencer was a twentieth century English poet, much of the Bernard Spencer collection was given to the archives by Professor Ian Fletcher, a friend of Spencer who worked in the Department of English at Reading University. Since then further bequests have been made and there is now a substantial amount of material relating to this author.

In 2009 a catalogue of the Spencer collection was published and so offers the opportunity to search and study these materials. There are a wealth of topics that can be generated from the various poetry, prose, correspondence and manuscript materials.

See in the Main Library:

1) Bernard Spencer at Reading: catalogue of the Bernard Spencer Collection at the University of Reading, Verity Hunt and Peter Robinson (2009), 821.914-SPE/HUN (also at SC).


3) Bernard Spencer: essays on his poetry & life, edited by Peter Robinson (2012), 821.914-SPE/BER.

Call numbers in Special Collections:

1) Bernard Spencer Collection, BSP. This has put the three major collections on Spencer (MS 2413, MS 5369 and MS 5370) together in one sequence. A handlist is available here: http://www.reading.ac.uk/web/FLIES/special-collections/BSP_2.pdf

BSP 1: Poetry, BSP 2: Prose, BSP 3: Translations, BSP 4: Correspondence, BSP 5: Documents relating to Spencer at the British Council, BSP 6: Lecture Notes from Spencer’s Teaching, BSP 7: Images, BSP 8: Secondary Bibliographical Materials, BSP 9: Writings and publications by people other than Spencer, and not about him, BSP 10: Miscellaneous documents, papers and objects.

2) The Twist in the Plotting: Twenty Five Poems, Bernard Spencer (1960), RESERVE--821.914-SPE.

3) With Luck Lasting: Poems, Bernard Spencer (proof copy, 1963), RESERVE--821.914-SPE.
Section 9: African Literature

Chinua Achebe (1930-2013)

Chinua Achebe was a Nigerian novelist, poet and critic best known for the novel *Things Fall Apart* (1958). The Heinemann Educational (HEB) archive contains materials relating to this text as part of the Heinemann African Writers Series (AWS) and Heinemann New Windmill Series (NW).

Possible topics include:

1) The position of the text in relation to education
2) Publicity and reception
3) Ideas about culture and translation. What language should a culture use?

See in the Main Library:


Call numbers in Special Collections:

1) Correspondence relating to the publication of Achebe’s works.

Novels: *Things Fall Apart*, HEB 06/11 and HEB NW 04/11; *No Longer at Ease*, HEB 05/01; *Arrow of God*, HEB 04/12; *A Man of the People*, HEB 06/06; *Anthills of the Savannah*, HEB 68/11.

Other works: *Girls at War and Other Stories*, HEB 06/05; *Beware, Soul Brother and Other Poems*, HEB 06/04; Criticism: *Morning Yet on Creation Day*, HEB 06/03; *Hopes and Impediments*, HEB 55/2.
2) Achebe’s Reader’s reports of: Strange Man by S.A.A. Djolet, HEB 03/10; Trial of Christopher Okigbo by Ali A. Mazrui, HEB 19/2.

3) Correspondence relating to the publication of Things Fall Apart, Luganda translation, HEB 06/08.

4) Correspondence relating to the proposed publication of the Yoruba ed. of Things Fall Apart, HEB 06/09.

5) Correspondence relating to AWS and Chinua Achebe, HEB 06/10.

6) Correspondence relating to the reissued publication of Things Fall Apart by Chinua Achebe, and Grain of Wheat by Ngũgĩ wa Thiong'o, HEB 32/6.

7) Correspondence relating to the publication of Things Fall Apart (expanded edition with notes), HEB 45/3.

**African Writers Series (AWS)**

Heinemann Educational Books began the AWS in 1962 and Chinua Achebe was the first advisory editor to the series for ten years. Many works in the AWS were also published in the Heinemann New Windmill Series (NW) for schools.

**Possible topics include:**

1) The position of the text in relation to education

2) Language and censorship

3) Ideas about audience, age and appropriateness

**See in the Main Library:**


**Call numbers in Special Collections:**

1) **Correspondence relating to the publication of:** *Combat* and *Edifice* by Kole Omotoso, HEB 09/08 and HEB 09/09; *Obi* by John Munonye, HEB 03/09; *Strange Man* by S.A.A. Djoleto, HEB 03/10; *Trial of Christopher Okigbo* by Ali A. Mazrui, HEB 19/2; *The Way We Lived* by Rems Nna Umeasiegbu, HEB 10/08; *People of the City* by Cyprian Ekwensi, HEB 10/05; *On Trial for my Country* by Stanlake Samkange, HEB 07/10; *Not Even God Is Ripe Enough: Yoruba stories* by Bakare Gbadamosi and Ulli Beier, HEB 19/13; *Fragments* and *Why are we so blest?* and other AWS titles by Ayi Kwei Armah, HEB 30/3.

2) Correspondence relating to the proposed publication of various titles in The New Windmill Series for 1967-1972, HEB NW 12/15 1-3.

3) Correspondence relating to the proposed publication of various titles in The New Windmill Series, HEB NW 04/11.
4) Correspondence relating to the proposed publication of various titles for The New Windmill Series for 1962 HEB NW 12/13.


6) AWS-CWS design briefs, blurbs, specification pages & layouts, HEB 39/02.

7) Correspondence relating to the abandoned publication of Nsukka - an anthology of poetry dedicated to Christopher Okigbo edited by Ulli Beier and to the political aspects of the withdrawal of poems by Biafran writers, HEB 25/7.

8) Correspondence relating to the publication of Swahili translations by HEB (East Africa) Ltd., HEB 54/10.

9) AWS storage file '74, HEB 24/10.


Nuruddin Farah (1945 -)

Nuruddin Farah is a Somali novelist whose titles include *From a Crooked Rib* and *Naked Needle*, both were published Heinemann’s African Writer’s Series.

**Possible topics include:**

1) Writing experience

2) The role of the publisher in book production

3) Reception studies

4) What does the correspondence tell us (or not tell us) about the process of publishing a book?

**See in the Main Library:**

1) *From a Crooked Rib*, Nuruddin Farah (1977), 828.996773-FAR.

2) *Sweet and Sour Milk*, Nuruddin Farah (1980), STORE--39808.


4) *Sardines*, Nuruddin Farah (1982), 828.996773-FAR.

**Call numbers in Special Collections:**

1) Correspondence relating to the publication of *Naked Needle*, HEB 13/08.

2) Correspondence relating to the publication of *Sweet and Sour Milk*, HEB 13/02.

3) Correspondence relating to the publication of *From a Crooked Rib*, HEB 12/13.

4) Correspondence relating to the publication of *Sardines* by Nuruddin Farah, HEB 13/05.
Nadine Gordimer (1923-2014)

Nadine Gordimer was a South African writer who won the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1991. There is material in the Jonathan Cape archive relating to the publication of several of her works.

Possible topics include:

1) Race
2) Gender

See in the Main Library:

2) *Burger's Daughter*, Nadine Gordimer (1979), 828.9968-GOR.

Call numbers in Special Collections:

1) Editorial correspondence relating to the publication of 'July's people' by Nadine Gordimer, JC 354/4/1.
2) Production correspondence relating to the publication of 'July's people' by Nadine Gordimer, JC 354/4/2.
3) Publicity correspondence relating to the publication of 'July's people' by Nadine Gordimer, JC 354/4/3.

Also in the Jonathan Cape archive there is correspondence relating to the publication of the novels, *The Lying Days, A World of Strangers, Occasion for Loving, The Late Bourgeois World, A Guest of Honour, The Conservationist, Some Monday for Sure, Burger's Daughter* and the short story collections *Livingstone's Companions, Selected Stories, A Soldier's Embrace*.

6) Correspondence relating to the publication of *Some Monday For Sure* by Nadine Gordimer, 1973-1977, HEB 17/3.
Section 10: Publishing

Book Review Files of Chatto and Windus

The publisher Chatto and Windus kept press cuttings of book reviews of many of their titles. Special Collections have albums of many of these book reviews.

Possible topics include:

1) Reception studies

2) How are books represented in the media?

3) How do adverts situate texts against each other?

Call numbers in Special Collections:

There is an index folder at SC which can be requested, with authors and titles catalogued. Search through to find titles of interest and call up the relevant album by number. Some examples of authors works are: Samuel Beckett’s Proust, F. Scott Fitzgerald’s The Great Gatsby, Thomas Hardy’s Under the Greenwood Tree, Wilfred Owen’s Poems.

John Guest (1911-1997)

John Guest was a publisher, editor and literary advisor for Collins, Longman and Penguin. The collection includes many letters from famous authors such as Sir John Betjeman, Christopher Fry, Francis King, Mary Renault, Sir Harold Nicolson, William Plomer and David Storey. He also wrote a memoir of World War II, Broken Images.

Possible topics include:

1) What can correspondence tell us about publishing process?

2) Publishing and notions of readership

Call numbers in Special Collections:

1) John Guest Collection, MS 4624. A handlist is available here: http://www.reading.ac.uk/web/FILES/special-collections/MS_4624_.pdf

The Collection can also be searched on Enterprise.

2) Letters from John Betjeman to John Guest, MS 4624 A/11.

3) Letter from Christopher Fry to John Guest, MS 4624 A/48.

4) Guest J. Broken images, (Longman Archive), MS 1393 2/310/16.

5) Correspondence relating to the publication of 'Broken images: a journal' by John Guest (Leo Cooper archive), LC A/2/282.

Ian Serraillier (1912-1994)

Ian Serraillier was a writer of children's books including *The Silver Sword* and *Flight to Adventure*. As well as children's novels and poetry Serraillier produced his own retellings of classic tales, in prose and verse, including Beowulf, Chaucer and Greek myth. Together with his wife Anne he founded in 1948 the New Windmill Series (NW), published by Heinemann Educational Books. There are letters between Serraillier and Heinemann regarding possible books for adaptation for the New Windmill Series.

**Possible topics include:**

1) Ideas of retellings and adaptation and the use of literary works in education

2) Ideas of how a series is constructed

3) The construction of children as an audience to be educated

4) Post-war children’s literature

**See in the Main Library:**

1) The Silver Sword, Ian Serraillier (2006), CHILDREN'S FICTION--SER.

**Call numbers in Special Collections:**

1) Correspondence relating to the proposed publication of various titles in The New Windmill Series for 1967-1972, HEB NW 12/15/1-3

2) Correspondence relating to the publication of *Danny: The Champion of the World* by Roald Dahl, HEB NW 01/10.

3) Correspondence relating to the publication of *One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich* by Alexander Solzhenitsyn, HEINEMANN EDUCATIONAL: HEB NW 01/01.

4) Ian Serraillier Collection, MS 5059 (50 boxes). A handlist is available here: [http://www.reading.ac.uk/web/FILES/special-collections/MS_5059_Ian_Serraillier.pdf](http://www.reading.ac.uk/web/FILES/special-collections/MS_5059_Ian_Serraillier.pdf)

   There is some additional material at MS 5489.

5) Correspondence relating to the publication of Silver sword by Ian Serraillier, HEB NW 09/02.
Two Rivers Press Collection

Two Rivers Press was founded in Reading in 1994 by Peter Hay (1951–2003), an artist and enthusiast for the town and its two rivers, the Kennet and the Thames. The press set out to explore ‘the place where art and history meet’ and has received widespread recognition for the quality of its productions.

Possible topics include:

1) Representations of Reading
2) Ideas of the local
3) Constructions of community

See in the Main Library:

1) Abattoirs Road to Zinzan Street: Reading's streets and their names, Adam Sowan; illustrated by Peter Hay and Sally Castle (2004), 914.2291-SOW (also in SC).

Call numbers in Special Collections:

1) Two Rivers Press Collection, MS 5561 (17 boxes). This archive collection is made up of editorial and publicity files and is not yet catalogued or on Enterprise.


5) [Specimens of ephemera published by Two Rivers Press] (1997-2000), TWO RIVERS PRESS COLLECTION--BOX.


7) From the Abbey to The Office: a Short Introduction to Reading and its Writers, Dennis Butts (2008), TWO RIVERS PRESS COLLECTION--058 (also in Main Library).
Section 11: Miscellaneous

**Bibliomania**

There are several nineteenth and early twentieth century books in the rare books collection on the topic of book collecting.

**Possible topics include:**

1) The book as an object
2) Books and value
3) Ideas of excess
4) Books and masculinity

**See in the Main Library:**

1) *A gentle madness: bibliophiles, bibliomanes, and the eternal passion for books*, Nicholas A. Basbanes (1995), 002.075-BAS.

**Call numbers in Special Collections:**

1) *The Bibliomania: Or, Book-Madness; Containing Some Account of the History, Symptoms, and Cure of this Fatal Disease*, Thomas Frognall Dibdin (1809) OVERSTONE: SHELF 5H/12.


5) *How to Collect Books*, J. Herbert Slater (1905), COLE--142.
**Caesar and Cleopatra**

The J. C. Trewin collection holds several letters from George Bernard Shaw, many of which concern the process of creating the play *Caesar and Cleopatra* which was first performed in 1899.

**Possible topics include:**

1) Performance and production history of *Caesar and Cleopatra*

2) The relationship between playwright and actor

3) Reception of *Caesar and Cleopatra*

**See in the Main Library:**

1) *Caesar and Cleopatra* in *Three Plays for Puritans*, George Bernard Shaw (1946), 822.912-SHA.

2) *Meeting at the Sphinx: Gabriel Pascal's production of Bernard Shaw's Caesar and Cleopatra*, Marjorie Deans; with forewords by both the author and producer, Bernard Shaw and Gabriel Pascal [1946], STORE--20021.


**Call numbers in Special Collections:**

1) J.C. Trewin Collection, MS 4739.

A handlist is available here: [http://www.reading.ac.uk/web/FILES/special-collections/trewin.pdf](http://www.reading.ac.uk/web/FILES/special-collections/trewin.pdf)

The George Bernard Shaw letters can be found at references starting with 9 and 10.
Collections of Poetry

Collections of poems by authors and themes, or general ‘treasuries of verse’ are how many people read poetry. The role of editors and their introductions to collections has always been important to how the public have viewed certain poets.

Possible topics include:

1) What ideas of selection and value are involved?

2) How does the text work with the idea of ‘specimen’ and ‘example’ to produce notions of the exemplary?

3) How are poems selected and grouped for children?

See in the Main Library:


Call numbers in Special Collections:

1) Specimens of British Poets with Biographical and Critical Notes and an Essay on English Poetry, Thomas Campbell (1841), FINZI--27C/42.

2) A collection of Scarce, Curious, and Valuable Pieces, Both in Verse and in Prose: Chiefly Selected From the Fugitive Productions of the Most Eminent Wits of the Present Age ed. Thomas Ruddiman (1785), OVERSTONE: SHELF 16B/36.

4) The Golden Staircase: Poems and Verses for Children, chosen by Louey Chisholm; with pictures by M. Dibdin Spooner [1906], CHILDREN’S COLLECTION--821-GOL.

5) Wayfarer’s Love: Contributions From Living Poets ed. the Duchess of Sutherland (1904), RESERVE: 821.9108-WAY.

Peter Fleming (1907-1971)

Peter Fleming was a journalist and travel writer. He was the brother of Ian Fleming, creator of James Bond. He is best known for his *Brazilian Adventure* (1933) and *News from Tartary* (1936). The former of which contains the line “São Paulo is like Reading, only much farther away”.

**Possible topics include:**

1) Journalism and war reporting

2) Ideas of the East

**See in the Main Library:**

1) *One's Company: a Journey to China*, Peter Fleming; illustrated with photographs taken by the author [1934], STACK--915.1-FLE.

2) *Travels in Tartary*, Peter Fleming (1941), 915.1-FLE.

**Call numbers in Special Collections:**

1) Peter Fleming Collection, MS 1391 (34 boxes). The full catalogue is available here: [http://www.reading.ac.uk/web/FILES/special-collections/Peter_Fleming_COLLECTION_Temp_new_cat_Mar2013.pdf](http://www.reading.ac.uk/web/FILES/special-collections/Peter_Fleming_COLLECTION_Temp_new_cat_Mar2013.pdf)

Fleming’s correspondence is currently being catalogued and will be available in greater detail on Enterprise soon.

2) *Brazilian Adventure*, Peter Fleming (1946), PETER FLEMING PAPERS—MS 1391/BOX 30.
Robert Henriques (1905-1967)

Robert Henriques was a writer of fiction as well as biographies of Marcus Samuel and Sir Robert Waley Cohen. Later he became a farmer in the Cotswolds and was a successful cattle-breeder.

Possible topics include:

1) Presentation of war and conflict
2) Presentation of the countryside
3) Jewish writing

See in the Main Library:

1) Through the Valley, Robert Henriques (1950), STORE--34567.
2) A Stranger Here: a Novel, Robert Henriques (1953), STORE--34566.
3) One Hundred Hours to Suez, Robert Henriques (1957), STORE--65226.

Call numbers in Special Collections:

1) Robert Henriques Collection, MS 3270 (115 boxes). A handlist is available here: http://www.reading.ac.uk/web/FILES/special-collections/Robert_Henriques_MS_3270.pdf

The collection contains many letters to other authors mainly regarding the Cheltenham Literary Festival; including over 250 from the British author John Moore, 46 from Raymond Postgate, 27 from Marghanita Laski, 27 from Eric Linklater, 18 from A.G. Street and 14 from Evelyn Waugh.

2) Captain Smith and Company, Robert Henriques (1943), RESERVE--823.912-HEN (also in Main Library STORE--34565).
G.M. Matthews (1920-1984) was Professor of English Literature at Reading and built up a large collection of books on the Romantic poet Percy Bysshe Shelley (1792-1822).

Possible topics include:

1) Shelley's role in the Romantic Movement

2) Perceptions of Shelley over time

See in the Main Library:

1) Shelley, G. M. Matthews (1970), 821.77-MAT.


Call numbers in Special Collections:

1) Lord Byron and some of his contemporaries; with recollections of the author's life, and of his visit to Italy, Leigh Hunt (1828), MATTHEWS/SHELLEY COLLECTION--S2/003.

2) The Poetical Works of Coleridge, Shelley and Keats (1829), (not on Enterprise).

3) The works of Percy Bysshe Shelley, comprising Queen Mab, The Revolt of Islam, The Cenci, &c. ... (1836), MATTHEWS/SHELLEY COLLECTION--S16.


5) Shelley memorials: from authentic sources, Edited by Lady Shelley. To which is added an Essay on Christianity, by Percy Bysshe Shelley: now first printed (1859), MATTHEWS/SHELLEY COLLECTION--S2.

Robert Musil (1880-1942)

Robert Musil was an Austrian writer most famous for his unfinished novel *Der Mann ohne Eigenschaften* (*The Man Without Qualities*), the first volume of which was published in 1930. The material on Musil in Special Collections is from the Musil Research Unit which was founded by Ernst and Eithne Kaiser in 1967.

Possible topics include:

1) Translations of Musil

2) Editing unfinished works

See in the Main Library:


Call numbers in Special Collections:

1) Musil Research Unit Archive, MS 1440 (35 boxes). A handlist is available here: [http://www.reading.ac.uk/web/FILES/special-collections/musil.pdf](http://www.reading.ac.uk/web/FILES/special-collections/musil.pdf) The collection consists of papers of Ernst and Eithne Kaiser from the Musil Research Unit. These fall into two categories: copies of original documents produced by Robert Musil, and working papers of the Kaisers. The Musil material includes copies of correspondence c. 1935-1942; photocopies of Musil's manuscripts, typescripts and notes; typescript versions of Musil notebooks, manuscripts, corrections and drafts; and microfilms of Musil manuscripts. Papers of the Kaisers include correspondence in English, German, Italian and French about translations and editions of Musil's work, exhibitions, critical writing and the Musil papers, c. 1947-1974; cuttings, articles, notes and photographs relating to exhibitions on Musil; notes and drafts for articles on Musil, biographical studies, bibliography and critical editions; typescripts and manuscripts of the Kaisers' work on Musil; selected articles published by and about Musil in periodicals, offprints and pamphlets, press cuttings about Musil in various European languages 1949-1970; and certificates and reports from Musil's early years 1892-1917. The collection also contains catalogues of the original Musil papers. The Collection can also be searched on Enterprise.
**On the Origin of Species**

The Cole Library holds a copy of the first edition of Darwin’s *On the Origin of the Species*.

**Possible topics include:**

1) Narrative perspective

2) Ideas of classification and type

3) The reception of *On the Origin of the Species*

**See in the Main Library:**

1) *Darwin the Writer*, George Levine (2011), 576.82-DAR/LEV.


3) *The Impact of Darwinism: texts and commentary illustrating nineteenth century religious, scientific and literary attitudes*, D.F. Bratchell (1981), 576.82-BRA.

**Call numbers in Special Collections:**


Herbert Read (1893–1968)

Herbert Read was a twentieth century poet and literary critic. Special Collections holds editorial correspondence between Read and the publisher George Bell and Sons. These materials could contribute to several topics.

**Possible topics include:**

1) What can correspondence tell us about publishing process?

2) Publishing and notions of readership

3) Publishing history of *English Prose Style*

**See in the Main Library:**

1) *English Prose Style*, Herbert Read (1928), STORE--28820.


3) *The Last Modern: a Life of Herbert Read*, James King (1990), 821.912-REA/KIN.

**Call numbers in Special Collections:**

1) Richard Bell's correspondence about Herbert Read's *English Prose Style*, MS 1640/476.

2) G.H. Bickers' correspondence with Herbert Read, MS 1640/5235-5238.

3) *In Defence of Shelley & other essays*, Herbert Read (1936), MATTHEWS/SHELLEY COLLECTION--S5.

4) Read, Herbert. Phases of English poetry (Hogarth Lectures on Literature, no.7), 1928-1949, Estimate from Neill & Co Ltd; general correspondence including 5 letters from Herbert Read and a letter from Norah Smallwood; permissions correspondence; royalty statements 1929-35 from Harcourt, Brace & Co Inc; among carbon copies of letters are 2 from Norah Smallwood and one each from Leonard Woolf, John Lehmann and Ian Parsons, MS 2750/371.
John Courtenay Trewin was a renowned journalist and theatre critic who wrote for *The Morning Post* and *The Observer*. This large collection of his papers includes letters from many actors and playwrights, along with typescripts of articles and handwritten notes. Trewin also collected material relating to the history of the British theatre, including theatre programmes, photographs of theatre productions, cuttings and articles, a number of letters relating to theatre history, and theatre posters.

**Possible topics include:**

1) Theatre Publicity and programmes

2) The relationships between writers, actors and critics

**See in the Main Library:**

1) *The Theatre Since 1900*, J.C. Trewin (1951), STACK--792.0942-TRE (also in SC).

**Call numbers in Special Collections:**

1) J.C. Trewin Collection, MS 4739 (35 boxes). A handlist is available here: [http://www.reading.ac.uk/web/FILES/special-collections/trewin.pdf](http://www.reading.ac.uk/web/FILES/special-collections/trewin.pdf)

The collection contains both personal papers and material collected by Trewin relating to the English stage. The latter includes theatre programmes 1906-1989, theatre posters 1783-1936, photographs of productions 1905-1970, issues of theatrical periodicals 1906-1986, albums of press cuttings, and other miscellaneous material. There are also letters collected by Trewin to and from Constance and Frank Benson, and eighteen letters and postcards from George Bernard Shaw. The personal material includes many letters written to Trewin over the course of his career on theatrical and literary subjects. Major correspondents (with more than ten letters) include Enid Bagnold, Guy Boas, Charles Causley, Christopher Fry, Val Gielgud, Paul Scofield, Robert Speaight and Ben Travers. Other correspondence includes letters of congratulation on the presentation of Trewin's OBE in 1981, and letters of condolence written after his death. There is also material relating to Trewin's biography of Robert Donat and the legal dispute with Veronica Haigh. The collection contains drafts and typescripts of some of Trewin's work, over fifty notebooks, and drafts of an account by Trewin's father of his early years at sea.
Women's Suffrage

There are many materials in Special Collections relating to women's suffrage from political pamphlets to autobiographies. Ideas in these materials include identity; gender; women and the law; ideas of social progress; women and society in relation to suffragism; work and employment.

Possible topics include:

1) The suffrage movement and women’s political writing

2) Policy and its connection to ideas of the body

3) Women and work

See in the Main Library:

1) Votes For Women, edited by June Purvis and Sandra Stanley Holton (2000), 324.3-VOT.

2) The Life and Rebellious Times of Cicely Hamilton: Actress, Writer, Suffragist, Lis Whitelaw (1990), 792.092-HAM.

Call numbers in Special Collections:

1) Feminism, May Sinclair (Mary Amelia St. Clair) (1912), STENTON LIBRARY--EA/37.

2) PAMPHLET BOOK: T011 (1895). This pamphlet book contains many articles on women’s suffrage by activists such as Elizabeth Clarke Wolstenholme Elmy, Mona Caird, Charlotte Carmichael Stopes, Harriet Mcllquhan, Barbara Bodichon and Helen Taylor.

3) Beware! A warning - to Suffragist: [rhymes], Cicely Hamilton, with sketches by M. Lowndes, D. Meeson Coates, C. Hedley Charlton [1908?], STENTON LIBRARY--BB/26.

4) Reader's report by H.C. Harwood on Old Adam (1924) by Cicely Hamilton, AURR 5/6/15.

J.B. Yeats (1871–1957)

Jack Butler Yeats, brother of W. B. Yeats, was an Irish painter and writer. One of his best known novels is *The Charmed Life*. Special Collections holds a file containing letters between Yeats and the publisher, Routledge & Kegan Paul (RKP).

Possible topics include:

1) Marketing an author

2) Publishing and publicity

3) How do publishers create authors?

See in the Main Library:

1) *The Amaranthers*, Jack B. Yeats [1936], STORE--48420.

2) *The Careless Flower*, Jack B. Yeats (1947), STORE--48414.


4) *Ah well, a romance in perpetuity and, And to you also*, Jack B. Yeats (1974), STORE--48418.

Call numbers in Special Collections:

1) Correspondence concerning publication of *And to you also*, RKP 204/11; *Ah Well*, RKP 175/1; *The Charmed Life*, RKP 78/5.

2) Letters to and from G.A. Campbell, publishers representative of Jack Yeats. Includes Campbell’s opinion of *The Charmed Life*, 1937, RKP 49/2.

3) Charles Elkin Mathews Collection, MS 392 (3 boxes). A handlist is available here: [http://www.reading.ac.uk/web/FILES/special-collections/Elkin_Mathews_MS_392.pdf](http://www.reading.ac.uk/web/FILES/special-collections/Elkin_Mathews_MS_392.pdf)

4) Letter from J.B. Yeats to Mathews, 2 April 1890, London, ELKIN MATHEWS COLLECTION--392/1/413.

5) Letter from J.B. Yeats to Mathews, 26 September [1901], Gort Co., Galway, ELKIN MATHEWS COLLECTION--392/1/830-834.
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This English DSE has been revised by David Thomas (UMASCS Graduate Trainee Library Assistant, 2014-2016). It is dedicated to the memory of Brian Ryder.