

Dissertations Subject Explorer

PART C – THE TWENTIETH CENTURY

This part is based mainly on research into the Nancy and Waldorf Astor archives (see also the contextual material in the Appendix), but also looks at the major conflicts of the period. It covers the following subject areas:

- Children's literature in wartime
- The Boer War (1899-1902)
- Housing after the First World War
- Disarmament and appeasement
- India 1923-1942
- The Second World War (1939-1945)
- The Astors and the Cliveden Set
- The Astor invitations
- Domestic servants
- British cinema and its censorship 1920-1940
- Illegitimacy and bastardy
- Marriage and divorce laws
- Lunacy reform and mental health legislation
- Moral Hygiene/Prostitution
- Christian Science
- Temperance
- Landscape

Children's literature in wartime

These sources are relevant to the literature published for children during the Boer war and the First World War

Possible subject areas include:

- The use of Children's books as an historical resource
- Children's perceptions of war
- The concepts and images of war presented to children
- The writing of children's books during war time
- The reporting of important issues and events to children

CHILDREN'S COLLECTION--823.9-WES-Under the white ensign: a naval story of the Great War

Publisher: Blackie & Son, 1918, Author: Percy F Westerman

256 Pages. Children's story to which the naval actions of the First World War provide a background.

CHILDREN'S COLLECTION--823.9-WES-A sub and a submarine: the story of H.M. Submarine R19 in the Great War

Publisher: Blackie & Son, 1919, Author: Percy F Westerman

256 Pages. Children's story to which submarine warfare during the First World War provides a background.

CHILDREN'S COLLECTION--828.9-QUE-The Queen's gift book: in aid of Queen Mary's auxiliary hospitals for soldiers and sailors who have lost their limbs in the war

Publisher: Hodder & Stoughton, 1915

160 Pages. A gift book sold to raise money for Queen Mary's Convalescent Auxiliary Hospitals, for soldiers and sailors who had lost their limbs during the First World War. Foreword contains great detail about the work of the charity. Contains Portraits of the King and the Queen within. Book of assorted writings, stories and poems meant for children.

CHILDREN'S COLLECTION--823.8-ALL:

Mafeking Day: a snap-shot from real life.

Publisher: S. P. C. K., Author: Phoebe Allen, 1901

216 Pages.

As a children's book this source is of limited relevance to the war itself, though as set in England during the conflict could be used to provide a background into the wars effects and reception at home.

CHILDREN'S COLLECTION--823.8-MEA:

A sister of the Red Cross: a tale of the South African War.

Publisher: Nelson, Author: L.T Meade, 1901

368 Pages.

Though as a children's book this is not to be heavily relied upon, this book does give an overview of what it may have been like to have been a British non-combatant in South Africa at the time.

CHILDREN'S COLLECTION--823.8-HEN:

With Buller in Natal: or, A born leader.

Publisher: Blackie, Author: G.A Henty, 1901

384 Pages.

Although a children's work of fiction, and thus being somewhat unreliable, the author states in the preface his intent to reconcile the various narratives of the fighting in Natal and to make the military occurrences be accounted for as clearly as possible, whilst reminding the reader that it is in fact a work of fiction and not a history. Nonetheless this book is quite useful for giving an overview of the events and build up to the fighting in Natal, describing the suffering of the Boer's, their appearance, as well as being quite detailed in its account of British tactics.

CHILDREN'S COLLECTION--823.8-STA:

On war's red tide: a tale of the Boer War.

Publisher: Nisbet, Author: G.Stables, 1900

328 Pages.

This tale, written by a surgeon in the Royal Navy states provides useful overviews of aspects of the conflict, its preface stating that it trusts to its historical accuracy, as he has experience of the places, soldiers, actions, sailors, and the Boers and so is to an extent reliable as a source.

The Boer War (1899-1902)

The Boer War, also known as the Second Boer War, the South African War, and the Anglo-Boer War was fought from 11 October 1899 until 31 May 1902, between the British Empire and the two independent Boer republics of the South African Republic (Transvaal Republic) and the Orange Free State.

Possible subject areas include:

- Conduct of the war
- Causes of the war
- The British in South Africa
- British soldiers during the conflict
- Supply and conditions during the war
- Tactics of the British and the Boers
- Reception of the war in Britain.

PAMPHLET BOX--T707(7):

The truth about the war : an open letter to Dr. A. Conan Doyle.

Publisher: New Age Press, Author: J.M Robertson, 1902

48 Pages.

This letter, missing the final two pages, is an answer to the ideas forward by Arthur Conan Doyle on the Boer conflict, and contains a brief overview of the British in South Africa, discussing the Transvaal question, the causes of the war, Boer policy, Cecil Rhodes, the Dutch in South Africa, the conduct of the war, and the reciprocal charges of atrocities form both sides. The work heavily criticises Doyle for describing the war as being finished and though narrative in format and relatively short is a still a valuable resource.

RESERVE--968.2-CHI:

In the ranks of the C.I.V. : a narrative and diary of personal experiences with the C.I.V. Battery (Honourable Artillery Company) in South Africa.

Publisher: Smith, Elder & Co., Author: Erskine Childs, 1900

301 Pages.

Photograph of Artillery piece on inside front cover. This work gives an account of the experiences in South Africa of a clerk of the Commons who was attached to the C.I.V, an artillery company. It takes the form of a narrative interspersed with diary extracts and is a superb primary resource for study into the war, particularly the conditions of the soldiers, supply and equipment, and the tactics of both sides during the conflict.

RESERVE FOLIO—072- The daily telegraph: No. 14,051 (19 May 1900); no. 14,066 (6 June 1900); no. 14,748 (11 Aug 1902).

These 3 issues cover the following political events: Relief of Mafeking (19 May 1900) - Fall of Pretoria (6 June 1900) - Coronation of King Edward VII (11 Aug 1902). Useful as a source on the wars reception, and its reporting in Britain.

CHILDREN'S COLLECTION--823.8-ALL:

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Publisher: S. P. C. K., Author: Phoebe Allen, 1901

216 Pages.

As a children's book this source is of limited relevance to the war itself, though as set in England during the conflict could be used to provide a background into the war's effects and reception at home.

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Housing after the First World War

After 1919 the central government began to actively involve itself in the provision of working class people. It was to be a policy to be aimed at combating the problems of the unemployed and to assist with the difficulties of demobilization. This was part of the government's idea to address social problems after the war.

Nancy Astor became involved in the campaigning for housing for working class people, housing for employed women and was often invited to speak at the many conferences and meetings held on these matters. She asked government to provide money for building houses.

Types of documents:

- Letters to Nancy Astor from various housing groups asking for support
- Housing Bill, 1927
- Information on Nancy Astor requesting money for housing from the government
- Letters from the public to Nancy Astor asking for help with housing
- Papers on housing in Plymouth
- Town and Housing Planning Councils
- Correspondence regarding washhouses

Possible subject areas include:

- Standard of living after World War I
- Housing in Britain in the inter-war period
- Nancy Astor's role in the housing of employed women
- Policy regarding working class people after WWI
- Social programmes to assist the working class and women

Details of items in Special Collections:

- MS1416/1/1/314: Includes letters by the Women's Pioneer Housing; Papers on housing in Plymouth; Letter regarding public washhouses
- MS1416/1/1/315: Includes government requests; Information on housing trusts in Plymouth
- MS1416/1/1/316: Includes letters to Nancy Astor for help with housing
- MS1416/1/1/318: Includes letters from Church Army Housing asking for support from Nancy Astor
- MS1416/1/1/320: Includes the Housing Bill of 1927

Additional Information:

- The above are a selection of files from the Housing section in the Nancy Astor collection. For further information much more research is available within the collection.

Disarmament & Appeasement

Between 1937 British Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain established an appeasement foreign policy towards Nazi Germany. There were many who supported this policy, as it was seen as way to secure the peace. Nancy Astor was amongst one of his supporters and was opposed to the idea of another World War. Nancy Astor also felt sympathy for Germany in the way it was treated in the Treaty of Versailles. (She was not alone in this feeling; Lord Lothian, one amongst many, also initially felt sympathy but later abandoned this idea.)

Types of documents:

- Letters by Peace Committees
- News articles regarding security and British policy
- Booklets about disarmament
- Various articles about armaments, outlawing war, peace
- Official Reports such as parliamentary papers and reports by the House of Lords
- Articles and booklets regarding the “Freedom of the Seas”
- Nancy Astor’s notes on the Kellogg-Pact Proposals
- Script of an interview given by Nancy Astor on the topic of disarmament

Possible subject areas include:

- Nancy Astor’s position on disarmament
- Cliveden set and disarmament
- Women’s involvement in the cause of disarmament/influence in the peace movement
- Disarmament and World War II
- Kellogg Pact and US foreign policy
- The difference and similarities in UK and US foreign policy post WWI (inter-war years)

Details of items in Special Collections:

- MS1416/1/1/142: Includes letters by Peace Committee of the Society of Friends and letters by the National Council for Prevention of War
- MS1416/1/1/143: Includes news articles from the Times and the Manchester Guardian
- MS1416/1/1/144: Includes various articles on the subjects of armaments, outlawing war; Official report of the Parliamentary Debates by the House of Commons; Booklets on the outlaw of war
- MS1416/1/1/145: Includes articles and booklets regarding “Freedom of Seas”
- MS1416/1/1/146: Includes articles regarding the abolition of soldiers carrying arms on Armistice Day; Articles discussing Anglo-American peace agreement
- MS1416/1/1/147: Includes notes on Kellogg’s Proposals and the Locarno Treaty

- MS1416/1/1/148: Includes the book Disarmament & the Coolidge Conference by Professor P.J.Noel Baker; Script of an interview given by Nancy Astor; Articles regarding peace and disarmament and freedom of seas
- MS1416/1/1/149: Includes articles regarding Anglo-American relations and a paper on "Italian Obligations under the Locarno Pact"
- MS1416/1/1/150: Includes information on the Kellogg Pact, 1928
- MS1416/1/1/151: Includes letters about the naval rivalry between US and UK
- MS1416/1/1/152: Includes letter to the editor of the Times about disarmament
- MS1416/1/1/979: Includes expenditure on armaments of various countries; Letters by the Disarmament Campaign Committee; Booklet of Analysis on Great Britain's Budget 1930-1931;
- MS1416/1/1/980: Includes Cabinet Papers regarding the Disarmament Crisis and Hoover Proposals
- MS1416/1/1/981: Includes letters regarding air disarmament; letters by Lord Lothian

India 1923-1942

Covering the years 1923-1942, Nancy Astor's papers contain a wealth of information regarding social and political debates about India. At the beginning of the century, India was under the direct rule of the British Crown. Whilst the physical presence of the British was not significant, they were certainly able to rule the subcontinent in accordance with their own cultural and political agendas. Indeed, tensions were rife, and during the twentieth century a nationwide struggle for independence was launched by the Indian National Congress and other political organisations. Whilst the Astor papers shed relatively little light on nationalist political activism during this period, they do provide a sense of the context in which these struggles for change were taking place. A considerable amount of attention is devoted to struggles for female rights within India, whilst frequent references are made to legislation aimed at relinquishing power. Perhaps most importantly, the files expose a range of contemporary attitudes towards imperialist rule - from both the conquerors and the conquered. They provide great insight into the complexities and contradictions of independence-bound British India.

Types of document include:

- i. Pamphlets/correspondence from The Kenya Women's Committee; lots of material about Indians in Kenya.
- ii. Personal letters from people calling for Dominion status for India.
- iii. Personal letters from pro-imperialists declaring that India cannot function without British rule.
- iv. Personal letters calling for the more effective government of India.
- v. Personal letters calling for (superior) Christians to govern India.
- vi. Personal letters from Indian academics pointing to the inadequacies of British rule.
- vii. Memorandum to the Under Secretary of State for India, claiming that poverty is tempting people to rebel, highlighting problems in rural India.
- viii. Commonwealth of India Bill, 1925.
- ix. 'Exploitation in India' pamphlet, highlighting the poverty and low status of Indian workers.
- x. Much discussion/criticism of *Mother India* (1927).
- xi. Personal letters/articles revealing prejudiced attitudes; i.e. denouncement of mixed-marriages.
- xii. Articles/pamphlets/letters centred on the debate about raising the legal age of marriage in India. Much discussion of child marriage/calls for an end to/legal reform/Sarda Act.
- xiii. Discussion/critique of the Simon Commission.
- xiv. Several articles considering the prospect/expediency of Indian independence.
- xv. Huge volume of letters/articles/pamphlets from individuals and groups concerning the status and welfare of Indian women. Includes files written both by British and Indian campaigners.
- xvi. Multiple documents on female franchise. Pamphlets, letters, reports.
- xvii. Documents and correspondence concerning female rights in India from Eleanor Rathbone.
- xviii. Speeches/draft speeches by Nancy Astor, calling on the British government not to desert Indian women.
- xix. Articles/documentation about Round Table Conferences.

- xx. Various references to Gandhi and civil disobedience.
- xxi. Pamphlet on 'India's Financial Troubles', 1934.
- xxii. Personal letter by Nancy Astor, revealing her commitment to the spread of Christianity within the empire/her dismissal of native religion.

Possible subject areas include:

- i. British attitudes towards granting dominion status/independence to India.
- ii. Indian attitudes towards their British rulers/resentment of imposed rule
- iii. How much evidence of cultural imperialism can be found when studying India in this period? Did the British attempt to impose their own value systems and religious faiths, at the expense of Indian customs and traditions?
- iv. Indians in Kenya; racial tension. How far were the problems a result of labour from Britain's Indian Empire being brought in to construct the Kenya-Uganda railway?
- v. The growing push for self-government in India. Did the gradual legislative changes come as a result of political initiative in Britain? Or pressure from political groups/independence activists?
- vi. Did the principles underpinning the Commonwealth of India Bill (1925) become a reality? (Freedom of expression, a right to education, free practice of religion)
- vii. *Mother India*; how controversial was this text, and why? Did it reflect the prejudices inherent in imperialist rule?
- viii. How far did deeply engrained racist attitudes impede the effective government of India prior to independence?
- ix. Did late imperialism raise the status of Indian women? Did British rule do enough for Indian women?
- x. Female franchise in India. Did the campaigns for widened franchise have British parallels? Were the campaigns initiated by wealthy and academic Indian women, rather than the masses? How pivotal were English women in pushing for changes that would impact on Indian females?
- xi. How important was Eleanor Rathbone in pushing for female rights not simply in Britain, but also in India?
- xii. Child marriage laws: how effective was the Sarda Act?

Details of items in Special Collections:

- i. MS1416/1/1/346: Includes Government of India Bill, 1919. Leaflets from The Kenya Women's Committee.
- ii. MS1416/1/1/347: Includes correspondence about Kenya, personal letters calling for Dominion status for India.
- iii. MS1416/1/1/348: Includes personal letter claiming that independent India is 'impracticable', dismissing Indian National Congress, calling for more effective government. Letters from Indian academics calling for changes in Indian government. Memorandum to the Under Secretary of State for India.
- iv. MS1416/1/1/349: Includes Commonwealth of India Bill, pamphlet 'Exploitation in India' highlighting poverty and status of workers.
- v. MS1416/1/1/351: Includes discussion of *Mother India* (1927), letter and article denouncing mixed marriages.
- vi. MS1416/1/1/352: Includes articles exploring child marriage.
- vii. MS1416/1/1/353: Includes discussion of The Simon Commission.

- viii. MS1416/1/1/355: Includes collection of articles concerning status and welfare of Indian women.
- ix. MS1416/1/1/357: Includes information about first India Round Table Conference, 1930-1.
- x. MS1416/1/1/1011: Includes documents expressing opinion on Gandhi.
- xi. MS1416/1/1/1012: Includes pamphlets on child marriage.
- xii. MS1416/1/1/1013: Includes multiple documents on female franchise in India; pamphlets, reports, articles, letters. Eleanor Rathbone material. Report about Sarda Act.
- xiii. MS1416/1/1/1014: Includes speeches of Nancy Astor regarding the rights of Indian women. Personal letters asking Astor to push for female franchise improvements.
- xiv. MS1416/1/1/1255: Includes pamphlet on 'India's Financial Troubles', 1934.
- xv. MS1416/1/1/1256: Includes more information on female franchise.
- xvi. MS1416/1/1/1257: Includes bulletin of the Indian Women's Movement (1935), who campaigned for social, educational and political reform.
- xvii. MS1416/1/1/1621: Includes a personal letter from Nancy Astor revealing her conviction that Christianity is far superior to the 'strange religion' of Hinduism.
- xviii. Also reference: MS1416/1/1/356; MS1416/1/1/360; MS1416/1/1/364; MS1416/1/1/1254; MS1416/1/1/1255; MS1416/1/1/1489.

The Second World War (1939-1945)

World War II, or the Second World War, was a global military conflict lasting from 1939 to 1945 which involved the majority of the world's nations, including all the 'great powers', organized into two opposing military alliances: the Allies and the Axis. It was the most widespread war in history, with more than 100 million military personnel mobilized, and in a state of "total war," the major participants placed their entire economic, industrial, and scientific capabilities at the service of the war effort. It was also marked by significant action against civilians, including the Holocaust and the only use of nuclear weapons in warfare; it was the deadliest conflict in human history, with over seventy million casualties.

Part D (the Stenton letters) also suggests subjects relating to the effect of the Second World War on intellectual life in Britain and across Europe.

Possible subject areas include:

- Evacuation
- Contemporary English views of Germany
- Conscientious objectors
- War poetry
- War photography
- The war at sea
- The Blitz
- The British Army
- The R.A.F
- Women in war
- Air raids
- Soldiers in war
- Manufacture and Production in Britain
- The Sino-Japanese war.

FINZI BOOK ROOM—Shelf 23E/39:

I'll go to Bed at Noon

Publisher: Faber & Faber Ltd., Author: Stephen Haggard

Written 1940, 103 Pages. Takes the form of a letter written by the author to his children on their evacuation to the U.S.A, days before he joins the army. Very useful for anything regarding contemporary British views of Germany, the home front and contains discussion with a friend who is a conscientious objector about his views. Back pages contain poems about war.

RESERVE-942.53420084-War-Pictures by British Artists

Series of Eight Books containing pictures of: the War at Sea, The Blitz, the Army, the R.A.F, Women, Air Raids, Soldiers and Production. Although they are mainly sketches these books are still fairly useful as a visual aid in helping to get to grips with the above mentioned aspects of the war.

GIBBINGS COLLECTION-KA2010/01-The Man Who Saved Two Hundred

Publisher: Printed for Barry Neame by Robert Gibbings, Author: Ralph McCarthy

A story account of a fight in Flanders and the man (Maj. Lorne Campbell) who led his troops through enemy lines to safety. Possibly useful in research into Soldiers' mindsets and the use of heroic stories but otherwise of very little use.

TWO RIVERS PRESS COLLECTION—HAY-On Big Flowery Hill: a soldier's journal of a secret mission into occupied China, 1942.

Publisher: Two Rivers Press, Author: John Hay

90 Pages, date: 2000

This book is the published journal of the soldier John Hay and the events of his participation into a secret mission into China in 1942 to act as guerrilla war instructors for the nationalists under Chiang Kai Shek, and the failure of the mission due to disease and sapping moral. The journal contains photos taken from various points on the journey and is primarily useful in the study of Soldier's lifestyles during the war or for research on China and Japan in the war.

MS1148-8- folders 22-27

These folders, making up part of the Stenton correspondence contain within them numerous letters from D.Fisher a soldier during the Second World War who relates at length to Frank and Doris Stenton his experiences in the war fighting in Tunisia and Italy. These letters are ideal for any research into the lifestyle and conditions of soldiers during this period.

The Astors & the Cliveden Set

Nancy and Waldorf Astor moved into Cliveden estate after being married. Nancy began to host many influential political individuals, including Neville Chamberlain, Anthony Eden, Lord Lothian (Philip Kerr), Winston Churchill, David Lloyd George. The estate was used as a hospital for Canadian soldiers during World War I.

In 1936/37 Claude Cockburn, left-wing journalist, began to write a series of attacks in the press, mostly in *The Week* (a Communist publication) and the *Evening Standard*, on the 'Cliveden Set' asserting that the circle of individuals that visited Cliveden used their wealth and influence to undermine government policy. Cockburn accused them of supporting appeasement, therefore indirectly supporting Hitler and Fascism. The Cliveden Set were accused of forming policies during their weekend stays at the estate, and it was even suggested that the resignation of Eden from his post as Foreign Secretary was decided on one of the weekends.

The Astors did support appeasement as a means to avoid a second world war; however there is no definitive proof that either Nancy or Waldorf support fascism or bolshevism. They did express a level of concern about the ill treatment of Germany at Versailles. Nancy, in particular, was involved in several interviews to denounce these allegations and always asserted that she was a firm believer in democracy. However, these allegations were widely circulated and eventually damaged her reputation.

Types of documents include:

- News articles about Neville Chamberlain's visits to Cliveden
- Penny book, which discusses the influence of the Cliveden Set
- Extracts from *The Week*
- Article from *Daily Worker* titled 'Our Innocent Nancy' – May 6, 1938
- Interviews by Lady Nancy discounting the idea of the Cliveden Set. *The Saturday Evening Post* - March 4, 1939
- Article written by Lord Astor in the *Times* refuting the allegations about the Cliveden Set – May 5, 1938
- Articles regarding a rumour that Lady and Lord Astor may be called as defence witnesses at the Nuremburg War trials. Apparently the suggestion was made by former Nazi Foreign Minister Von Ribbentrop.
- One penny pamphlets reporting on the debate about the Second Front
- Letters by the public asking Lady Astor whether the claims she is a Fascist and/or anti-Semitic are true (the files include her replies to these letters)
- Hate mail sent to Lady Astor, often written on postcards
- Spoof articles and humorous cartoons about the Cliveden Set

Possible subject areas include:

- Cliveden Set's influence in political society
- Neville Chamberlain's involvement in the Cliveden Set
- British public and perception of the Second front
- British publications representation of the Second Front during WWII

- Russian politics and the British involvement
- British public reactions to pro-German sentiments
- British public and appeasement
- Role of Nancy Astor in appeasement policy
- Public figures and sensationalist journalism
- Media representation of Chamberlain's foreign policy
- How far did Nancy Astor's actions during WWII reflect her public statements
- How far did the upper classes see Fascism and Nazism as a bulwark against Communism?

Details of items in Special Collections:

- MS1416/1/1/1465: Includes letters to Nancy from public asking to use grounds at the estate; Pictures of Cliveden
- MS1416/1/1/1589: Includes articles about Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain's Cliveden weekend visit; One Penny books about the Cliveden Set; Article extracts from *The Week* and the *Daily Worker*
- MS1416/1/1/1590: Includes interview by Nancy Astor; Pamphlets and articles regarding the issue of the Second Front; Articles surrounding the rumour that the Astors will be called as witnesses to the Nuremburg trials; Articles about Russia
- MS1416/1/1/1586: Includes further articles and letters written to Nancy Astor
- MS1416/1/1/1591: Includes interview by Nancy Astor
- MS1416/1/1/1587: Includes letters to Nancy Astor from public about Jews and her position regarding Germany; Article titled 'Mussolini's Message to 60 British MPs; Hate mail sent to Nancy Astor
- MS1416/1/1/1585: Includes articles and letters regarding whether Nancy Astor is anti-Semitic, Further hate mail sent to Nancy Astor
- MS1416/1/1/1588: Includes a large number of press clippings and articles about the Cliveden set, many suggest that they were pro-Nazi/Fascist; Cartoons mocking Cliveden Set; Articles about Cliveden Set's influence on foreign affairs

Additional Information:

- The collection also includes the Cliveden Guest Books. Signatures include, but not limited to, Joseph P. Kennedy, Sr., Clementine Mitford, Winston Churchill, Neville Chamberlain, G. B. Shaw, and PG Wodehouse.
- The above list includes the majority of the Cliveden Set files within the Nancy Astor collection; however for further research please see the Cliveden Set files under Waldorf Astor's collection.

The Astor Invitations

Nancy Astor was a busy hostess often hosting weekends at Cliveden, including people of political and social importance and great influence, and opening the house and estate to guests and various organizations to use the garden and grounds.

Nancy Astor was also very often asked to support many causes and speak at numerous charity functions, political or social rallies and at conferences on the various causes she supported. In some of the letters within these files she wrote that she didn't enjoy speaking in public, never felt like a good orator and preferred to go first so not to get intimidated by the other speakers.

The invitations in the collection provide a great deal of insight into the types and volume of requests made on her and the causes she supported.

These files are very useful to support many of the other areas found within the Nancy and Waldorf Astor collection.

Types of documents:

- Invitations from various organizations such as International Order of Good Templars, Winter Distress Leagues, education organizations, League of Nations Union, Temperance groups
- Invitations to speak at many conferences and meetings regarding the temperance movement
- Invitations to speak at Women's Housing Councils and conference on Women's Unemployment
- Invitation to the International Council of Women (Nancy Astor was asked to speak on the subject of the Prevention of the Causes of War.)
- Leaflets on Grand National Temperance Bazaar
- Programmes and invitations to various conferences including a conference on the Kellogg Pact, education conferences, conference regarding Save the Children Fund
- Personal letters including letters from other Christian Scientists, to friends and family, and letters to Nancy Astor asking for help and requesting favors, such as help in finding employment

Possible subject areas include:

- The causes supported by Nancy Astor
- Female politicians and their role in women issues
- Public image and politicians
- Women and the media
- The interaction of the women's movement and temperance movement
- Public pressure and government officials
- Nancy Astor and her role in nursery schools
- Pubs and temperance movement
- Abolition of regulated prostitution and Nancy Astor's involvement

Details of items in Special Collections:

- MS1416/1/1/420: Includes invitations to conferences and letters on the subject of insurance for women
- MS1416/1/1/421-422: Includes invitations to conferences and letters to Nancy Astor by the public
- MS1416/1/1/423: Includes letters to Nancy Astor by various schools and material from the Winter Distress League
- MS1416/1/1/424, 425, 426: Includes many invitations to Nancy Astor to speak at various conferences and meetings including Women's Housing Council and the Women's International Housing Congress
- MS1416/1/1/427: Includes pamphlets about dry houses; Invitations to speak at many different temperance meetings
- MS1416/1/1/1281: Includes invitations to Nancy to speak at women's organizations including meeting on crèches and abstinence
- MS1416/1/1/1282: Includes invitations between Nancy Astor and Madame Wissa Bey (Madame Wissa Bey wrote a book in defence of the Jews and regarded them as the saviours of the world and she was also very articulate with regards to Egyptian politics.)
- MS1416/1/1/1283-1284: Lists invitations to be refused, fulfilled and renewed. The invitations were grouped into different categories and then split up.
- MS1416/1/1/1285: Includes material regarding housing one person families; Leaflet on the trafficking of women and by the Association for Moral & Social Hygiene celebrating the repeal of the Contagious Disease Act; Invitation for Nancy Astor to speak at a celebration in regards to the abolition of prostitution
- MS1416/1/1/104: Includes lists of different luncheons/dinners including guests such as PG Wodehouse, Lord Lothian, Prince of Wales, Thomas Mitford, Unity Mitford and Winston Churchill; Also includes drawings of jewellery and an evening bag being made for Nancy Astor by Cartier (includes the fabric being used.)

Additional Information:

- The above is a selection from the numerous files within the Invitations section of Nancy Astor's collection; however, there are many files that include guest lists to dinner and luncheons and further files which list the invitations refused, fulfilled and renewed.
- Engagement diaries are also part of the Nancy Astor collection – there are many gaps in the dates and often doodles in the back of the diaries. They show the Nancy Astor's very busy schedule.
- Address books are separated between English and American addresses. Often big sections are left blank.

- It appears that Nancy Astor kept only one personal diary and only the first few pages are completed. She mostly wrote that she dislikes old age, as its boring. File MS1416/1/6/72.

Domestic Servants

The Nancy Astor collection contains several boxes pertinent to English domestic servants, covering the period 1920-1940. This was a time characterised by a growth in female employment opportunities and changing public perceptions of domestic service. The Great War had opened up areas of the labour market previously inaccessible to women, exposing them to jobs offering higher wages, better working conditions, and enhanced independence. Meanwhile, growing numbers of women were gaining the vote; by 1928, 53% of females were enfranchised. The relative decline of domestic service during this period (referred to by contemporaries as the 'Servant Problem') is reflected in the Astor files. The documents available indicate the mobilisation of female opinion after the war, exposing a call for increased status among domestic servants. Class and gender politics are evident throughout these documents, which reveal the opinions and experiences of servants and employers alike.

Types of document include:

- i. Letters from servants complaining about their treatment at the hands of employers.
- ii. Letters from employers bemoaning the difficulty involved in recruiting and retaining reliable domestic servants. Frequent references to inefficient employment agencies.
- iii. Newspaper articles/editorials addressing the 'Servant Problem'; most of which call for the raised status and better working conditions of employees.
- iv. Government report exploring the causes of the decline in domestic service.
- v. Multiple articles bolstering the government report claim that better and formalised training for domestic servants is required.
- vi. Articles and letters calling for the establishment of a servant guild/a means of securing more rights for domestic servants.
- vii. Documentation from The Wayfarer Guild, including its weekly publication. Much correspondence in which Nancy Astor recommends this guild to people seeking to improve the status/working conditions of domestic servants.
- viii. Article from a Labour party member talking of the need to canvass for the votes of domestic servants.
- ix. Several articles and letters calling for an end to the 'servant' label.
- x. Correspondence relating to the 'Mui Tsai Question'. These Chinese women, sold into domestic service in China and San Francisco, provoked much debate in Britain.

Possible subject areas include:

- i. The 'Servant Problem'. What did this refer to? What was the nature of the so-called problem? How subjective a concept is this?
- ii. The decline of domestic service in the early twentieth century; a numerical decline routed in wider social and political changes?
- iii. The changing face of domestic service: expectations, employer demands, employee rights.
- iv. The potential degradation implicated in the 'servant' label and the tasks undertaken in domestic service.

- v. Changing female employment opportunities after WWI. Changing perceptions of gender roles. The redefinition of what constituted 'female work'.
- vi. Links between female enfranchisement and calls for raised status in domestic service/traditionally female defined professions.
- vii. Class distinction/prejudice among the employer class in the early twentieth century; which is to be considered in the context of growing challenges from the employed, along with the increasing public voice given to them by newspapers, unions and canvassing political groups.
- viii. Employer guilds/the growth of trade unionism among women in the early twentieth century. Potentially a case-study of The Wayfarer Guild.
- ix. The 'Mui Tsai Question'.

Details of items in Special Collections:

- i. MS1416/1/1/154: Includes an article written by a Labour Party member, suggesting that the party canvass for domestic servant votes.
- ii. MS1416/1/1/155: Includes letters from mistresses complaining about servant agencies. An editorial asking for the status of domestic labour to be raised, proposing ways in which to do it.
- iii. MS1416/1/1/156: Includes letters from servants and mistresses. Several articles from *The Gentlewoman*, addressing the 'Servant Problem' and proposing solutions.
- iv. MS1416/1/1/157: Includes Ministry of Labour report addressing decline in domestic service, 1923. Summary article of the enclosed report.
- v. MS1416/1/1/982: Includes documents advocating the 'proper training' of domestic servants, as a means to improving the profession for employers and employees alike.
- vi. MS1416/1/1/1192: Includes letters from disgruntled and condescending employers. Correspondence from a servant calling for a Domestic Charter.
- vii. MS1416/1/1/1469: Includes information, correspondence and publications concerning The Wayfarer Guild. Information relating to the Mui Tsai Question.
- viii. See also: MS1416/1/1/375; report on American domestic servants, 1924. Useful for comparative work.

British cinema and its censorship 1920-1940

There are multiple files related to the history of British cinema within the Astor archives. Covering the period 1920-1940, these files help shed light on a tumultuous period for British film. The industry experienced a boom when it first developed in the first decade of the century, but during the 1920s experienced a recession caused by US competition and commercial practices. The Cinematograph Films Act of 1927 was introduced as a means of protecting British cinema and encouraging local production, and the successes and failures of this act are discussed extensively in the Astor files. Also of increasing relevance were debates about the impact of cinema on children, along with the need to enforce censorship. The correspondence of Nancy Astor, who was at the forefront of campaigns to promote 'clean' and educational cinema, contains much discussion of the merits of censoring cinema output.

Types of document include:

- i. Cinematograph Films Bill, 1927.
- ii. Numerous critiques of the Cinematograph Films Bill; from film production companies, newspapers, individuals.
- iii. Articles addressing the potential impact of the cinema on children.
- iv. Letters from Nancy Astor throughout the period in question calling for 'clean' films.
- v. Correspondence and reports commissioned by the London Public Morality Council, who sought to censor and classify films before they were publicly exhibited.
- vi. Letters sent to Nancy Astor stressing the need for women to serve on advisory committees for cinema legislation.
- vii. National Council of Women of Great Britain, report on censorship.
- viii. Multiple articles and letters which are clearly pro-censorship.
- ix. Correspondence seeking to prevent the release of Alfred Hitchcock's *Downhill* (1927), a film about misadventure which included alcoholism.
- x. Correspondence relating to the film *Dawn* (1928), which was banned in Britain and the subject of offence within Germany owing to its portrayal of German invaders of Belgium during WWI.
- xi. Official report from British Board of Film Censors (BBFC), detailing which firms submitted films for censorship/how many were passed. Also lists reasons for exceptions taken to films.
- xii. Synopses of several children's films from 1923-25; revealing the types of narratives being shown/encouraged.
- xiii. London County Council report, 'School Children and the Cinema'.
- xiv. League of Nations advisory report on the impact of the cinema on children, 1928.
- xv. Large collection of personal accounts from children who attended cinemas in the 1920s. Their likes and dislikes, whether parents wanted them attending.
- xvi. Early document from The British Film Institute (founded in 1933), outlining the aims and objectives of the organisation.

Possible subject areas include:

- i. Cinematograph Films Bill: origins, impact, success/failure

- ii. Was British cinema in decline prior to the 1927 bill? Did the legislation impact positive changes? What was public/political/film industry opinion regarding the bill?
- iii. How far was public opinion divided about the impact of cinema/its potential as a means of entertainment or as a corrupting force?
- iv. The origins of censorship in British cinema.
- v. Moral panic surrounding the proliferation of media output at the start of the twentieth century. Fear of the social and moral problems of film. Early censorship debates.
- vi. Which things were being censored, and why?
- vii. Was censorship partly a political product? For example, was *Dawn* banned owing to its potential impact on international relations?
- viii. As cinema became culturally powerful, did governments implement political censorship?
- ix. Consideration of the perceived psychological impacts of/moral panic centred on cinema and children.
- x. The role and responsibilities of the British Board of Film Censors (BBFC)
- xi. London Public Morality Council.
- xii. The role of women's organisations in promoting film censorship.

Details of items in Special Collections:

- i. MS1416/1/1/85: Includes articles relating to impact of cinema on children, and a letter stating Nancy Astor's stance.
- ii. MS1416/1/1/90: Includes Cinematograph Films Bill, 1927. Responses to the bill.
- iii. MS1416/1/1/86: Includes much correspondence from the London Public Morality Council. Letters about the need to censor and classify films.
- iv. MS1416/1/1/87: Includes more articles and letters concerning censorship. Correspondence about *Dawn*. A report commissioned by London Public Morality Council, about Hitchcock's *Downhill*.
- v. MS1416/1/1/89: Includes more pro-censorship correspondence. Critique of the Cinematograph Films Bill, pointing to the strength of the American industry. BBFC report, 1929.
- vi. MS1416/1/1/84: Includes synopses of children's films, 1923-25. Articles calling for censorship.
- vii. MS1416/1/1/1177: Includes document from The British Film Institute, aims and objectives of organisation.
- viii. MS1416/1/1/973: Includes London County Council and League of Nations reports on the impact of cinema on children. Collection of personal accounts of cinema from children.
- ix. Also reference: MS1416/1/1/88; MS1416/1/1/972; MS1416/1/1/1178

Illegitimacy and bastardy

The Astor papers contain many files reflecting the social, political and legal debates centred on illegitimacy and bastardy in 1920s and 1930s Britain. Indeed, correspondence focused on these issues can be found in the files of both Nancy and Waldorf Astor. The most common definition of illegitimacy is to be born out of wedlock, but throughout history the legal and social status of children in that position has changed. In social and sometimes legal terms, the individual child so born was termed a 'bastard'. Rising rates of illegitimacy during WWI made the issue a subject for renewed debate, at higher governmental levels than previously. This is reflected in the legal and political documents included in the Astor files. Children born out of wedlock were almost solely the responsibility of their mothers, which resulted in increasingly vigorous calls for legislation that would force fathers to take greater liability. Furthermore, as much of the correspondence within the files show, there was a good deal of social stigma attached to bastardy.

Types of documents include:

- i. Documents from the National Council for the Unmarried Mother and Her Child, campaigning for legal changes and better treatment of the illegitimate. Annual reports, bills, legal proposals
- ii. Many newspaper articles calling for changed legislation with regards illegitimacy, but also highlighting the social stigma attached to being illegitimate- labelling such babies as 'unfortunates'.
- iii. Personal letters from mothers of illegitimate children, recounting their experiences of being abandoned, asking Nancy Astor to push for more rights for the women and children abandoned by fathers.
- iv. Multiple legal documents/bills/proposals for amendments to legitimacy law.
- v. Documents highlighting the fact that many fathers deserted women and escaped to the dominions or the army- from various sources, including Colonial Office, personal letters,
- vi. Personal letters centred on the stigma that mothers fear will be forever attached to their children if they are labelled 'bastard'.
- vii. Correspondence, both official and personal, relating to the status of unmarried mothers and their children in Quebec.
- viii. Pamphlet from the National Council for The Unmarried Mother and Her Child including a section on adoption.
- ix. A letter (perhaps the only one of its kind in the files) exposing an alternative perspective, referring to an 'evil' woman who seduces a husband and has his child – calling for her to be punished.
- x. Multiple documents concerning the Bastardy Bill of 1920. Correspondence, legal and political documents/petitions/pamphlets/government reports relating to subsequent bastardy laws/amendment proposals.
- xi. Waldorf Astor file containing great depth of information regarding 1927 Bastardy Bill. Useful background information concerning the way that illegitimacy and bastardy was enshrined and reflected in law from 1900 onwards. Speeches, government reports, bills. Document outlining responses to illegitimacy in various Dominions.

Possible subject areas include:

- i. A consideration of illegitimacy as a social, political and cultural construction.
- ii. Explorations of social expectations/predominant values and ideologies relating to illegitimacy.
- iii. What were the links between illegitimacy and infant mortality/population policies?
- iv. Were the army and the dominions a means of escape for fathers of illegitimate children in the first part of the twentieth century?
- v. The social stigma of illegitimacy.
- vi. A history of changing social attitudes and changes in family law.
- vii. Changing social attitudes about sex and paternity.
- viii. The impact of illegitimacy not simply on the child, but also the mother
- ix. A study of the National Council for the Unmarried Mother and her Child.
- x. International comparative studies of familial law/bastardy/illegitimacy.
- xi. Many of these files provide a useful context/backdrop for the emergence of the first formal adoption law in 1926. History of adoption.
- xii. Bastardy; the changing legal and social implications of being defined as such.

Details of items in Special Collections:

- i. MS1416/1/1/334: Includes documents from National Council for the Unmarried Mother and Her Child. 1923 government report on the Legitimacy Bill. Newspaper article highlighting social pity for the illegitimate, but also the growing call for changed legislation.
- ii. MS1416/1/1/335: Includes personal letters from anguished mothers recounting experiences of being neglected by fathers.
- iii. MS1416/1/1/336: Includes more personal letters. Pamphlet from National Council for the Unmarried Mother and Her Child which includes information on the inheritance rights of illegitimate children, adoption.
- iv. MS1416/1/1/337: Includes the only personal letter placing blame on the 'evil' mothers of illegitimate children.
- v. MS1416/1/1/338: Includes much information on Bastardy Bill, 1920.
- vi. MS1416/1/1/339: Includes information on Bastardy Act, 1925.
- vii. MS1416/1/1/340: Includes information on Bastardy Bill, 1927.
- viii. MS1416/1/1/345: Includes personal letters highlighting the stigma of bastardy/illegitimacy.
- ix. MS1066/1/648: Includes multiple documents and correspondence relating to Bastardy Bill, 1927. Background information concerning the way that illegitimacy and bastardy was reflected in law from 1900 onwards. Document outlining responses to illegitimacy in some of the dominions.
- x. Also reference: MS1416/1/1/342; MS1416/1/1/343; MS1416/1/1/344; MS1416/1/1/341

Marriage and divorce laws

The Astor papers on marriage laws, which cover the period 1922-1937, also provide extensive detail regarding divorce. Thus, whilst the files are headed 'marriage laws', they may also be referred to in studies considering divorce legislation. At the end of this period, the hugely important Matrimonial Causes Act (1937) was passed, extending the grounds for divorce. This was the first major alteration in marriage/divorce law since 1857, and the product of continued pushes for change in Britain. In the decades prior to the 1937 Act, numerous unsuccessful bills attempted to force legal change; as testified by the Astor collection. Indeed, whilst the Matrimonial Causes Act can be cited as a turning point, it is the numerous bills which preceded this act that can be most readily found in these files. Including personal letters, official reports and pamphlets from the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship, the papers provide a useful overview of proposed and enacted legal changes during the early twentieth century. In revealing the experiences and stances adopted by political groups and individuals, they provide a detailed context for the study of changing social and legal attitudes towards marriage and divorce. In addition, their consideration of the treatment of women in marriage/divorce law sheds valuable light on gender debates prevalent at the time.

Types of document include:

- i. Pamphlets/correspondence from the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship, calling for legal changes in marriage law to make it easier for women to obtain separation and subsequent maintenance. Documents connected with Eleanor Rathbone.
- ii. Maintenance Orders Act, 1920. Government document about this act.
- iii. Separation and Maintenance Orders Bill, 1922. Among other things, this proposes to make venereal disease a valid reason for granting a separation order.
- iv. Evidence/copies of multiple proposed bills from 1920-1937
- v. Personal letters asking Nancy Astor to help women obtain divorces, many of whom have been abandoned. There are also some letters from men asking for assistance. A collection of letters from people calling for divorce to be permitted on the grounds of lunacy. Letters enquiring whether and when changed legislation is likely. Letters asking Astor to support legislative change.
- vi. Personal letter exposing alternative perspective; a woman asking Astor to push for changes in the law that will 'compel a wife to live with her husband...'
- vii. Collection of personal letters from women reproaching Lady Astor for not supporting a divorce reform bill in 1934.
- viii. Parliamentary Debates pamphlets, containing speeches centred on proposed changes in marriage and divorce law.
- ix. Copies of the quarterly publication from the Divorce Law Reform Union.
- x. Article from 1928 providing statistics on changing marriage rates.
- xi. Article from the Eugenics Society, opposing marriage of the 'unfit'.
- xii. Documentation about the Age of Marriage Bill, 1929.
- xiii. Statement of the numbers of Separation Orders applied for and granted in England and Wales between 1909-1913.
- xiv. Speech by Viscount Halifax, 1920, denouncing proposed changes in divorce law.
- xv. Report on Matrimonial Causes Bill, 1923.
- xvi. References to Lord Buckmaster's attempts to change divorce law. Speech by Buckmaster.

- xvii. Article from Daily News, 1928, opposing widening the grounds for ending marriage.
- xviii. An unorthodox religious perspective on marriage law from Rev W. F. Geikie-Cobb, a divorce law reformer.
- xix. Documents from the Marriage Law Reform League; including their aims and objectives.
- xx. Much information about Summary Jurisdiction Bill, 1925.
- xxi. Official report about Powers of Disinheritance Bill. Document outlining the history/perceived necessity of the bill.
- xxii. Pamphlet from the National Council for Equal Citizenship, 1935, detailing divorce laws both in England and other countries and offering opinions about reform.
- xxiii. Collection of articles and correspondence concerning British women losing their nationality upon marriage to men from other countries.
- xxiv. References to A.P. Herbert's pushes for divorce reform prior to the passing of the 1937 Matrimonial Causes Act. Letters from people calling for Astor to support Herbert's proposals. Replies indicating that she will support the proposed reforms.

Possible subject areas include:

- i. Why did so many bills aimed at changing marital law fail prior to the 1937 Act?
- ii. There is a volume of information about the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship (formerly NUWSS) in the Astor files; including details about their policies, objectives and organisation. How important was the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship in forcing changes in marriage law?
- iii. Eleanor Rathbone. There are multiple files concerning/written by Rathbone in the Astor collection. How important was she for advancing the social and legal status of women in the early twentieth century?
- iv. The 1937 Act. Was a preparatory path laid by the succession of bills proposed in the previous two decades?
- v. How far were legal changes in marriage laws a reflection of growing female demands/rights in society at large?
- vi. Information about the British Eugenics Society (founded 1908) can be found in the archives. Potential study of.
- vii. What was the impact of religion on support/opposition for changes in marriage law? How popular were the views of Reverend W.F. Geikie Hobb?
- viii. Debates centred on the nationality of British women upon marriage to people from other countries.
- ix. Was the Matrimonial Causes Act (1937) the inevitable culmination of two decades of continued pushes for legal change?
- x. Were pushes for change truly emanating primarily from women? Should more attention be paid to those personal letters calling for help written by men?
- xi. In terms of grounds for divorce, was lunacy on a level with adultery? Should the law have reflected this?

Details of items in Special Collections:

- i. MS1416/1/1/482: Includes documents from the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship. Maintenance Orders Act, 1920.
- ii. MS1416/1/1/483: Includes personal letters asking Astor for help in obtaining divorce. Parliamentary Debates pamphlet, 1922.

- iii. MS1416/1/1/485: Includes publication from Divorce Law Reform Union. Article from 1928 providing statistics on changing marriage rates. Personal letter exposing alternative perspective (see above) on marriage law. Article about Eugenics Society.
- iv. MS1416/1/1/486: Includes documents about the Age of Marriage Bill, 1929.
- v. MS1416/1/1/488: Includes statement of numbers of Separation Orders applied for and granted 1909-13.
- vi. MS1416/1/1/489: Includes speech by Viscount Halifax, 1920.
- vii. MS1416/1/1/492: Includes speech by Buckmaster. Personal letter asking for divorce to be granted on grounds of insanity.
- viii. MS1416/1/1/493: Includes article from Daily News, 1928, opposed to widening grounds for ending marriage.
- ix. MS1416/1/1/494: Includes pamphlets by Rev W. F. Geike-Cobb. Documents from Marriage Law Reform League.
- x. MS1416/1/1/496: Includes information regarding Summary Jurisdiction Bill, 1925.
- xi. MS1416/1/1/1033: Includes personal letters asking Astor to support legal changes.
- xii. MS1416/1/1/1300: Includes official report about Powers of Disinheritance Bill, document outlining history of bill.
- xiii. MS1416/1/1/1302: Includes collection of personal letters from women reproaching Astor for not supporting a reform bill in 1934.
- xiv. MS1416/1/1/1303: Includes pamphlet from National Council for Equal Citizenship, 1935.
- xv. MS1416/1/1/1504: Includes articles and correspondence concerning British women losing nationality in marriage to foreigners.
- xvi. MS1416/1/1/1505: Includes references to Herbert's divorce reform bills
- xvii. MS1416/1/1/1506: Includes personal letters from deserted wives calling for legal changes that will help their situations.
- xviii. Also reference: MS1416/1/1/484; MS1416/1/1/487; MS1416/1/1/490; MS1416/1/1/491; MS1416/1/1/495; MS1416/1/1/497; MS1416/1/1/1301; MS1416/1/1/1304.

Lunacy reform and mental health legislation

As testified by the volume of material in the Astor papers centred on lunacy reform, Lady Astor took a real interest in the provision of treatment for mental illness. Indeed, there is evidence that she was both a keen participant in political debates and a supporter of those key organisations lobbying for legislative changes between 1920 and 1930. Industrialisation and population growth had led to a big expansion in insane asylums in the nineteenth century, and the turn of the twentieth century saw the development of psychoanalysis. Perhaps more importantly, it saw gradual changes in perceptions of mental illness; asylum inmates were increasingly referred to as patients, whilst the term asylum was itself replaced by hospital. The history of lunacy is a vast topic with a voluminous literature, but the Astor files nonetheless provide useful insight into the social, legal and medical treatment of mental health in the early twentieth century. They contain multiple documents produced by the National Society for Lunacy Reform, and provide much evidence of disillusionment with asylum treatment. Numerous files illustrate proposed government bills, and continued efforts to enforce legal change are demonstrated. Personal letters expose the experiences of patients and their families—some of which highlight the social stigma often associated with lunacy. It is also of interest that some of the letters shed a somewhat negative light on the treatment of ex-servicemen returning from the First World War suffering from shell shock.

Types of document include:

- i. Pamphlets, correspondence and documents from the National Society for Lunacy Reform. Outlining their aims, objectives, activities.
- ii. Leaflet complaining about the treatment of ex-servicemen being treated in the same way as the insane. Critique of 'war hospitals'.
- iii. Articles calling for changes in lunacy law.
- iv. Leaflets referring to the 'tragedy' inflicted on many by asylum treatment. Depicting asylums as terrible and non-beneficial places.
- v. Collections of correspondence concerning particular patients; letters from all parties involved in their treatment, including patients, family members, MP (Nancy Astor), National Council for Lunacy Reform, local health authorities, asylums. These sets of correspondence are indicative of the contentious nature of lunacy and asylum treatment.
- vi. Documents outlining the aims and objectives of the National Council for Mental Hygiene, who later merged with other organisations to create the National Association for Mental Health.
- vii. Articles and documents concerning multiple mental health treatment/lunacy bills. Pamphlets calling for/suggesting amendments to mental treatment legislation. Significant volume of documents regarding Mental Deficiency Bill(s), 1927.
- viii. Documents, correspondence, articles concerning Royal Commission on Lunacy and Mental Disorder, 1924-25. Critiques of the Commission.
- ix. Personal letters calling for Lady Astor's help; asking for help in securing the discharge of patients, requesting that she push for changes in lunacy legislation, detailing the stigma of insanity, detailing how badly ex-servicemen are treated.
- x. References to the much publicised Harnett case, 1926. (lunacy certification)
- xi. Letter confirming that Lady Astor will join the Lunacy Reform Group in the House of Commons, 1926.

- xii. Article exploring the sterilisation of 'mental defectives'.
- xiii. Article detailing calls from the Lunacy Board of Control to ban marriages between mental defectives, 1928.
- xiv. Leaflet and correspondence about a theatrical production dealing with lunacy.
- xv. Ministry of Health report on Public Mental Hospitals, 1922.
- xvi. Telegraph article, 1929, including statistics on numbers of 'lunatics' and 'mentally defective'.
- xvii. Articles pointing to a statistic increase in mental deficiency, calling for more institutional accommodation.

Possible subject areas include:

- i. Study of National Society for Lunacy Reform
- ii. How pervasive was social stigma related to lunacy at the beginning of the twentieth century? Was it changing, as a result of changing perceptions of mental health? What did it mean to be deemed 'insane'?
- iii. Shell shock and the treatment of returning servicemen. Were 'war hospitals' disguised lunacy institutions?
- iv. Is it apt to refer to the 'tragedy' of asylum treatment?
- v. Within these files there are several collections of correspondence pertinent to the experiences and treatment of particular patients. Potential case-study work.
- vi. The personal and public nature of debates about mental health during this period. An interesting dichotomy.
- vii. Was the push for legal provisions for the fairer treatment of mental health a reflection of changing public opinion between 1920-1930? Was public opinion truly changing? Was political and legal opinion shifting to accommodate this, or was it the driving force behind it?
- viii. How responsible were the press for shaping public opinion on mental health?
- ix. An examination of the terminology used to address people with mental illness. Was changing terminology being employed in the treatment of mental health following the First World War? Was 'mental health' replacing 'lunacy'?
- x. Did the return of ex-servicemen suffering from 'shell shock' lead to shifting portrayals and perceptions of mental illness?
- xi. How far did the Royal Commission on Lunacy and Mental Health go towards changing provisions for mental health? Did it go far enough? Were the widespread critiques of it valid?
- xii. How useful are the collections of correspondence centred on particular patients in exposing the multifaceted/contentious nature of mental health treatment at the start of the twentieth century?
- xiii. Was mental health a social taboo? How controversial was it to stage a public performance about lunacy in the 1920s? Can this be considered a breakthrough? Did it gain public backing?

Details of items in Special Collections:

- i. MS1416/1/1/473: Includes leaflet complaining about treatment of ex-servicemen. Leaflet describing the 'tragedy' of asylum treatment. Correspondence from National Council for Lunacy Reform. Case study of particular patient.

- ii. MS1416/1/1/474: Includes articles addressing Royal Commission on Lunacy and Mental Disorder. Reports from National Society for Lunacy Reform and National Council for Mental Hygiene. Copy of Mental Deficiency Act, 1913.
- iii. MS1416/1/1/475: Includes personal letters asking Lady Astor to push for legislative changes/help with particular cases. References to Harnett case. Article exploring sterilisation of 'mental defectives'. Information about a theatrical performance centred on lunacy. Critique of the Royal Commission.
- iv. MS1416/1/1/476: Includes much information about Mental Deficiency Bill(s), 1927. Collection of correspondence about particular patient.
- v. MS1416/1/1/477: Includes article concerning marriage between 'mental defectives'. Personal letters. Ministry of Health report on Public Mental Hospitals, 1922.
- vi. MS1416/1/1/478: Includes article featuring statistics on 'lunatics' and 'mentally defective', 1929. Articles examining institutional accommodation.
- vii. MS1416/1/1/479: Includes personal letters.
- viii. MS1416/1/1/480: Includes documents produced by National Council for Lunacy Reform.
- ix. Also reference MS1066/1/751, from the Waldorf Astor files, which includes much correspondence and documentation about the progress of the Mental Treatment Bill 1923-1929.

Moral Hygiene/Prostitution

There is a vast amount of detail in the Nancy Astor files regarding moral hygiene. Illustrating her preoccupation with such issues as prostitution, child assault and vice in the colonies, the files provide extensive detail on a range of topics that were the subject of widespread public debates between 1920-1937. Whilst it is difficult to actually define 'moral hygiene', there are key social and moral themes detectable within the files, most of which are focused on issues which demonstrate Nancy Astor's generally conservative, yet pro-female political views. The Association for Moral and Social Hygiene, which campaigned to equalise moral standards for both men and women, features heavily in the files, and Astor's continued support for their attempts to ensure high and equal standards of morality and sexual responsibility is evident throughout. Indeed, the state regulation of prostitution, pivotal in the campaigns of AMSH, is a key theme within the moral hygiene files. Throughout, a range of useful sources are provided; including personal correspondence, political pamphlets and leaflets, partisan newspaper articles, government reports and legal documents. Anyone wishing to study early twentieth century attitudes towards legislative, administrative, social and educational reforms relating to both public and private moral/social hygiene will find a wealth of useful material in the Astor collection.

Types of document include:

- i. Huge range of correspondence/reports/documents from the Association for Moral and Social hygiene, pertinent to a number of issues, including: the regulation of prostitution, venereal disease, ensuring a better 'moral environment' for troops, brothels, the repeal of solicitation laws, vice in the colonies, female representation in courts, traffic in women and children, Josephine Butler. There are also several copies of 'The Shield', the publication of the organisation.
- ii. Letter from The Woman's Leader, calling for the repeal of laws penalising the prostitutes themselves, requesting the amendment of the law dealing with street molestation. 'The prostitute is the scapegoat for everyone's sins, and few people really care whether she is justly treated or not.'
- iii. Pamphlet from NUWSS, 1919, concerning an equal moral standard, addressing solicitation.
- iv. Article from Daily Herald calling for men found in houses of ill repute to be punished. 'Publicity and punishment for men would go far too diminish immoral traffic.'
- v. Report from the London Council for the Promotion of Public Morality, calling for Women's Courts, which it is claimed would deal more reasonably with prostitution.
- vi. Report from the National Council for Combating Venereal Diseases, concerning the Offences against the Person Bill, 1924.
- vii. Multiple documents regarding prostitution, brothels and moral hygiene more generally in other countries/colonies, including: Haifa, Jaffa, Fiji, Bombay, Calcutta, Kenya, Hong Kong, Singapore.
- viii. Particularly detailed collection of pamphlets and articles concerning moral hygiene in the Malay States, calling for changes in the laws dealing with prostitutes. Includes pamphlet from the Association for Moral and Social Hygiene

- calling for 'the complete abolition within the British Crown Colonies of the system of state regulation of vice.'
- ix. Correspondence about a proposed Advisory Committee to the Colonial Office on questions of social hygiene.
 - x. Letter from Nancy Astor confirming that she will 'certainly join the Parliamentary Committee to consider the repeal of the Solicitation Laws.'
 - xi. Pamphlets from The Federation of Children's Rescue Committee, dealing with the problems of moral evil affecting young children.
 - xii. Letters/pamphlets from The American Social Hygiene Association.
 - xiii. Personal letter from former magistrate, condemning the treatment of prostitutes in the courts.
 - xiv. Personal letters asking Astor to push for legislation/changes in legislation that will provide for the better treatment of prostitutes.
 - xv. Personal letters asking Astor to help bring an end to prostitution and brothels.
 - xvi. Correspondence regarding moral conditions in Egypt, alleged to impact on British troops, including a letter from the High Commissioner.
 - xvii. Correspondence proposing a female police force, to help regulate prostitution. Personal letters calling for police women to be present in every police court where there is a female defendant. Sympathetic replies from Astor.
 - xviii. YMCA pamphlet, including a section about their Women Street Patrols, who aim to persuade women to leave the streets.
 - xix. Information about the Josephine Butler centenary.
 - xx. Article complaining about how quickly a woman can be falsely arrested and charged as a common prostitute.
 - xxi. Astor was involved in the Street Offences Committee (est. 1927), who investigated solicitation. Notes, correspondence, pamphlet, report about their findings, critique by the Association for Moral and Social Hygiene.
 - xxii. An entire file concerning the famous Savidge Enquiry (1928), including parliamentary papers, official report, letters and articles. Also illustrative of Astor's attempts to secure a female member on the tribunal.
 - xxiii. Similar file, focused on the much publicised case of Helene Adele, 1928.
 - xxiv. Multiple documents concerning traffic in women and children. Unofficial letter from League of Nations, concerning a proposed conference (1921) to discuss the matter, asking Astor to help push for Britain taking a 'strong lead'. Information about the International Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Women and Children. Report from the Advisory Committee on the Traffic in Women and Children, presented to the League of Nations council in 1922. Multiple documents referencing the proposed prohibition of the employment of foreign women in tolerated houses. League of Nations reports, various responses to these reports.
 - xxv. Several files centred on assaults on children, 1922-1937. Reflective of Nancy Astor's interest in this topic; she was among the first group of people to raise the subject in parliament in 1922, and subsequently a member of the Committee on Child Assault. Documents include: Draft letter to Home Secretary regarding sexual offences against young persons. Correspondence about the assault of children in royal parks. Personal letters asking Astor to push for legislation that will punish criminals accordingly and help children/potential victims of child assault. Interesting reply from Astor which indicates that she is not in favour of the corporate punishment that some of the personal letters advocate - rather, 'some kind of segregation or thorough-going medical treatment for these abnormal and brutal offenders.' Articles and letters referring to Major Paget's bill, which promotes corporate punishment in offences against children. Statistics on

- the assault of young people. Summary of the Report and Recommendations of the Departmental Committee on Sexual Offences Against Young Persons. Newspaper responses to the above report. Correspondence regarding pressing the Home Secretary to take action on the report. Articles and letters post-report, asserting that not enough has been done to pursue the recommendations. Drafts of speeches, including Astor's proposed solutions to issues of child assault. Articles detailing particular cases of child assault and punishments enforced. Pamphlet 'Inadequate Sentences for Indecent Assaults Upon Children and Young Girls', listing a series of cases extracted from newspapers which involve unjust punishment. References to the Children's Bill. Notes from Astor advocating changes to legislation dealing with assaults on children. Letter highlighting that Astor believes there should be more women police for preventive work.
- xxvi. File centred on the Public Places (Order) Bill, which Nancy Astor introduced into the House of Commons in 1925. Notes and speeches outlining the bill and its aims/purposes. Correspondence and articles about bill.
- xxvii. Leaflets and notes on the debate about the repatriation of prostitutes.
- xxviii. Correspondence with the American Social Hygiene Association, regarding prostitution. Notes about moral conditions in New York. Pamphlets about women's courts and vice suppression in New York.

Possible subject areas include:

- i. Lady Astor more often replies *personally* to letters concerning moral hygiene than to those centred on other issues/topics. How telling is this? Does it testify her enthusiasm for matters of moral hygiene?
- ii. Association for Moral and Social Hygiene. A huge amount of information is provided about this organisation. A potential study of their objectives, successes/failures and key campaigners.
- iii. Were the ideas of Josephine Butler borne out in the work of the Association for Moral and Social Hygiene centred on debates about prostitution?
- iv. Were moral hygiene campaigns orchestrated primarily by women? Were their aims, more often than not, improving the lives of women?
- v. Was there a preoccupation with moral hygiene in the colonies? If so, why? Was this about cultural imperialism?
- vi. Were public perceptions of prostitution changing? Was the prostitute more often being portrayed as the victim than in the past? Were men starting to be apportioned more blame? How did political groups/the public react to the idea of the state regulation of prostitution, as was often the case in the colonies?
- vii. There was a preoccupation among many with the moral welfare of troops within the colonies. How much emphasis was placed on the 'moral vice' of foreigners in threatening these troops? How many moral hygiene campaigns were centred on British troops?
- viii. Huge amount of information on child assault, 1922-1937. Changing public perceptions of child assault (more widely publicised than in the past?), pushes for legislative action, debates about appropriate punishment. Extensive topic.
- ix. Can parallels be drawn between moral/social hygiene campaigns in Britain and America?
- x. Public Places (Order) Bill, 1925. A study of the aims and objectives. Given Astor's involvement, much information accessible.
- xi. Is the Savidge Enquiry/Helene Adele case reflective of widespread public outcry regarding solicitation law/the treatment of women by the law/police?

Details of items in Special Collections:

- i. MS1416/1/1/514 includes: Letter from The Woman's Leader regarding prostitution, calling for changed legislation.
- ii. MS1416/1/1/515 includes: Pamphlet from NUWSS about 'equal moral standard', addressing solicitation. Article calling for men found in houses of ill repute to be punished. Report from London Council for the Promotion of Public Morality calling for Women's Courts.
- iii. MS1416/1/1/516 includes: Pamphlets from The Federation of Children's Rescue Committees and The American Social Hygiene Association. Letter from former police magistrate condemning treatment of prostitutes.
- iv. MS1416/1/1/517 includes: Documents regarding moral hygiene in Fiji, Bombay.
- v. MS1416/1/1/518 includes: Correspondence about moral conditions of British troops in Egypt. Personal letter proposing female police force to regulate prostitution. YMCA pamphlet.
- vi. MS1416/1/1/519 includes: Documents regarding moral hygiene in Calcutta, Kenya. Article complaining about how swiftly a woman can be falsely charged as a common prostitute.
- vii. MS1416/1/1/520 includes: Information regarding the Street Offences Committee which Astor was involved in. Personal letter calling for police women to be present in every police court if there is a woman defendant.
- viii. MS1416/1/1/522 includes: Savidge Enquiry.
- ix. MS1416/1/1/523 includes: Collection of pamphlets and articles concerning moral hygiene in the Malay States.
- x. MS1416/1/1/524 includes: Helene Adele case.
- xi. MS1416/1/1/525 includes: Information about the International Convention for the Suppression of Traffic in Women and Children.
- xii. MS1416/1/1/526 includes: Report from Advisory Committee on the Traffic in Women and Children, presented to the League of Nations council in 1922.
- xiii. MS1416/1/1/527 includes: Further information regarding traffic in women and children.
- xiv. MS1416/1/1/532 includes: Documents regarding moral hygiene in Hong Kong and Singapore.
- xv. MS1416/1/1/533 includes: Correspondence about a proposed Advisory Committee to the Colonial Office on questions of social hygiene.
- xvi. MS1416/1/1/534-544; MS1416/1/1/1039; MS1416/1/1/1316; MS1416/1/1/1510 include: Multiple documents centred on assaults on children, 1922-1937. Letters, speeches, articles, reports, proposed legislation.
- xvii. MS1416/1/1/555 includes: Information regarding the Public Places (Order) Bill, 1925. Articles, letter, speeches, notes.
- xviii. MS1416/1/1/1038 includes: Correspondence with The American Social Hygiene Association regarding prostitution. Notes about moral conditions in New York. Pamphlets about women's court and vice suppression in New York.
- xix. Also reference: MS1416/1/1/521, MS1416/1/1/528-531, MS1416/1/1/545, MS1416/1/1/546, MS1416/1/1/549

* Note: Documents from the Association for Moral and Social Hygiene feature heavily throughout the files; thus, it is not expedient to reference them individually.

Christian Science

A huge volume of documents relating to Christian Science reside in the Astor collection, the vast majority of which can be found in the papers of Waldorf. Indeed, by contrast to the above, the following will allude solely to the files of Lord Astor. Whilst the files accessible cover the period 1920-1952, this project focuses on the period 1920-1942. This covers the important interwar years, during which the Astors were amongst those chiefly responsible for raising the profile of Christian Science. Nancy converted in 1914, having been influenced by several factors – among them, the writings of Mary Baker Eddy. In turn, her husband was converted in 1924, and their commitment to Christian Science became a consistent, if contentious, part of their lives. Their dedication to this belief system caused much controversy in Britain; not least when they visited Hitler's Germany in an attempt to bolster the position of Christian Science within the Third Reich. As testified by newspaper articles and personal letters found within the collection, the religious views of Waldorf and Nancy provoked a range of reactions. Whilst the majority of the files consist primarily of personal letters, a range of interesting responses to Christian Science are in evidence. Without doubt, the files shed light on more than religion itself: elements of public perception, politics and even international relations can be found throughout, as illustrated by those documents pertinent to the period immediately preceding World War Two.

Types of document include:

- i. Personal notes of Waldorf Astor regarding Christian Science: what it means to him, what he believes it should set out to do. Illustrative of many of the key premises of Christian Science; i.e. the notion that evil and error are unreal.
- ii. An essay by Waldorf Astor extolling the positives of Christian Science.
- iii. Copy of a letter by Mary Baker Eddy, the founder of Christian Science, outlining her perceptions of God and religion.
- iv. Multiple documents referring to Mary Baker Eddy.
- v. Much correspondence from The Christian Science Committees on Publication.
- vi. Document incorporating an outline of the key premises of Christian Science, including a statement regarding attitude towards disease.
- vii. Letter from the Ninth Church of Christ, Scientist, London, informing Lord Astor that his 'probationary period' will soon be over, making him a member of the church, 1926.
- viii. Details of multiple donations made by Waldorf to Christian Science related causes.
- ix. Correspondence regarding the founding of a Christian Science Sunday School at Eton. Letters from people wishing to introduce more Christian Science into schools.
- x. Correspondence between Astor and the Bishop of Bradford, who talks of a wish to 'combat' and 'overcome' Christian Science. Revealing anti Christian Science sentiment.
- xi. Multiple documents detailing Waldorf's heavy involvement in building a Christian Science Church in London, of which he was President. Includes personal letters, correspondence with various building contractors, copies of architectural plans, correspondence relating to the Building Committee.

- xii. Letters from Philip Kerr (Lord Lothian), a close friend and prominent Christian Scientist.
- xiii. Personal letters from a man talking of what Christian Science has enabled him to do, claiming that it has healed his tuberculosis.
- xiv. Collection of letters regarding the case of an invalid who requested assistance. 'Christian Science treatment' is alleged to have helped her.
- xv. Much correspondence regarding Christian Science treatment, an alternative to medical treatment incorporating spiritual healing.
- xvi. Significant volume of letters regarding the funding and maintenance of Christian Science Houses, a type of nursing home. Evidence of Astor's investment in these Houses, particularly Tudor/Hawthorne House.
- xvii. Documents concerning the controversial trip made to Berlin in 1933, in order to discuss and bolster Christian Science. A letter sent by Astor to Wilhelm Frick, Reich Minister of the Interior.
- xviii. Articles about a Christian Science lecture that Lord Astor presided over.
- xix. Many documents regarding the continued wrangles between Christian Scientists and the BBC, 1934-1941. Letters concerning Christian Scientists wanting fair treatment as a Christian denomination, calling for the right to broadcast religious addresses. Christian Science citing discrimination. Includes correspondence with the Archbishop of Canterbury regarding this issue.
- xx. Considerable volume of correspondence from The First Church of Christ, Scientist, Boston. A centre of Christian Science activity.
- xxi. Pamphlet from the Four Corners Club, a group for young Christian Scientists.
- xxii. Interesting correspondence highlighting Lord Astor's complaints that The Christian Science Monitor printed anti-German material during 1936/7, which he considered to be 'anti-Nazi' and imprudent in terms of international relations. Subsequent confidential letters in which he alludes to his disturbance at several comments published by the Monitor.
- xxiii. Correspondence regarding the requisitioning of Christian Science churches during wartime. Letters highlighting the bomb-inflicted damage to Ninth Church of Christ, Scientist. Details of committee formed to deal with restoration - including Lord Astor.
- xxiv. Pamphlet by the Christian Science Committees on Publication, 'To Christian Scientists serving in His Majesty's Forces'. Outlining their religious rights and ways to continue practising their faith.

Possible subject areas include:

- i. How influential were the beliefs of Mary Baker Eddy in early twentieth century Britain?
- ii. Was Christian Science a burgeoning movement at this time? Did Waldorf and Nancy Astor contribute towards growth? Or, did they have a negative impact on the public idea of Christian Science? Christian Science celebrities?
- iii. The London church which Waldorf Astor was so heavily involved in building is potentially a study in itself.
- iv. 'Christian Science Treatment'. What was this? How controversial was it? How different was it from spiritual healing? Did it hold any popular sway?
- v. The Trip to Nazi Germany. How controversial was this? Did they achieve anything during this trip? Did it damage the credibility of Christian Science? Did it impact on international relations in any way?
- vi. The ongoing battle between Christian Scientists and the BBC. Was Christian Science being discriminated against? Did the BBC damage the potential of the

- movement to become more widespread? Were they politically or religiously motivated in denying Christian Science broadcasting possibilities?
- vii. Astor's investment in Christian Science Houses was significant; namely Tudor House, which he gave to the Hawthorne Trust. Was this his major legacy to Christian Science? How were these houses publicly perceived?
 - viii. The 'Four Corners Club', for young Christian Scientists. Was this actually a reflection of an isolated Christian Science community?
 - ix. Were Lord Astor's complaints (1936/7) that The Christian Science Monitor printed anti-German material valid? Does this matter expose the potential relationship/clashes between politics and religion?
 - x. Potential study of The Christian Science Monitor
 - xi. Christian Science during WWII. Churches requisitioned, members conscripted. Did the movement falter?
 - xii. Were there many parallels between the movement in Britain and its native Boston?

Details of items in Special Collections:

- i. MS1066/1/568 includes: Personal notes of Waldorf Astor regarding Christian Science. Copy of a letter about God and religion, by Mary Baker Eddy. Correspondence between Astor and the (anti Christian Science) Bishop of Bradford. Personal letters from a man claiming to have been healed through Christian Science.
- ii. MS1066/1/569 includes: Detail regarding the building of a Christian Science Church in London. (Astor was President of this church). Letters regarding an invalid helped by 'Christian Science treatment'.
- iii. MS1066/1/570 includes: Correspondence regarding Christian Science treatment.
- iv. MS1066/1/571 includes: Documents concerning the Christian Science trip to Berlin, 1933.
- v. MS1066/1/572 includes: Letters exposing the struggle between Christian Scientists and the BBC. Correspondence regarding the funding and maintenance of Christian Science Houses.
- vi. MS1066/1/573 includes: Letters pushing for the introduction of more Christian Science into schools. Lots of material about Christian Science Houses.
- vii. MS1066/1/574 includes: A volume of information about Tudor/Hawthorne House.
- viii. MS1066/1/575 includes: *ibid.*
- ix. MS1066/1/576 includes: Pamphlet from The Four Corners Club. Correspondence highlighting Lord Astor's complaint about anti-German material in The Christian Science Monitor, 1936/7.
- x. MS1066/1/577 includes: Correspondence regarding the challenges faced by Christian Science during World War Two.
- xi. MS1066/1/578 includes: More detail concerning the dissatisfaction of Astor and fellow Christian Scientists with the BBC. Correspondence with the Archbishop of Canterbury regarding this issue.

The Temperance Movement

Nancy and Waldorf Astor were both teetotal abstaining from alcoholic drink. In particular Nancy was a champion for the temperance movement, although not wanting to take a too extreme position mostly championed for the continuation of wartime alcohol restrictions. One of her more significant achievements in the House of Parliament was increasing the legal drinking age to 18. This became law in 1923.

Nancy Astor supported dry public houses and would often be asked to attend the opening of many. The temperance movement was often championed by women organizations and in some letters addressed to Nancy she was referred to as the “Mother of the House of Commons”.

Types of documents:

- Booklets on temperance issues
- Copy of song wrote about Nancy Astor mocking her for her stance on alcohol. Song is called “Nancy (Lady) Astor’s Home”.
- Letter by Nancy Astor on temperance matters circulated to many women’s organizations
- News articles regarding the women’s and temperance movements
- Copy of Nancy Astor’s bill to prevent the sale of liquor to those under age 18
- Information regarding the liquor traffic in West Africa
- Letters to Nancy Astor by temperance workers
- Statistics and information about drink, dangerous drugs and offences connected with dangerous drugs

Possible subject areas include:

- Nancy Astor’s involvement in the temperance movement
- Great Britain’s policy towards drink during WWI and post-war
- Drink and the working class
- Drug and drink trafficking between West Africa and Great Britain
- House of Commons and social policies in the inter-war years
- The influence of the temperance movement on other social movements
- The role of public houses during war period (possibly compare its role between WWI and WWII)
- Women in the House of Commons and the legislation they enacted. Look at the types of legislation they were involved with, is there a gender type?
- The changing role of Government after WWI
- The role of soldiers and veterans in the opposition against temperance movement

Details of items in Special Collections:

- MS1416/1/1/158: Includes booklet “A Problem for Women”, which includes a speech by Nancy Astor; Copy of a song by George Crump titled “Nancy (Lady) Astor’s Home”, which mocks Nancy for wanting boys to wait until age 18 to drink but are allowed to go to war; Draft a letter by Nancy on temperance issues; Information regarding drug offences and dangerous drugs
- MS1416/1/1/159: Includes booklet “The Band of Hope Chronicle & The Temperance Worker’s Companion”, this includes a special message by Nancy Astor
- MS1416/1/1/160: Includes statistics illustrating various points on drink; Information and queries about the occasional licences to authorize the sale of alcohol at unlicensed premises
- MS1416/1/1/161: Includes letters by the Sheffield United Temperance Council
- MS1416/1/1/162: Includes letters between Nancy Astor and a friend discussing that a cocktail bar named Tivoli in London named a teetotal cocktail after her; Letters to Nancy Astor by other temperance workers
- MS1416/1/1/163: Includes information by the British Temperance League on unemployment and temperance; Information regarding the liquor traffic in West Africa (includes pamphlets, articles and notes)
- MS1416/1/1/164: Includes articles on temperance, including information on Nancy Astor; Booklet on Barmaids; Nancy Astor’s House of Commons bill; Information on Local Option

Additional Information:

- Further information regarding the temperance movement can also be found in the Invitations files under the Nancy Astor collection.
- There are a multitude of files relating to Drink under the Nancy Astor collection. The above files are a selection taken from the collection.

Landscape

Every day we inhabit built and natural environments. The landscape is all around us, all the time, shaping and informing our lives.

The University of Reading now holds the best collection of 20th century landscape archives and library material in the UK.

Our rich and varied landscape collections offer opportunities for students of landscape architecture, design and management; history; geography; architecture; environmental science and ecology.

Types of documents:

Our [Landscape Institute](#) collections hold everything from plans, drawings, slides, books, journals and pamphlets to the LI's institutional archive containing all of their corporate records, such as minutes and membership files.

Possible subject areas include:

- The history of the landscape
- Attitudes towards the rural and urban landscape
- Women in landscape architecture
- New towns and urban planning
- Landscape of industry and power
- Changes in the practice of landscape architecture and design
- The emergence and history of the Landscape Institute
- Landscape architects and their projects

Details of items held at the University of Reading:

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- The library collection of the Landscape Institute has been integrated into the open access MERL and Special Collections library (held at [MERL](#)).
- [SR LI](#): Corporate records of the Landscape Institute

- [AR BRO](#): Michael Brown Collection
- [AR COL](#): Brenda Colvin Collection
- [AR CRO](#): Sylvia Crowe Collection
- [AR JAK](#): Preben Jakobsen Collection
- [AR JEL](#): Geoffrey Jellicoe Collection
- [PJEL](#): Susan Jellicoe photographic Collection
- [AR SHE](#): Peter Shephard Collection
- [PTAN](#): Clifford Tandy photographic Collection
- [AR THO](#): Marian Thompson Collection
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Additional Information:

- Visit our [Landscape Institute archive and library page](#) for an introduction to the collections, handlists and updates.
- Search our integrated archive, library and object catalogue [here](#). You could search for a particular book, place name, or landscape architect for example.
- Subscribe to our [blog](#) for further updates in the [Discovering the Landscape](#) series and follow us on [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#).
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