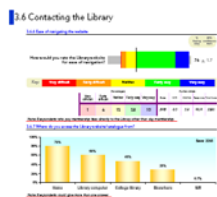



# News

October 2005



## Results of Library Survey available

Thanks to everyone who completed the Library's survey in the spring. We received over 2000 responses from a range of reader categories. If you would like to read the results of the survey, a summary of findings and the full report are available to download from the website. To read more about the survey results, please [click here](#) 

## Launch of Helpers web interface

– a new resource for family and local historians and public library users

Wednesday 5 October 2005 saw the formal launch of the Helpers web interface, a product of the Accessing our Archival and Manuscript Heritage project, in the Jessel Room at Senate House. Accessing our Archival and Manuscript Heritage has been funded by the Laser Foundation and the former EARL Consortium of public libraries. Guests were welcomed from many library and archival spheres to meet with members of the project team and for the introductory speeches and presentation on the web interface.


The Helpers web interface (<http://helpers.shl.lon.ac.uk/>) currently contains over 50 descriptions of archival and manuscript collections in the University of London. More will regularly be added in the coming months. Helpers descriptions are subjective and user-centred, aimed specifically at local and family historians who may not be regular users of academic libraries. They expand upon how the target audience might use the collections, rather than focusing on standard, objective archival descriptions. Many also offer digitised examples from the collections described. Other useful information for intending users, such as details of access arrangements and hints on how to tell whether or not a collection will be useful to the research being undertaken, is included in Helpers descriptions.

Higher Education libraries and archives might be daunting, so further features of the web interface include tutorials covering subjects such as 'How to email an archivist' and 'Defining your research question', a glossary of technical terms such as 'provenance' and 'palaeography' and links to useful sites like local and family history organisations and a selection of online archives.

Helpers is available from <http://helpers.shl.lon.ac.uk>; please add this to your favourite URLs list to keep up-to-date with new content.

Further information about the Helpers web interface and the Accessing our Archival and Manuscript Heritage project is available from:

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 [tboyd@shl.lon.ac.uk](mailto:tboyd@shl.lon.ac.uk)

# Discover databases

Oxford Dictionary of  
National Biography

## A modern marvel...

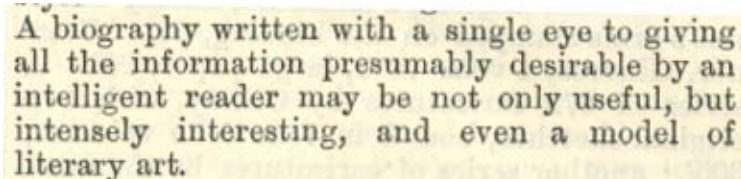
The Oxford Dictionary of National Biography online is a fascinating collection of over 50,000 biographies of people who have had an impact on the cultural, social and political life of Britain, from the fourth century BC.

It includes people who were connected with the British Isles, not just those who were British by birth (it excludes living people).

## From Victorian roots...

The original Dictionary of National Biography was born out of the Victorian age. Work commenced in 1882, with Leslie Stephen, editor of his Cornhill Magazine (and father of Virginia Woolf) being the first editor.

The original announcement for the dictionary, then called the 'Biographia Britannica' was made in The Athenaeum of 23 December 1882:



A biography written with a single eye to giving all the information presumably desirable by an intelligent reader may be not only useful, but intensely interesting, and even a model of literary art.

Contributors were set to work researching and writing the biographies, and the dictionary remains a great literary work to this day.

## What's so good about the Oxford Dictionary of National Biography online?

You can search for people, places, and organizations, across the full text of all the biographies. You can also choose to search within the bibliography, other reference material (such as archive sources and likenesses), and for contributors.

There is helpful information within the database showing you how to cite the biographies in your bibliography.


Take a look at the 'Themes' section. This contains specially written feature articles, providing introductions to specific themes of dictionary content that tie biographies together.

There are also lists of people who share some distinction or office - from lists of Archbishops of Canterbury to Oscar winners.

These features, together with the 'Get a Life' random search option, make for a browsers' paradise.

The dictionary is an ongoing work, so biographies will continue to be added every year. Each January issue will extend the dictionary's coverage by including noteworthy people who have died since 2000.

## Where is it available?

The Oxford Dictionary of National Biography online can be used by all Library members, both here in the Library and from outside. You will be asked for your name and Library card number to log in. To use Oxford Dictionary of National Biography online, please [click here](#) 

The database contains many 'archive' records of biographies as they were written for previous editions of the Dictionary of National Biography.

The Senate House Library has prior editions of the Dictionary of National Biography available in hard copy, and on CD-ROM.

## Recent acquisitions

The Library has recently subscribed to a number of major electronic resources. Where databases are underlined they are now available, otherwise the resource will be here shortly:



### [Digimap Historic Map Collection](#)

... provides access to digital scans of OS paper map sheets including: all available County Series maps at 1:2,500 and 1:10560 scales published between 1843 and 1939; and all available National Grid maps at 1:1,250, 1:2,500 and 1:10560/10,000 scales published from 1945 and before the introduction of the Ordnance Survey's digital Land-Line product.

### [Eighteenth-Century Collections Online \(ECCO\)](#)

... full-text searching of 26 million pages, ECCO provides access to the digital images of 150,000 books published in the eighteenth century in academic disciplines ranging from history and geography, through religion and philosophy to literature and language.

### [International Medieval Bibliography](#)

... an international bibliography of the Middle Ages, covering Europe, North Africa and the Middle East during the period 400-1500.

### [Oxford English Dictionary \(OED\) Online](#)

... the most authoritative and comprehensive English dictionary in the world. The OED offers etymological analysis, lists of variant spellings, and shows pronunciation, as well as tracing the evolution of words.

### [PsycARTICLES](#)

... full-text articles from 56 journals published by the American Psychological Association, the APA Educational Publishing Foundation, the Canadian Psychological Association, and Hogrefe Publishing Group. Coverage currently dates from 1985 to the present day. However, later in the year, the archive will be available and coverage will date back to 1894, where applicable.

### [World Shakespeare Bibliography](#)

... annotated entries for all important books, articles, book reviews, dissertations, theatrical productions, reviews of productions, audiovisual materials, electronic media, and other scholarly and popular materials related to Shakespeare and published or produced between 1964 and 2005. The scope is international, with coverage extending to more than 118 languages and representing every country in North America, South America, and Europe, and nearly every country in Asia, Africa, and Australasia.

Other significant recent acquisitions in the print collections include:

The collected letters of Wilkie Collins, identifying over 3,000 items of correspondence:

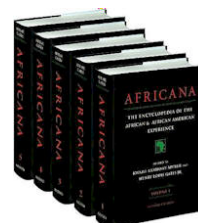
- William Baker et al, eds., *The Public Face of Wilkie Collins: The Collected Letters*  
London: Pickering & Chatto, 2005

The second edition of a work exploring the effect of the colonial and post-colonial experience on literatures in English from around the world:

- Eugene Benson and L.W. Connolly, eds., *Encyclopedia of post-colonial literatures in English*  
London: Routledge, 2005

A publication hailed as 'the equivalent of a black *Encyclopedia Britannica*'. The encyclopedia consists of over 4,000 articles covering prominent events and individuals, organisations and places, religion and ethnic groups, and much more:

- Kwame Anthony Appiah and Henry Louis Gates Jr., eds., *Africana : the encyclopedia of the African and African American experience*  
Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2005



# Senate House Library DVD collection

Senate House Library has over 600 feature films and operas available for you to watch on DVD. The feature film collection includes films from all over the world, dating from the beginnings of film-making to the present day. Some examples of films purchased recently include:-

Bernardo Bertolucci [The Dreamers](#)  
 Bertrand Blier [Merci La Vie](#)  
 Danny Boyle [28 Days Later](#)  
 D.W. Griffiths [Intolerance](#)  
 Gus van Sant [Elephant](#)

## Searching for films

There are a number of ways to find out which films are available in the Library.

You can use the library catalogue to search for specific films and limit your search so that only film titles are returned:

- Select 'Keyword: advanced' from the main catalogue menu  
<http://catalogue.urls.lon.ac.uk/search/>
- Enter the title or director in the search box
- Select 'FILM/VIDEO' from the 'Material Type' drop-down menu
- Click on the 'Submit' button

Type the **WORD(S)** you want, then click Submit Search

Doctor Zhivago

Language: ANY

Material Type: ANY

Location: ANY

Year: After and Before

Submit

Simple Search New Search

Search a

ANY  
 BOOK  
 ARCHIVAL MATL  
 MUSIC SCORE  
 MS MUSIC  
 MAP  
 MS MAP  
**FILM/VIDEO**  
 SPOKEN RECORD  
 SOUND RECORD  
 2-D GRAPHIC

You can browse the entire DVD collection alphabetically:

- Select 'Classmark' from the main catalogue menu
- Enter DVD in the search box
- Select 'Mixed/Local' from the drop-down menu
- Click on the 'Submit search' button

You can also consult a printed list available in the Middlesex South Information Centre (4<sup>th</sup> floor). Bring your library card to the Information Centre and ask a member of staff for the film you require. You will be given the DVD and some headphones in order to view the film in the DVD suite within the Music Library (5<sup>th</sup> floor).

## Suggestions

The DVD collection has been developed to support film studies and research within the University of London. If you would like to suggest a film the library should purchase for that reason, please use the 'Book Purchase Requests' form on the main catalogue menu.

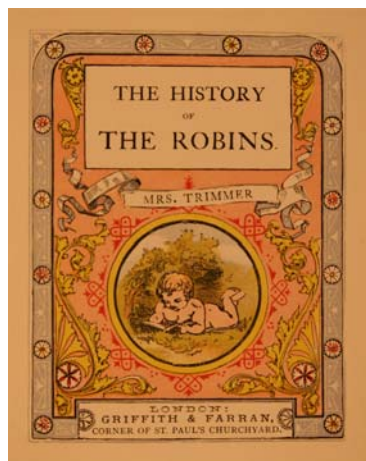
For further information about the Senate House Library DVD collection please contact Sarah Burn (Academic Liaison and Research Support Librarian) ✉ [sburn@shl.lon.ac.uk](mailto:sburn@shl.lon.ac.uk)

# Special Collections Focus

## - the Martin Collection

The first issue of Senate House Library News included a feature on some of the unexpected items in one of our larger and more prominent collections, the Durning-Lawrence Library. The Martin Collection, by contrast, is small: just 182 slim duodecimo volumes (200 bibliographical items), occupying under five shelves. It was acquired in 1982 by a combination of bequest and purchase: Mabel Irene Martin bequeathed fifty books of the Library's choosing from her collection of chiefly early and mid-nineteenth-century children's books, and, since the Library already held important material in the area, notably in the Quick Memorial Library, it decided to purchase the remainder of the collection. In 2002 electronic catalogue records for the entire collection were added to the Innopac online catalogue.

Children's literature has increased in status as an academic discipline over the past thirty years or so. Universities (e.g. Nottingham, Reading, Roehampton) offer degree courses in it, and Harvey Darton and Percy Muir among others have written books on the topic. Children's literature provides a window into past views of children and of society.



The History of the Robins  
Sarah Trimmer  
London: Griffith & Farran,  
[between 1865 and 1884]  
[Martin Coll.] 170

For a small collection, the Martin Collection is impressively representative. It contains examples of classics which were not initially intended for children but which children soon took over, usually in adapted

form (Pilgrim's Progress; Robinson Crusoe); of children's books which have remained popular (e.g. Harriet Martineau's Feats on the Fjord) and evangelical books which enjoyed enormous popularity for generations before passing out of fashion: Mrs Sherwood's Little Henry and his Bearer (first published 1814: five-year-old Henry begins to convert his Hindu bearer Boosy to Christianity before dying); Mrs Trimmer's History of the Robins (first published as Fabulous Histories in 1786; a lesson against cruelty to animals, with several other moral lessons taken from the behaviour of the robins and of the children who feed them about unselfishness, obedience and other virtues) and Thomas Day's

History of Sandford and Merton (first published 1783-9; a Rousseau-esque tale promoting practical industry, in which poor, practical Harry Sandford is educated with rich and spoilt Tommy Merton, and in which Day proclaims: 'The rich do nothing and produce nothing, and the poor everything that is really useful'). There are also books of practical instruction - botany, English history and arithmetic for children - partly taught in beloved Victorian story-like fashion, whereby the child eagerly requests knowledge from its omniscient parent or teacher.

Lucy, or, The Sad  
Consequences of  
Disobedience  
Clara Chilcott  
3rd edn  
London: Longman,  
Orme, Brown, Green,  
and Longman, 1840  
[Martin Coll.] 054



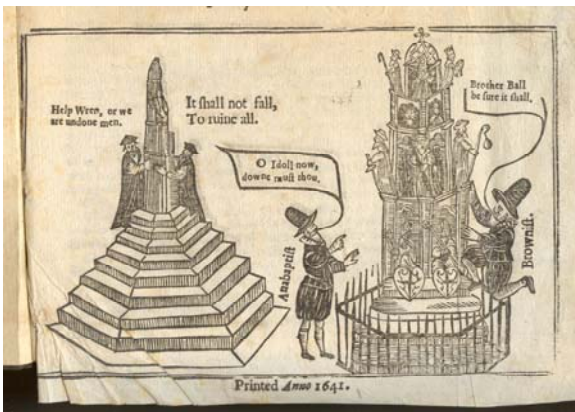
The texts named in the above paragraph exist in multiple editions, but luck dictates how many survive. All copies contribute to the bibliography of books and of publishers, help to indicate the texts' popularity, and indicate the perceptions of various illustrators. Because children's books have long been regarded as peripheral, even a small collection may contain rare or unique items. Clara Chilcott's Lucy, or, The Sad Consequences of Disobedience (third edition, 1840) tells of a child who ignores her mother's orders not to leave the garden by picking cowslips in a field. A gipsy kidnaps her and sells her, disguised as a boy, to a chimney sweep. After various tribulations Lucy is re-united with her parents; as a side issue, the cruel chimney sweep is converted on his deathbed to Christianity. The plot is partly a relation of Lucy's trials, partly an educative discourse on Brittany, through which her family travels to look for her. By the end, both Lucy and the reader are fully aware of 'the sad consequences that must ever attend upon disobedience'. Unoriginal the plot may be; but possession of the book is exciting, for no copies of the text are recorded in the Nineteenth Century Short Title Catalogue, nor, in America, the RLG (Research Libraries Group) Union Catalogue, nor (except for ours) on COPAC; there is just one other copy of the third edition in the National Art Library.

'The best things come in small packages': the Martin Collection is a case in point.

# London and the English Civil War

A lecture given to the Friends of Senate House Library on 7 March 2005  
by Professor Barry Coward

What I wanted to do in this talk was to introduce a very big topic within a very short space of time. I decided to do this by structuring the talk around a fascinating historical problem: how was it that London, despite the massive strains placed upon its social, economic, political, religious and governmental structures by the English Civil War, did not fall apart and collapse into an anarchy of disorder.



What makes this a fascinating historical conundrum is that on the eve of the Civil War London was potentially a very unstable, volatile city. It was then hit by a series of severe challenges: economic problems, political and religious divisions, together with the release of a ferment of ideas, all of which to a large extent were exacerbated by the outbreak of the Civil War.

I spent the largest part of my talk explaining how vulnerable London was when facing this situation in the mid seventeenth century. James VI and I, that much underestimated monarch, pointed this out well before the outbreak of the Civil War. 'All the country', he said, 'is gotten

into London, as with time England will only be London and the whole country be left waste'. London's success – by 1640 it was the largest city in western Europe, most of the country's trade went through its entrepot, and it was the centre of a highly centralised governmental and legal system – brought with it the dangers hinted at by James VI and I. Its massive growth in size was primarily caused by the influx of thousands of poor migrants, which ensured that the capital teetered on the edge of social instability, and its dominance of the country's economy (especially its cloth trade) made it vulnerable to international trade crises and outbreaks of natural disasters like plague, both of which were frequent in the early seventeenth century.

I then went on to show how the English Civil War might easily have transformed potential instability into reality. Contrary to what some people have thought, the English Civil War was fought ruthlessly by both sides. A greater percentage of English people died in the Civil War than in either of the two world wars of the last century and, not surprisingly, it had a terrible, disruptive impact on the normal social and economic rhythms of English life. London suffered at least as much as anywhere else in the country in terms of high taxation, disruption of trade and loss of men to fight for parliament in the war. The war also brought in its wake major political and religious, as well as social and economic, tensions, reflecting the fact that the English Civil War was fought between fellow countrymen who had different ideas about the kind of country they wanted to live in. London remained loyal to the parliamentary cause throughout the war, but ideological differences about basic political and religious ideas grew in the capital throughout the war, especially given the collapse of effective censorship and the consequent proliferation of booksellers, printers and publishers and the development of an informed political opinion.

Yet, although the war brought to the capital heightened economic pressure and political and religious differences, London remained essentially stable. The world of the metropolis was not turned upside down. I ended my talk speculating why this was the case, drawing in particular on the work of Valerie Pearl and her insight that many people in early modern London had a stake in the existing social and political order. Religious and political divisions cut across 'class' lines. Early modern London lacked the ingredients of class divisions, of 'ins and outs', that might have been the breeding ground for revolutionary movements. As a result the impact of the Civil War on London, although severe in the short term, had few long-term effects.

For a fuller explanation of the impact of the Civil War on London than this brief synopsis see the full text of the lecture by [clicking here](#) - and, even better, investigate the topic yourself, beginning with the reading list attached to my talk, and then by reading some of the many contemporary pamphlets that are held in the Bromhead Library collection in the university library.

## News on ADLIB – the Library’s Archives and Manuscripts database

A quiet revolution is underway within Special Collections as data on manuscripts collections is being loaded on to the ADLIB database, <http://193.63.81.251/>. The database conforms to ISAD(G), the international standard for archival description. The Library’s archives collections comprise archives of the University, and also over 1,100 deposited archival collections. At present only a small minority of the Library’s catalogues have been loaded on to ADLIB. New cataloguing is now taking place directly on to the database however and plans are being developed to make additional collection level descriptions available. This will mean that many more descriptions of the archives deposited at Senate House Library will be available on-line on our site and that researchers will be able to search finding aids using a variety of index terms.

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## The De Morgan Library and Archives project

Of all those who formed named special collections now held at the Senate House Library of the University of London, the mathematician and historian Augustus De Morgan (1806-1871) is surely the most renowned. Within the mathematical world he not only wrote prolifically, but gave his name to two laws. The University of London honours him additionally as its first professor of mathematics at University College, a position he resigned twice for reasons of principle. When De Morgan died on 18 March 1871, Baron Overstone, a member of the Senate of the University of London at the time, purchased De Morgan’s library of an estimated 3,000 volumes and presented it to the new University Library. Much later, in November 1990, Senate House Library acquired at auction from Christies five boxes of unpublished manuscript material such as correspondence, research notes and photographs created by Augustus De Morgan and other members of his family, complementing collections containing material relating to Augustus De Morgan held at Oxford and Cambridge Universities and University College London among other British repositories. A grant from the Vice-Chancellor’s Development Fund is now enabling us to catalogue the De Morgan Library and Archives on-line.

Whatever De Morgan’s library had been like, it would have been assured a special place for the person of its builder and for its status as one of the University Library’s two founding collections. However, De Morgan was a known collector of books about mathematics and its history, so that his library was a valuable subject collection by any standards. Any fledgling University Library would rejoice, for example, in a first edition of Euclid’s Elements (1482) or Newton’s Principia (1687). Online access to the books is especially important in view of the fact that Senate House Library specialises in the humanities and social sciences, so that today’s users might not think to look for mathematical treasures within these walls. At a time when the study of book provenance is flourishing, the online catalogue records make it

easy to see De Morgan’s buying patterns: for example, from sales of the libraries of colonial governor and philhellene Frederick North, fifth Earl of Guilford (1766-1827); of Shakespearean scholar James Orchard Halliwell-Phillipps (1820-1899) and of book thief Guillaume Libri (1803-1869), books which include some which formerly belonged to the French historian Jacques-Auguste de Thou (1553-1617).

The De Morgan Library was scattered when it came to the University in 1871. The current project includes its reconstitution – a valuable contribution to library and University history beyond the collection itself.

There is evidence within the collection that the archival material (MS 913) was collected together by Joan Antrobus (1902-1975), Augustus De Morgan’s great-grand-daughter. MS 913 contains a rich and diverse range of material, including correspondence of Augustus De Morgan with mathematicians and astronomers like Sir William Herschel (1792-1871). There is also correspondence and notes which relate to his wife Sophia’s (1809-1892) interest in spiritualism and social issues such as slavery. In addition there are pamphlets, photographs and other memorabilia relating to the suffragette movement during the 1910s collected by his grand-daughter Molly De Morgan. Further material concerns the activities of Augustus’s son William De Morgan in his capacity as a best-selling novelist at the beginning of the twentieth century. Within the De Morgan library several volumes have letters pasted into them which relate to Augustus De Morgan’s dealings with fellow mathematicians and astronomers. Details of these letters are noted in the book catalogue records, and details of them and the relevant volumes will be listed in an additional section to the archival catalogue in order to create a comprehensive research tool.

We look forward to learning more about this rich but previously under-exploited collection ourselves and to enabling others to learn about it too.



## **New Worlds Reflected: Representations of Utopia, The New World and Other Worlds (1500–1800).**

**A conference to be held at: Birkbeck, University of London  
Malet Street, London WC1, December 9 and 10, 2005**



### **SPEAKERS**

Catherine Armstrong  
Richard John Ascarate  
Daniel Carey  
J C Davis  
Analisa E DeGrave  
Martin Dzelzainis  
Jo Edwards  
Jens-Uwe Güttel  
Chloe Houston  
Laura Jacobs  
Pete Langman  
Lia Markey  
Kevin P McDonald  
Tudor Parfitt  
Nicole Pohl  
William Poole  
Miguel A Ramiro Avilès  
Robert Sayre  
Richard Serjeantson  
James Ward  
Sarah Dewar-Watson

For further details please contact: **Chloe Houston**  
e-mail: [c.houston@english.bbk.ac.uk](mailto:c.houston@english.bbk.ac.uk)

For Online information and registration forms visit:  
[www.bbk.ac.uk/english/utopias](http://www.bbk.ac.uk/english/utopias)

Is there an academic event that you would like to publicise in the Senate House Library newsletter?

If so, please email the newsletter editor, Sarah Jackson

✉ [sjackson@shl.lon.ac.uk](mailto:sjackson@shl.lon.ac.uk) ☎ 020 7862 8498



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<http://www.shl.lon.ac.uk/>

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