

Senate House Library Guides

Manuscript Studies and Palaeography



Senate House Library

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University of London



**SENATE HOUSE
LIBRARIES**

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

PRINTED COLLECTIONS

Collection overview

The Manuscript Studies and Palaeography Collection is one of the major research collections on this subject in London, the UK and worldwide, and numbers c. 21,000 volumes of secondary printed literature on various aspects of manuscript books and documents. The main concentration of this collection is on Western manuscripts written in Latin, Greek and the Western European vernacular languages dating from the Late Antiquity to the establishment of printing in the 16th century.

Subjects covered include:

- palaeography and handwriting
- manuscript illumination
- diplomatic and sigillography
- codicology, the manuscript production, scribes and illuminators
- the medieval book trade, manuscript readers and collectors, reading and literacy
- history of medieval and renaissance libraries and collections
- the tradition and transmission of texts
- the care and modern cataloguing of manuscripts and archives

Books and periodicals are available on the open access shelves of the Palaeography Reading Room (North Block, ground floor). In addition, the collection also holds:

- books on this subjects printed before 1800
- a near-complete run of Roxburghe Club publications
- microfilms of manuscripts, of which most are of manuscripts held in other libraries
- Seymour De Ricci index cards for manuscript provenance research
- teaching materials and collections, including: original medieval manuscripts; writing instruments; and samples of parchment skins
- papers of palaeographers

Collection strengths

Reproductions of scripts and facsimiles of medieval liturgical, literary and historical manuscripts. Collection treasures include:

- Facsimiles of the Lindisfarne Gospels, the Book of Kells, the Peterborough Bestiary, Chaucer and Virgil manuscripts
- Reproductions of early Latin manuscripts and charters in the *Codices Latini Antiquiores* and *Chartae Latinae Antiquiores* series.
- Published and unpublished catalogues of a large number of manuscript libraries, archives and private collections in the UK, Europe and internationally.

Further details about the collection can be found on the Manuscript Studies and Palaeography web pages at: www.shl.lon.ac.uk/subjects/palaeographyandmanuscriptstudies/index.shtml.

ELECTRONIC RESOURCES

Electronic resources can be accessed on PCs in the library, including those in the Special Collections Reading Room. Some networked resources can be accessed off-site by Library members. Resources of particular interest to the specialist researcher are:

Databases

- In Principio – an online searchable index of incipits of Latin texts
- Ductus – an online course in palaeography
- International medieval bibliography online
- Bibliography of the history of art
- Royal Historical Society bibliography

Digital facsimiles

- Codex Amiatinus
- Murthly Hours
- Electronic Beowulf
- Piers Plowman electronic archive
- Hengwrt Chaucer
- Sherborne Missal
- MS Junius 11
- Theodore Psalter

Please check our web pages for a whole listing of subject specific-resources:

www.shl.london.ac.uk/subjects/palaeographyandmanuscriptstudies/gateways.shtml.

Internet resources

Links to many other online electronic resources for manuscript studies can be found on our web pages at: www.shl.london.ac.uk/subjects/palaeographyandmanuscriptstudies/gateways.shtml .

CONTACT DETAILS

For further help, please visit the Palaeography Reading Room, Small Hall, Ground Floor, tel: 020 7862 8470, or e-mail: michael.mulcay@london.ac.uk.

Collection location

- Most books and periodicals are located in the Palaeography Reading Room, Small Hall, ground floor.
- See the online A–Z list of Manuscript Studies and Archives periodicals: www.shl.lon.ac.uk/subjects/palaeographyandmanuscriptstudies/index.shtml
- Books are divided into three separate sequences according to their size: octavo; folio (identified by the prefix f or fol); large folio (identified by the prefix lf)
- To locate individual titles use the online catalogue

Related collections

- Archives collection – original medieval manuscripts – see the online guide to the Senate House Library’s medieval manuscript holdings: www.shl.lon.ac.uk/subjects/guides/medievalmss/index.shtml
- English and Classics collections – modern editions of medieval English and classical texts
- History collection – European medieval history, including cultural and Church history, Byzantine history, local history periodicals
- Book Studies collection – transition from manuscript to print, library history, reading and literacy
- Music collection – facsimiles, studies and catalogues of medieval music manuscripts

THE LONDON DISTRIBUTED RESOURCE

For more information about Manuscript Studies and Palaeography holdings in other academic libraries in the London area, please search the catalogues of member libraries of the London Distributed Resource in Manuscript Studies:

- British Library
- Courtauld Institute
- Institute of Classical Studies
- Institute of Historical Research
- King’s College
- National Art Library
- University College
- Warburg Institute
- Wellcome Library

OTHER LIBRARIES

For elsewhere in the UK, consult the catalogues of:

- Brotherton Library, Leeds University
- Edinburgh University Library
- John Rylands University Library of Manchester
- Oxford University – the Bodleian, Sackler and Taylor Libraries
- Sydney Jones Library, University of Liverpool
- Trinity College Dublin Library, Manuscripts Department