

Senate House Library Special Collection Guides

# Printed Books



## **Senate House Library**

University of London Research Library Services  
Senate House, Malet Street, London WC1E 7HU

[www.shl.lon.ac.uk](http://www.shl.lon.ac.uk)

Main tel. 020 7862 8500



University of London



The printed books in Special Collections cover all subjects. They range from the earliest printed books (incunabula) to 21st-century private press books and include items printed in all western European countries, in all major European languages. Material includes pamphlets, periodicals, and printed ephemera. Some 260,000 printed books are designated as Special Collections, either within the general Special Collections holdings or within one of the sixty plus named special collections of printed books. The latter were mostly assembled by particular individuals and focus on particular subject areas, authors, publishers, or forms of books. General special collections include all other books printed up to the year 1800, and later books which are in limited editions or have noteworthy annotations or provenance, etc. Among the named special collections are:

**Bromhead Library:** 4,000–5,000 items pertaining to the history of London from the sixteenth to the twentieth centuries, including a clutch of Civil War pamphlets and works on the settlement of Australia.

**De Morgan Library:** Ca 4,500 pre-1870 printed books specialising in the history of mathematics and astronomy. Several contain Augustus De Morgan's annotations.

**Durning-Lawrence Library:** Ca 6,000 printed items focusing on 16th- and 17th-century literature, the work of Francis Bacon and the Bacon-Shakespeare authorship controversy

**Eliot-Phelips Collection:** Ca 3,500 early printed books on Spain, especially the history of Madrid

**Elsevier Collection:** Ca 1,150 books printed by the Elsevier family and other 17th-century Dutch presses.

**Goldsmiths' Library of Economic Literature:** Over 70,000 printed books, pamphlets, periodicals, manuscripts and broadsides from the 15<sup>th</sup> century to the present day, with particular strengths to 1850, covering all aspects of economic, social and political life

**Harry Price Library of Magical Literature:** Ca 14,000 items from 1472 onwards relating to all aspects of magic, from scientific and psychical phenomena to witchcraft and leg-erdemain

**M.S. Anderson Collection:** Ca 1,850 travel narratives, histories and other items from the sixteenth to the twentieth centuries pertaining to western perceptions of Russia from 1525 to 1917

**Malcolm Morley Collection:** Ca 4,000 items from the late 19th and 20th centuries, relating to all aspects of the theatre, including many hundreds of play texts and sets of plays.

**Ron Heisler Collection:** Over 18,000 printed books, 19,000 pamphlets, 3,000 journal and newspaper titles and ephemera, published by or relating to the labour and radical movements and political expression in art, drama and literature

**Sterling Library:** Ca 7,000 rare and first editions of works of English literature, mainly from the fifteenth to the twentieth centuries.

Full details of the named special collections of printed books are available on the Library's web pages, <http://www.shl.lon.ac.uk/specialcollections/collections.shtml>. Collection level descriptions for all of the named special collections are available from MASC25, [www.masc25.ac.uk](http://www.masc25.ac.uk). You may also find it helpful to consult B. Bloomfield and K. Potts, *A Directory of Rare Book and Special Collections in the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland* (2nd edn, Library Association Publishing, 1997).

## FINDING OUT ABOUT OUR HOLDINGS

### Electronic finding aids

Much printed material in Special Collections is recorded in the main catalogue. We are in the process of adding items currently recorded only in the card catalogue to the main online catalogue. If you do not find what you are looking for on the main catalogue you should try the online card catalogue (<http://cards.uill.ac.uk>).

Full- text digital versions of pre-1850 printed books and selected pre-1906 periodicals in the Goldsmiths' Library and in the Kress Library are available online via *The Making of the Modern World*. Some nineteenth-century items from the Harry Price Library have been digitised on the database *Victorian Popular Culture*. Full text of most books published in English or in Great Britain before 1800 is available via Early English Books Online (EEBO; to 1700) and Eighteenth-Century Collections Online (ECCO), all available via: <http://www.shl.lon.ac.uk/resources/databases.shtml>.

### Historic printed finding aids

*Catalogue of the Goldsmiths' Library of Economic Literature* (Athlone Press, 1970-1995))

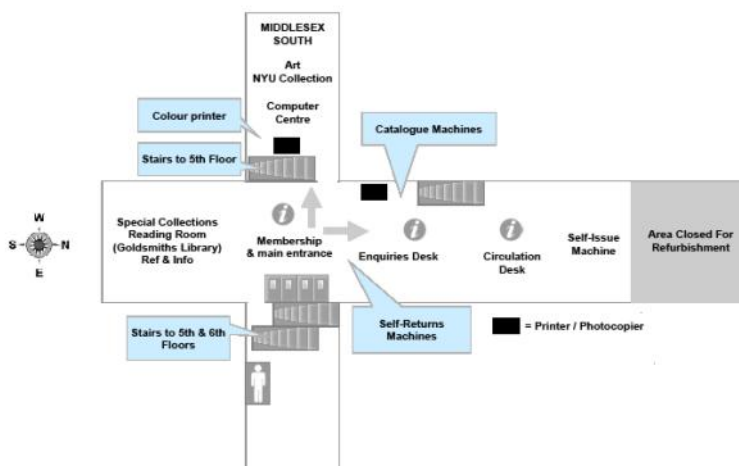
*The Sterling Library: a Catalogue of the Printed Books and Literary Manuscripts*  
(Privately printed, 1954)

Price, H. *Short-title Catalogue of Works on Psychical Research* (National Laboratory of Psychical Research, 1929, and *Supplement*, 1935)

The above provide good general overviews. For an up-to-date record of holdings and all classmarks, please consult the computer catalogue.

Handlists for some collections of printed books, e.g, for the Carlton Shorthand Collection, are available on request in the Special Collections Reading Room.

## 4th Floor: Senate House, South Block



### Collection location

The Special Collections Reading Room is located in the Goldsmiths' Library, fourth floor, South Block.

### CONTACT DETAILS

Special Collections  
Senate House Library  
University of London  
Malet Street  
London  
WC1E 7HU

Telephone 020 7862 8470

Fax 020 7862 8480

Email [shl.specialcollections@london.ac.uk](mailto:shl.specialcollections@london.ac.uk)

[www.shl.lon.ac.uk/historic/homepage.shtml](http://www.shl.lon.ac.uk/historic/homepage.shtml)