

**Directory of Rare Book and
Special Collections
in the United Kingdom
and the Republic of Ireland**

THIRD EDITION

Dedicated to the memory of Eva Weininger
1930–2013

Directory of Rare Book and Special Collections in the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland

THIRD EDITION

Edited by

Karen Attar

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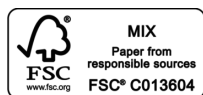
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Foreword

THE *DIRECTORY OF RARE BOOKS AND SPECIAL COLLECTIONS* was the first and most ambitious project of the newly formed Rare Books Group of what was then the Library Association. Work began in 1966. When it was published in 1985, it was a great if imperfect achievement. Its true begetter – Stanley Roberts – did not live to see it in print, a fate shared by the mastermind of the revised 1997 edition, Barry Bloomfield. They, their successors and their teams of contributors and collaborators succeeded in creating an invaluable tool for those who are looking for collections of rare books in the British Isles. Perhaps the greatest achievement of the *Directory* is that it opened up a realization of the richness, diversity and ubiquity of those collections. Far from being confined to London, Oxford, Cambridge, and a small number of provincial, Scottish and Irish cities, there were collections everywhere, and many of them in real danger.

For the third edition, Karen Attar has trawled far and wide for information, and made radical changes which go far beyond anything which could be attempted by Bloomfield. The most obvious change is the re-ordering of the entries to make the book more usable; welcome as that is, however, more profound is the rewriting of many entries, a new depth of verification of data, and a more comprehensive coverage of the field. For scholars seeking to find and exploit the resources of rare books and special collections in the British Isles, what was a useful work of reference has been transformed into an invaluable and indispensable tool.

The successor body of the the originators – the Rare Books and Special Collections Group of CILIP – can only be congratulated on undertaking the work, and on maintaining at least for this edition, the tradition of publishing it in its traditional form. Surely there can never be another edition in print? But I recall saying exactly the same thing when the second edition was published more than 15 years ago. I hope I am wrong this time as well.

John Feather
Loughborough University

Rare Books and Special Collections Group

Foreword

ON BEHALF OF the CILIP Rare Books and Special Collections Group Committee we are delighted to have been able to support the production of a third edition of the *Directory* which plays such a significant role in identifying the many and varied special collections held in institutions throughout the UK. The *Directory* illustrates the changes and additions to many of the collections that have taken place in the 18 years since the previous edition was published. Facet Publishing's willingness to produce a third edition testifies to the continued widespread interest in the UK's special collections. We trust that this updated edition will be as essential a research tool as its predecessors, and see its success as a reflection of the dedication and commitment that its editor Karen Attar has given to its production over the past months.

Fiona Courage

Chair, CILIP Rare Books and Special Collections Group

Amanda Saville

Immediate Past Chair, CILIP Rare Books and Special Collections Group

Introduction to the 2021 reissue

WHEN THE THIRD EDITION of this *Directory* appeared in 2016, the editor and others hoped that the contents would be transferred in the foreseeable future to an electronic database with sophisticated search capacity which could be continually updated. In view of the time lag between printed editions, from 1985 to 1997 to 2016, nobody expected another printed volume any time soon. It came as rather a surprise when a member of the public contacted CILIP in 2019 to request republication. A paperback reissue would have the clear advantage of retailing for half the price of a hardback and therefore being more accessible to more institutions. At the same time, rapid changes concerning special (like other) library collections raised questions about the value of a straight reprint.

We – editor, publisher, the CILIP Rare Books and Special Collections Group – therefore agreed upon an expanded reissue. This reissue contains entries for 72 libraries not represented in former editions, an increase over the 2016 tally of 8%. These cover England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland, and represent the range of libraries present in the *Directory* overall: academic, public, subscription, ecclesiastical and so forth. Some are long-established libraries which missed the net from 1985 onwards; many are either new libraries, or libraries which only in the past decade or so took in special collections. Tracing them was a multipronged activity. I had noted libraries which came to my attention since the third edition was published. When planning the reissue, I appealed for notification of repositories via JiscMail and similar lists, and via CILIP and its various groups. CILIP provided a list of partners, and the world wide web provided further leads. A few repositories for which no information could be obtained for the third edition are now represented. I requested the same level of detail as for collections already in the *Directory*. However, less than halfway into the project, which took place between late January and late May 2020, institutions closed their doors as a result of COVID-19, rendering staff unable to verify details, and preventing a couple of places from contributing at all. The results are therefore as good as they could be under the circumstances.

For production reasons, the main text block could not be altered for the reissue. Many institutions have acquired additional special collections since the third edition went to print in 2015, of whole libraries (for example, from Appendix 1 of the third edition, the Scientific Periodicals Library at Cambridge and the Catholic National Library moved to Cambridge University Library and Durham University respectively)

or of smaller collections. Some organisations have changed their name, and occasionally entire collections listed in the body of the *Directory* in 2016 have moved, notably from Bath Central Library to the Bath Record Office. I have signalled such changes where possible in the index of repositories.

As for the *Directory* as a whole, the new appendix is a result of collaboration. My thanks are due to all who sent on requests for entries on my behalf or at any stage contributed the names of additional libraries; David McKitterick stands out particularly. The CILIP Rare Books and Special Collections Group Committee was again encouraging and supportive. Above all, many thanks to the new contributors, who in providing additional access to their own collections are furthering research and scholarship overall.

Karen Attar
June 2020

Introduction

The basic aim of the *Directory* is to bring to the notice of scholars and researchers the location of rare book collections in libraries in the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland, and to provide such information about their nature, size and importance as will enable them to assess whether or not further investigation is likely to be to their benefit.'

THUS WROTE MOELWYN I. WILLIAMS, editor of the first edition of the *Directory of Rare Book and Special Collections in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland* (1985), in his introduction to that work (p. ix), and the aim holds good for the third edition in 2016. The *Directory* brings together descriptions of collections of at least 50 items based on the printed word across all sorts of repositories throughout the British Isles: national libraries; academic libraries; public (i.e. local authority) libraries; subscription libraries; professional and other independent libraries; company libraries; libraries in trusts, stately homes, London clubs, cathedrals, churches, monasteries, schools, archives, museums, and even a prison. It answers such questions as: 'Where do I find 16th-century French imprints? / Civil War pamphlets / a concentration of Kelmscott Press books / Victorian books about railways?'; and assists researchers to plan their work: 'Must I go to London for a concentration of Penguin books, or can I go to Manchester or Edinburgh?'; 'Is Thomas Carlyle's library preserved intact and available in the public sphere?'

It is a directory of collections, not a catalogue of individual books: it is anticipated that anybody seeking for specific titles will look in the usual sources, such as the Incunabula Short Title Catalogue (ISTC), the English Short Title Catalogue (ESTC) (both of which contain books not catalogued online by particular libraries), Copac, and the catalogues of specific libraries. Information will sometimes be far less detailed than that given on the websites of individual contributing repositories; what the *Directory* does is to bring everything together.

The continued need for a directory of collections, as more and more books are catalogued online, is clear partly from interest in features which do not readily emerge from catalogues, with their traditional emphasis on finding specific titles or works by a particular author or on a particular subject, and especially not from union catalogues: provenances, bindings, publishers, and so forth. It is also evident from the fact that, despite advances in online cataloguing, many rare book and special collections are still not catalogued online. When catalogued online, records

are not necessarily available via the standard academic union catalogues, but are on independent library websites, on archival catalogues, and others. Only by knowing of the presence of a collection can the researcher find his way to the particular books within it.

Compilation of the third edition is based on the second edition (1997). Every library represented in the second edition was contacted (sometimes several times) and asked to update its entry. Various libraries have come into existence since the publication of the second edition; others which existed in 1997 but did not have special collections have since acquired them; and still others existed in 1997, but were not represented in the *Directory*. Where such libraries were made known to me, I contacted them individually to invite them to contribute. I also targeted museums noted in the 2013 edition of the *Museums & Galleries Yearbook* as having potentially relevant collections to invite them to contribute. In addition, CILIP sent around round robins, and I asked for entries via an article in *CILIP Update*, emails to jiscmail lists, and requests to CILIP special interest groups, archives, and museums by their standard print or electronic publications. As for the second edition, not everyone replied, despite at least four requests: libraries represented in the second edition received a general request, a second general request if it had not responded to the first by the due date, an individual email giving its entry in the body of the email, and a follow-up telephone call. Several libraries received further reminders (e.g. those in London).

In 1997, the decision was made to carry across the entries of libraries which had not responded to requests from the first to the second edition. By the second decade of the 21st century, it was clear that repeating this process risked the inclusion of out-of-date information; even when libraries still exist, their holdings have not remained static (this is true particularly for public libraries, which have often retained certain collections reported in 1997 but not others); and in some cases the reason for non-response was precisely library re-organization. Where possible, information for non-responding libraries was gained from current websites. Libraries for which this was not possible (many of them school or public libraries) are listed in Appendix 2, so that the interested researcher has a lead to follow if s/he so desires, and so that the editor of the fourth edition of the *Directory*, should there be one, will know to pursue them then.

The *Directory* has 873 main entries. These include entries for almost 100 repositories not listed in the second edition, many of them National Trust properties – a reflection of the impressive activity and opening of National Trust libraries since the Trust's appointment of a Libraries Curator in 1999. Over 100 entries have been removed because collections have been sold or transferred. Sometimes, if a collection has been transferred, it is readily identifiable in its new location as a special collection (for example, Swaffham Parish Library, which has its own heading under

Norwich Cathedral); if it has been subsumed within another collection, such as the library of the Punch Office now in the British Library, or the Institute of Brewing Library which is now an element of a wider collection devoted to brewing at Oxford Brookes University, it is not.

Most government libraries have disappeared since 1997. Some parish or local studies collections have moved to archival repositories. Mergers have been common, and many libraries which had their own headings in the second edition of the *Directory* are now, if they are not single collections under different institutions (such as the libraries of various London hospitals, now mainly at King's or Imperial Colleges in London), semi-independent headings under larger libraries: for example, the Conservative Party Archive (formerly in London) now housed at the Bodleian; the libraries of the Institute of Commonwealth Studies and of the Institute of Germanic Studies at the University of London under Senate House Library (the new name for the University of London Library); most recently, the Yorkshire Archaeological Society has joined the collections at the University of Leeds.

I was asked to remove a few entries for perceived security reasons, and removed further entries where the quantity of the books numbered fewer than 50, or for which the content of the entry stated that the rare books were elsewhere. The *Directory* has thus been trimmed down since 1997, but every collection present in the second edition has been accounted for somehow, and others have been added.

Cross-references have been used sparingly, normally when an institution has its own headquarters, perhaps even including a library, in one place, but its rare book and special collections are held elsewhere: for example, the Glasgow Quaker Meeting, whose rare books are held in the Mitchell Library. The emphasis is not on migration, but on where researchers can now find what they want.

Stressing the printed word, the *Directory* does not routinely include music, map, or photographic collections. Neither does it include manuscripts, although references to music, maps, photographs and manuscripts appear, mainly to clarify the nature of hybrid collections. Libraries were asked not to list specific titles, on the basis that a catalogue is the more appropriate place for these; some titles, however, may still appear, largely where they will not be found in the major union catalogues.

'Rare books' as such have for this edition been seen as all books up to the year 1900, on the basis that most such books are scarce, and in some major repositories (not least the British Library) are now to be consulted in rare book reading rooms. Special collections can of course include later material, and many newly reported named special collections are of 20th- or 21st-century material, although collections of antiquarian books have also been acquired. All libraries were asked to supply for each named special collection the subject matter, the date range of printed material, and the approximate number of items, alongside any other salient feature. The request was to avoid terms like 'extensive' or 'small', which can mean different things

to different people, in favour of quantities. In particular, it was felt for precision that a description which stated: 'c.300 books, 16th–18th cent.', or '300 books, 1650–1850 (chiefly 18th cent.)' was more helpful than 'c.300 books are pre-1850'. When entries did not provide this level of precision I sent back queries requesting it, but sometimes staff did not know the answers, and some emails were not answered. The level of detail thus varies between entries, on the basis that notification of the presence of a collection with little or no further detail is more helpful than omission of a collection; the scantiest entries read simply: 'Local studies collection', because that is all that was supplied.

Libraries were also asked to provide breakdowns by century rather than by referring to STC and Wing, on the basis that in the days of ESTC fewer people are conversant with the major printed short-title catalogues of English books (and the division was one of practicality when STC was being compiled). However, it soon became apparent that many libraries were in no position to revise their statistical analyses, so that *Directory* users will need to consult the list of abbreviations to realize that STC refers to books printed in the English language or in English-speaking countries to the year 1640, and that Wing refers to books printed in the English language or in English-speaking countries between 1641 and 1700.

I supplied extra references when I was aware of them, queried discrepancies when details in the entry submitted differed from those on an institutional website, and corrected obvious errors (normally typographical), but basically the information given is that supplied by the libraries, who must take ultimate responsibility for accuracy. Libraries were also asked to specify when collections were not catalogued online, and to state in such cases how they were catalogued. An asterisk (*) beside an entry indicates that at the time of submission a collection has not been catalogued online; two asterisks (**) indicate the absence of any catalogue. This was the most fiddly aspect of entries; it was intended to be helpful, but it is the area in which I am least confident of accuracy.

Arrangement in England and Northern Ireland by counties was a moot point when the second edition of the *Directory* was being prepared. Users from outside the British Isles could not be expected to know them, and in a volume which should by its arrangement be self-indexing in one way, county was not an obvious way. This division became more irrelevant when the third edition was being prepared, Royal Mail having decided to abolish the use of county names from official postal addresses. Thus a decision was made at the outset of the project to arrange the third edition within country by town in the first instance. A list of English counties with the towns or villages within them included in the *Directory* is appended for those who find a county arrangement helpful, and the names of counties, where supplied, have been retained in postal addresses, for additional orientation even though no longer required for postal purposes.

The largest change since the appearance of the second edition of the *Directory* and that of the third has been the spread of the internet. Accordingly, the third edition includes generic email addresses (or, where repositories prefer to be contacted by a web form, notification of a web form) and uniform resource locators; occasionally the latter is lacking when, chiefly for churches, schools, and properties of the National Trust for Scotland, the website provides no information about the library. Fax numbers have not been provided because email has replaced faxes for speedy written communication, and information about such matters as opening hours (subject to change) and photocopying facilities (or, now equally relevantly, permission to take digital photographs) is not given, on the basis that it is subject to change and is present on library websites. Only for the most private collections – stately homes in private ownership, centrally administered properties of the National Trust and of the National Trust for Scotland – is it routinely stated in the *Directory* entry that admission is by written application. However, it cannot be emphasized too strongly that researchers should always check websites and contact repositories prior to consulting material. Many libraries are sparsely staffed and will need to arrange visits at a time of mutual convenience; material may need to be ordered. Even at the most public of public repositories, some form of identity will normally be required.

In his introduction to the second edition, Barry Bloomfield wrote: 'I find it difficult to believe that there will be another hard-copy edition of this *Directory*' (p. xi). An exploratory survey in 2013 revealed interest in a third hard-copy edition. One very pragmatic reason for a printed book about printed books is that that is what the publisher offered. An academic consideration is that it provides a snapshot of special collections in a given place at a given time. Several of us on the CILIP Rare Books and Special Collections Group Committee felt that a printed volume has prominence as a visible book on reference shelves and an item in library catalogues that a database does not. Its existence is a statement of the importance of special collections; it is also a reference tool which is harder to overlook than, for example, the databases listed in the webography. This is not to decry the value of databases, and this editor's vision is that the *Directory* might constitute the basis for a fully searchable database.

A word of warning is timely about currency. Entries for the first edition of the *Directory* were compiled from 1977 onwards for publication in 1985, so that some entries were inevitably out of date at the time of publication. Bloomfield in his introduction does not state how long the second edition took to compile; I estimate four or five years. The call for entries for the third edition went out in late January 2014 for intended publication in late 2015, in order to minimize entries becoming out-of-date, and in January 2015 I sent out a call via CILIP and lis-link lists for amendments to entries submitted, to minimize the risk further. As the typesetting and

production of such a complex work are not straightforward, inevitably even by publication there will have been changes. Yet the notion that a database will necessarily be current is a chimera. Technically it can easily be kept up-to-date; but there must be resources, human and perhaps financial, to maintain it; and there must also be somebody prepared to solicit information about changes, as an editor does for a printed volume.

Preparation of the *Directory* would not have been feasible without a great deal of assistance. My thanks are due to everybody who submitted entries and who answered follow-up queries; to everybody who, mostly unbeknown to me, forwarded requests for entries or encouraged colleagues to contribute; to the committee of the CILIP Rare Books and Special Collections Group for general support, for chasing libraries in members' respective regions, and for setting up a blog, among other activities; to all who suggested new libraries and offered information about non-existent ones, and to Helen Carley and her team at Facet Publishing for advice and encouragement. The Historic Libraries Forum and the CILIP Library and Information History Group promoted the project to their members. Ten graduate trainees from Oxford between them trawled through the 1997 *Directory* establishing email addresses or web forms for all the libraries represented there, and sent out messages by web form: Anja Badock, Niamh Delaney, Diana Hackett, Joanne Hilliar, Luke Jackson-Ross, Emma Jones, Natasha Kennedy, Luran Richards, Hannah Riley, and Emma Stanford. My gratitude to them is intense. An eleventh trainee, from Cambridge, Meriel Royal, went through the *Museums & Galleries Yearbook* identifying museums to approach. The following people identified telephone numbers for libraries that had not responded by the summer, made telephone calls or otherwise chased entries, and/or wrote entries for libraries that had not submitted but for which information was available on the internet: Steven Archer, Tansy Barton, Charles Benson, Jill Dye, Gill Furlong, Jonathan Harrison, Benjamin Politowski, Renae Satterley, Deirdre Wildy and Alison Wilson. Particular thanks are due to Christine Penney, who made a couple of hundred telephone calls on behalf of the *Directory*, and to Ann Matheson, who chased all the libraries in Scotland which had not contributed by summer 2014. That one Scottish library remains in the appendix is an oversight on my part. And finally, I should like to thank Lucia Fischer, aged six, my honorary god-daughter, who kept me sane.

Karen Attar

Bibliography and webography

WHAT MARKS THIS directory is geographical and sectoral comprehensiveness and – at the time of compilation – currency. Below is a selective bibliography of other directories which readers may find helpful. References to these sources are not given in individual entries; users should check the relevant source for libraries which fall into these categories.

Association of Independent Libraries, <http://independentlibraries.co.uk>.

Describes the holdings of 32 member libraries. Not specifically aimed at special collections, but may include reference to them.

Frazer, H., 'Local History Collections in Belfast' (London, LIS MA thesis, 1976)

Irwin, R. and Staveley, R. (eds), *The Libraries of London* (2e, 1961)

Focuses on the history, purpose, and current state of the libraries. Some chapters mention or describe special collections. Chapters on classes of libraries (parliamentary, medical, etc.) and on constituent libraries of what is now the British Library; the Science Library; the Victoria and Albert Museum; the Guildhall Library; the London Library; and, within the University of London, the University of London Library (now Senate House Library, University of London), University College, and the London School of Economics.

Jefcoate, G., Kelly, W. A. and Kloth, K., *Handbuch deutscher historischer Buchbestände in Europa*, Bd. 10, *A Guide to Collections of Books Printed in German-Speaking Countries before 1901 (or in German Elsewhere) held by Libraries in Great Britain and Ireland* (2000). Partly available online.

Detailed descriptions of German holdings at 54 libraries: 19 in London, 5 each in Cambridge and Edinburgh, 4 in Oxford, 3 each in Dublin and Glasgow, 2 each in Birmingham, Durham, Leeds and Manchester, and 10 others. Concentrates on early printed books, but sometimes includes modern special collections.

MASC25: Mapping Access to Special Collections in the London Region,
<http://www.masc25.ac.uk>

Collection-level description of printed special collections in higher education libraries within the M25 Consortium, covering Greater London. Last updated 2007.

Morgan, P., *Oxford Libraries outside the Bodleian: a Guide* (2e, 1980)

Covers College and other libraries (faculty, departmental, etc.) of the University of Oxford. Provides a brief history of each, followed by a description of manuscripts, archives, printed books, and catalogues. Much more detailed than Munby for Cambridge (see below).

Munby, A. N. L., *Cambridge College Libraries: Aids for Research Students* (2e, 1962)

Describes rare book and special collections (including manuscripts and archives) within the colleges of the University of Cambridge. Includes the theological colleges and the Fitzwilliam Museum.

Museums Libraries Archives Council, Cornucopia: Discovering UK Collections,
<http://www.cornucopia.org.uk/>

Database of more than 6,000 general or special collections from almost 2,000 museums, galleries, archives and libraries in the UK, ranging from general descriptions of repositories to detailed collection-level descriptions. Particularly strong on museum collections.

Perkin, M., *A Directory of the Parochial Libraries of the Church of England and the Church in Wales* (2004)

Covers parish libraries in England, Wales and the Isle of Man. Historical perspective (so includes libraries which no longer exist). Includes histories of the libraries, and lists of catalogues and of references.

Rascal: Research and Special Collections Available Locally (Ireland),
<http://www.rascal.ac.uk>

Describes research and special collections at collection level held in libraries, museums and archives across Ireland.

Tallon, M., *Church of Ireland Diocesan Libraries* (1959)

Describes fifteen collections across Ireland.

Selected list of abbreviations and acronyms

Allison and Rogers	Allison, A. F. and Rogers, D. M., <i>The Contemporary Printed Literature of the English Counter-Reformation between 1558 and 1640</i> , 2 v. (1989-1993)
art.	article
BL	British Library
<i>BLR</i>	<i>Bodleian Library Record</i>
<i>BMQ</i>	<i>British Museum Quarterly</i>
<i>BQR</i>	<i>Bodleian Quarterly Record</i>
c.	circa
cat.	catalogue, catalogued
cats	catalogues
cent.	century
cents	centuries
comp.	compiler, compiled
CUL	Cambridge University Library
<i>EBLJ</i>	<i>Electronic British Library Journal</i>
e	edition
ed.	editor/edited
eds	editors
est.	established
ESTC	English Short Title Catalogue (http://estc.bl.uk)
EUL	Edinburgh University Library
ISTC	Incunabula Short Title Catalogue (http://istc.bl.uk)
M&T	Mandelbrote, G. and Taylor, B. (eds), <i>Libraries within the Library</i> (2009)
MS(S)	manuscript(s)
n.d.	no date
n.s.	new series
NLS	National Library of Scotland
NTS	National Trust Scotland
<i>PBSA</i>	<i>Publications of the Bibliographical Society of America</i>
SALG	South Asia Library Group

suppl.	supplement
repr.	reprinted
rev.	revised
ser.	series
STC	Pollard, A. W. and Redgrave, G. R., <i>A Short-Title Catalogue of Books Printed in England, Scotland, and Ireland, and of English Books Printed Abroad 1475–1640</i> (2e, ed. Jackson, W. A., Ferguson, F. S. and Pantzer K., 3 v., 1976–91)
TCBS	<i>Transactions of the Cambridge Bibliographical Society</i>
TLS	<i>Times Literary Supplement</i>
v.	volume(s)
Wing	Wing, D. F., <i>Short-Title Catalogue of Books Printed in England, Scotland, Ireland, Wales and British America, and of English Books Printed in Other Countries 1641–1700</i> (2e, 3 v., 1982–98)