

Front cover: *Nyasaland and the Shire Highlands Railway*. JD Rees. London, [1908]

This page (clockwise from top right): *The first book of Moses called Genesis*. Translated by John Eliot. Cambridge, Massachusetts, 1655

Hortus sanitatis. Mainz, 1491

Illustrations of the botany and other branches of the natural history of the Himalayan Mountains. John Forbes Royle. London, 1839

Manchester Evening Chronicle household medical adviser. H Muller. Manchester, [1900?]



CONTACT US

Foyle Special Collections Library
The Maughan Library
King's College London
Chancery Lane
London WC2A 1LR
Telephone: +44 (0)20 7848 1843
Email: specialcollections@kcl.ac.uk

HOW TO GET HERE

The nearest London Underground stations are Chancery Lane, Holborn and Temple. Several bus routes pass either end of Chancery Lane, running along Fleet Street or High Holborn.

All information contained in this leaflet was correct at time of going to press.

kcl.ac.uk/specialcollections

Libraries & Collections

KING'S
College
LONDON

Special Collections



About Special Collections



THE FOYLE SPECIAL COLLECTIONS LIBRARY at King’s College London holds over 200,000 items – printed books, pamphlets and periodicals, as well as maps, slides, manuscripts, typescripts and photographs – ranging in date from the 15th century to the present day. Most items are rare; some are unique. All offer a wealth of opportunities for teaching and research, and together they form part of our local, national and international documentary heritage.

Special collections items require special treatment to help ensure their preservation for future generations. In the Foyle Special Collections Library they are housed in secure storage areas and are consulted in a designated reading room, under the supervision of staff. The Foyle Special Collections Library forms part of the historic Maughan Library building in Chancery Lane, originally constructed between 1851 and 1896 as the UK’s Public Record Office.

- The special collections are broad in subject scope, spanning the humanities, sciences and social sciences, but areas of particular strength include:
- Theology: Biblical texts, Christian doctrinal theology, history of Christianity, Judaism
 - Languages and literatures: philology and lexicography, German literature, English and American literature, Modern Greek literature
 - History: travel and voyages of exploration and discovery, military history and strategy, British and European diplomatic history, international relations, the history of the British Empire and the Commonwealth, the Atlantic slave trade and its abolition, Ottoman studies, Spanish, Portuguese and Latin American studies, 20th century Germany
 - Music: 18th century music, choral music

- Medicine: anatomy, surgery, public health, military and naval medicine, obstetrics and gynaecology, dentistry, neurology, psychiatry, popular medicine
- Botany
- 19th century scientific and technical developments: telegraphy, acoustics, photography.

- These are some of the collections we hold:
- The historical library collection of the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), which was transferred to King’s in 2007. Comprising over 90,000 items, this magnificent collection spans 500 years of world history
 - The former library of William Marsden (1754-1836), a linguistic scholar and collector who worked for the East India Company in Sumatra before joining the staff of the Admiralty. He built up an important collection of books on travel and languages, which also contains many rare Bibles
 - The former working library of HG Adler (1910-88), poet, novelist and survivor and historian of the Holocaust, which contains much rare material on the fate of the Jews in Nazi-occupied Europe
 - Significant historical medical collections, including those of the medical schools of St Thomas’s, Guy’s and King’s College Hospitals, the library of the Guy’s Hospital Physical Society (active 1771-1852) and the historical collection of the Institute of Psychiatry
 - The former library of Sir Charles Wheatstone (1802-75), scientific polymath, co-inventor of the electric telegraph and professor of experimental philosophy at King’s.

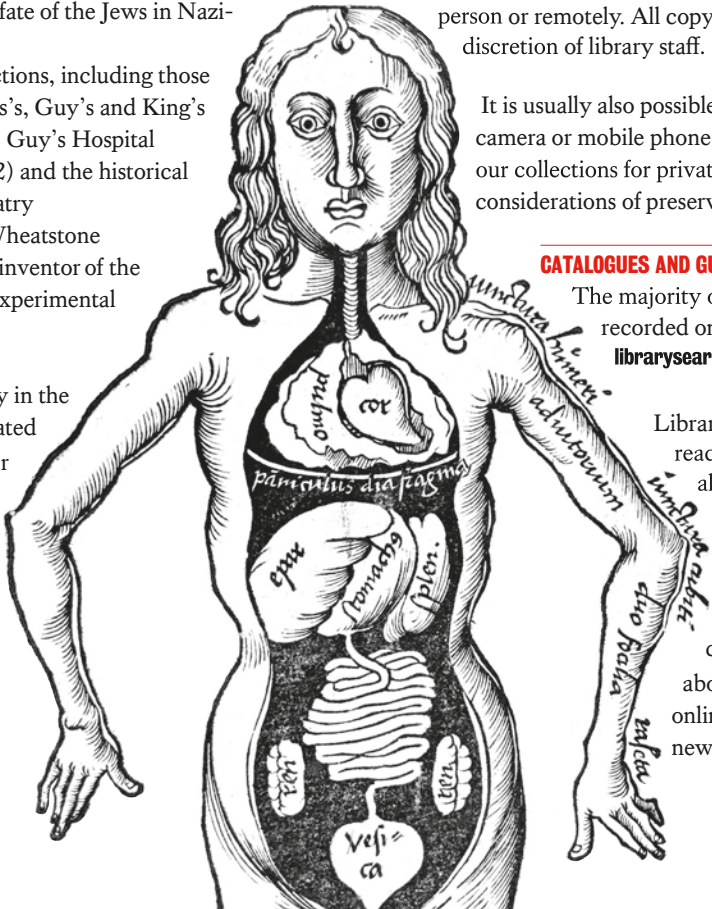
Archive collections are held separately in the King’s College London Archives, located at the nearby Strand Building. Further details are available on the Archives webpages at kcl.ac.uk/archives

Top left: *Travels into Chile, over the Andes, in the years 1820 and 1821.* Peter Schmidtmeier. London, 1824

Right: *Margarita philosophica.* Gregor Reisch. Freiburg, 1503

Far right (top): *La Geographia.* Ptolemy. Venice, 1548

Far right (bottom): *Medicinal plants.* Robert Bentley and Henry Trimen. London, 1880



ADMISSION

The Foyle Special Collections Library is open to anyone wishing to consult our collections. All readers are asked to provide a valid photographic form of identification upon arrival.

REQUESTING AND USING MATERIAL

Readers are asked to complete a request slip for each item that they wish to see. Items can usually be fetched from the storage areas within 15 minutes of request. Readers are asked to take great care in handling special collections material, which may be in a fragile condition. The use of pens is not permitted in the reading room; pencils are available and laptop computers may also be used. Instructions in the handling of special collections material are displayed on each table and readers are asked to study these carefully.

OBTAINING COPIES

Readers are welcome to order high-resolution digital copies of material for private study or use in publication, either in person or remotely. All copying is carried out at the discretion of library staff.

It is usually also possible for readers to use their own camera or mobile phone to take pictures of items in our collections for private study, subject to considerations of preservation and copyright.

CATALOGUES AND GUIDES TO THE COLLECTIONS

The majority of special collections are recorded on the library catalogue, at librarysearch.kcl.ac.uk

Library staff are happy to assist readers in using the catalogue and also in identifying uncatalogued items of potential interest.

Readers are also advised to consult our webpages, which contain a wealth of information about the collections, as well as online exhibitions, blog posts and news of events and new acquisitions.



SEMINARS AND EXHIBITIONS

The Foyle Special Collections Library works closely with King’s teaching staff to provide seminars on special collections for undergraduate and postgraduate students. We warmly welcome the opportunity to incorporate the use of special collections materials in teaching programmes and are keen to hear from any members of King’s or other University of London teaching staff who are interested in discussing potential seminar themes.

We run a programme of free public exhibitions, which explore different aspects of the collections in depth. These exhibitions are held in the Weston Room (the former Rolls Chapel) in the Maughan Library; details can be found on our webpages.

We also have an extensive and growing website of online exhibitions: kingscollections.org/exhibitions/specialcollections

OPENING TIMES

The Foyle Special Collections Library is open from Monday to Friday throughout the year. Please check our webpages for current opening times before planning your visit.

