

Collecting the Eighteenth Century at Winchester College

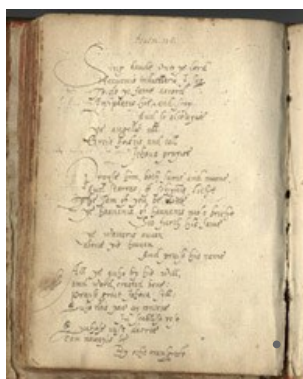


'Collecting the Eighteenth Century at Winchester College' is a research project funded by a Collaborative Doctoral Award from the **AHRC** (<http://www.ahrc.ac.uk/>).

Our research partner in the award is Winchester College, whose **Fellows' Library** (<http://www.winchestercollege.org/fellows-library>) provides the materials investigated in the project. The doctoral researcher is Carly Watson, and the supervisors of her PhD are Dr **Valerie Rumbold** (</staff/profiles/english/rumbold-valerie.aspx>) and Dr **Kate Rumbold** (</staff/profiles/english/rumbold-kate.aspx>) in the **English Department** (</schools/edacs/departments/english/index.aspx>) at the University of Birmingham, and Dr Geoff Day, the Fellows' Librarian at Winchester College.

This is what Carly has to say about her work:

"My research aims to uncover the history and cultural importance of a little-known eighteenth-century library. Alexander Thistlethwayte, a Hampshire gentleman and county MP, amassed a very substantial library, and before his death made a large gift of books to Winchester College. This outstanding collection mainly comprises literature in an impressive range of ancient and modern languages, from English and Dutch to Greek and Arabic. By studying the growth and make-up of this collection, I am forming a new picture of the tastes and collecting habits of a country gentleman before the 'bibliomania' of the late eighteenth century.



The Thistlethwayte collection has many individual highlights, and I have researched several of these in some depth. One is a copy of the first book by James VI and I to be published – *The Essayes of a Prentise, in the Divine Art of Poesie* – containing rare manuscript copies of a number of his unpublished poems. The Thistlethwayte collection has been catalogued, but its contents have as yet remained largely unknown to scholars. I hope that this project will be an opportunity to foreground the contribution that private libraries such as the Winchester Fellows' Library can make to knowledge and culture today."

For further research in the Eighteenth Century at the University of Birmingham, see **Birmingham Eighteenth Century Centre (BECC)** (</research/activity/18c/index.aspx>).

Events

Unlocking the Private Library (</schools/edacs/departments/english/events/2013/unlocking-the-private-library.aspx>) - 9 February 2013

To register for the symposium, please visit the **online University Shop** (http://shop.bham.ac.uk/browse/extra_info.asp?compid=1&modid=2&prodid=593&deptid=17&catid=3).

See also the **symposium blog** (<http://unlockingthepriatelibrary.wordpress.com/>), where you will find the full programme of speakers and topics.



Winchester College is our partner in Collecting the Eighteenth Century at Winchester College.



</Images/College-ArtsLaw-only/english/research/winchester/coat-of-arms-large.jpg> Bookplate of Alexander Thistlethwayte (1717?–1771).



Arts & Humanities
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