LGBTQ resource guide

Last updated March 2017
LGBTQ Resource List

Details of archives and rare books held at Cadbury Research Library: Special Collections

This is a guide to LGBTQ related archives and rare books held at the Cadbury Research Library. Items in this list have been found using our catalogues and indexes, or suggested by staff members/researchers, but it is not exhaustive. If you come across other useful sources during the course of your research, we would be pleased to hear about them.

You can search our archive catalogue and our book catalogue online, and our main website gives visitor information should you wish to consult any of the items we hold.

We feel it is important to acknowledge there may be people listed in this guide that weren’t ‘out’ or might not have associated with an LGBTQ identity during their lifetime. There may also be instances where people have identified themselves as LGBTQ but the books or archives we hold about them are not specifically LGBTQ related. At present, whilst we have the title ‘LGBTQ resource guide’, there are no known Trans references listed. Please get in touch if you know of items that could be included.

The National Archives also has compiled a useful starting guide for researchers wishing to research LGBTQ history.
Archives: personal and family papers

Barrymore, Blanche Marie Louise (nee Oelrichs)
Pseudonym Michael Strange. 1 file of letters dated c 1924-c 1932.
Finding number: OMN/A/2/12

Butler, Eleanor (see also Ponsonby, Sarah)
Letters from Lady Eleanor Butler written from Llangollen Vale, 1811-1813
Finding numbers: JER/595, JER/677, and JER/682

Calthrop, Gladys
Gladys Calthrop’s costume drawings for the production of ‘Conversation Piece’ by Noël Coward, 1934 (Finding number: MS492). There are also numerous entries for Calthrop in the Noel Coward archive (COW), and in the theatre collection (MS38)

Carpenter, Edward
Letters from Edward Carpenter to Helen and Granville Bantock, 1917-1918. Two of these letters (LAdd/3297 and LAdd/3298) mention Carpenter’s partner George Merrill.
Finding numbers: LAdd/3289-3300.

Coward, Noël
Noël Coward had ‘impeccable dignity in his sexual life, which was reticent but untainted by pretence’ (Rebecca West in Barry Day’s ‘The Letters of Noël Coward’). Coward’s short play Still Life (1935), which later became the film Brief Encounter (1945), is seen to reflect Coward’s experience of being gay in this time. It conveys the experience of denied feelings and socially imposed shame through an affair between Laura and Alec, who are both married to other people. Later, when Coward’s sexuality was publically acknowledged, his work was used in theatrical galas and music albums to raise money for Aids related charities such as ‘London Lighthouse’ and the ‘Red Hot Aids Charitable Trust’.

We also have material in the Noël Coward archive related to people who were known to be gay/bisexual, for example Sir John Gielgud; Compton Mackenzie; John Addington Symonds; and L. P. Hartley.

Noël Coward archive: Finding number: COW

Ellis, Havelock
Francois Lafitte was Havelock Ellis’s literary executor. There are some of Ellis’s papers in Lafitte’s deposited archive.
Finding number: US72 (boxes 45 and 46).

Harris, Walter Burton
European travel journal, with drawings, of Walter Burton Harris, an English adventurer in the late 19th century. Harris’ marriage to Lady Mary Saville was annulled due to his homosexuality.
Finding number: MS161
Kerensky, Oleg

Nicolson, Harold
Papers related to Nicolson’s political career. Numerous entries can be found in the Oswald Mosley archive (finding number: OMD), and the Neville Chamberlain archive (finding number: NC). In a rare personal letter OMD/1/1/2 item 8, Nicolson mentions his wife, Vita Sackville-West, and his feelings about Oswald Mosley.

Ponsonby, Sarah (see also Butler, Eleanor)
Note from Lady Eleanor Butler and Miss Sarah Ponsonby [of Llangollen] concerning payment for books to Lackington, Allen & Co., written by Sarah Ponsonby, 1812. Finding number: BU/5

Radclyffe Hall, Marguerite
Typescript copies of love letters and telegrams written by Radclyffe Hall to Evgenia Souline, a Russian emigre nurse with whom she embarked on a passionate affair. The letters cover the years 1934, when Hall met Souline, to 1937 but the affair lasted almost until Hall's death in 1943. Hall wrote to Souline almost daily, always ending 'Your John'. Hall’s letters detail her obsession with her lover and reveal the emotional impact this relationship had on her life partner, Una Troubridge. Finding number: MS676

Reed, Henry
Papers of the poet and literary critic Henry Reed. Includes a number of letters between Reed and his partner, Michael Ramsbotham. Written during the 1940s when homosexuality was illegal, these are important surviving examples of letters between two men. However, the letters largely relate to their literary work and are not overtly about their personal relationship. Finding number: MS31

Telfer, William Prince
His diaries, 1911-1916, form a rich source for research into the impact of the social and moral ‘purity’ movement in the early twentieth century, and for the study of sexual attitudes and identity. Finding number: MS202

Williams, Emlyn
Welsh dramatist and actor. He wrote frankly of his homosexual experiences, and was publicly out as bisexual. We hold a file of papers on his play 'He Was Born Gay', 1937. Finding Number: MS38/2426
Archives: organisations, and the University of Birmingham

United Reformed Church
Correspondence, 1993-1997, relating to debates within the United Reformed Church concerning homosexuality.
Finding number: DA29/2/14

University of Birmingham archive
There are known to be lots of references to LGBTQ issues, the Gay Liberation Front, Gay Soc, student societies and associated groups etc. within publications such as the student magazine ‘Redbrick’ (section finding number UB/GUILD/F/5), and in the Guild of Student Handbooks (UB/GUILD/E/3). A list of articles from ‘Redbrick’ dating 1960s-1970s has been compiled by students. Please ask staff for further details.

Centre for Contemporary Cultural Studies (University of Birmingham)
Sexuality sub-group, file dated 1979-1982
Finding number: UB/CCCS/C/9
Printed books held at Cadbury Research Library

- Auden, W. H. (Wystan Hugh), 1907-1973
  Poems (including “This lunar beauty”)
  London: Faber & Faber, 1930
  Cadbury Research Library PR 6001.U34

- Auden, W. H.
  Another time: poems (‘Funeral blues’ (‘Stop all the clocks’) and ‘Lay your sleeping head, my love’ were first collected in this publication
  London: Faber & Faber, 1940
  Cadbury Research Library PR 6001.U34

  We hold many other books by Auden. See our book catalogue for details. We also hold a handwritten poem by Auden, written to Michael, lodged in the book ‘Ding Dong Bell’ by Walter de la Mare. London: Selwyn and Blount, 1924. Cadbury Research Library PR6007.E4D5

- Barnes, Djuna, 1892-1982
  Ladies almanack: shewing their signs and their tides; their moons and their changes; the seasons as it is with them; their eclipses and equinoxes; as well as a full record of diurnal and nocturnal distempers / written & illustrated by a lady of fashion.
  Paris: printed for the author, and sold by Edward W. Titus, 1928
  Cadbury Research Library p PS 3503.A6

- Beardsley, Aubrey (Ed), former editor of The Yellow Book
  The Savoy
  London: Leonard Smithers No. 1-8, 1896
  Cadbury Research Library q AP 4.S2

- Belot, Adolphe, 1829-1890
  Mademoiselle Giraud: my wife (translated from the French by A.D. Introduction by Emile Zola)
  Chicago, Laird & Lee, 1891
  Cadbury Research Library PQ 2193.B4

- Carpenter, Edward, 1844-1929
  Days with Walt Whitman: with some notes on his life and work
  London: George Allen..., 1906
  Cadbury Research Library PS 3231.C2-1906

- Carpenter, Edward, 1844-1929
  Love’s coming-of-age: a series of papers on the relations of the sexes
  Manchester: Labour Press, 1896
  Cadbury Research Library HQ 31.C37
• Carpenter, Edward, 1844-1929
  The intermediate sex: a study of some transitional types of men and women
  London : Manchester : Swan Sonnenschein ; S. Clarke, 1909
  Cadbury Research Library HQ 75.15.C37

• Carpenter, Edward, 1844-1929
  The story of Eros & Psyche (retold from Apuleius): together with some early verses
  London: G. Allen and Unwin, 1923
  Cadbury Research Library PR 4451.S76-1923

• Cather, Willa, 1873-1947
  My Antonia
  Boston and New York: Houghton Mifflin, 1918
  Cadbury Research Library PS 3505.A7

• Colette, 1873-1954
  La fin de Chéri / 30 bois originaux de Constant Le Breton
  Language: French
  Paris: Arthème Fayard & Cie, 1929
  Cadbury Research Library PQ 2605.O35

• Colette, 1873-1954
  Sept dialogues de bêtes / Colette Willy; illustrés de quatre-vingt-dix dessins de Jacques Nam; préface de Francis Jammes
  Alternative title: Dialogues de bêtes
  Language: French
  Paris: Mercure de France, 1921
  Cadbury Research Library PQ 2605.O35S4

• Coward, Noël, 1899-1973
  The letters of Noël Coward (edited by Barry Day)
  London: Methuen Drama, 2007
  Cadbury Research Library, Coward Collection PR6005.O8Z48-2007

• Coward, Noël, 1899-1973
  The Noël Coward diaries (edited by Graham Payn and Sheridan Morley)
  London: Weidenfeld and Nicolson, 1982
  Cadbury Research Library, Coward Collection PR 6005.O8Z46-1982

• Custance, Olive, 1874-1944 (Lady Alfred Douglas)
  Opals
  London: J. Lane, 1897
  Cadbury Research Library PR 4525.C8O63
• Custance, Olive, 1874-1944 (Lady Alfred Douglas)
  Rainbows
  London: John Lane, The Bodley Head, 1902
  Cadbury Research Library PR 4525.C8R35

• Custance, Olive, 1874-1944 (Lady Alfred Douglas)
  The inn of dreams
  London: New York: John Lane, the Bodley Head; John Lane Co., 1911
  Cadbury Research Library PR 4525.C8I66

• Egan, Beresford, 1905-1984
  The sink of solitude: being a series of satirical drawings occasioned by
  some recent events / performed by Beresford Egan; to which is added
  a preface by P. R. Stephensen
  London: Hermes Press, 1928
  Cadbury Research Library p q PR 6015.A408

• Ellis, Havelock, 1859-1939
  Das konträre Geschlechtsgfühl von Havelock Ellis und J.A. Symonds
  Language: German
  Leipzig: Georg H. Wigand, 1896
  Cadbury Research Library Havelock Ellis Collection HQ 71.E44

• Ellis, Havelock, 1859-1939
  Studies in the psychology of sex: Vol. 1, Sexual inversion
  London: University Press, 1897
  Cadbury Research Library Havelock Ellis Collection HQ 21.E44

• Field, Michael [Katharine Bradley and Edith Cooper]
  Sight and Song
  London: Elkin Mathews and John Lane, 1892
  "Four hundred copies of this edition printed"
  Cadbury Research Library PR 4699.F5

• Forster, E. M. (Edward Morgan), 1879-1970
  Maurice: a novel
  London: Edward Arnold, 1971
  Cadbury Research Library PR 6011.O58M38

• Genet, Jean, 1910-1986
  Journal du voleur
  Language: French
  Cadbury Research Library PQ 2613.E545

• Genet, Jean, 1910-1986
  The thief's journal; translated by Bernard Frechtman
  London: Anthony Blond, 1965
  Cadbury Research Library PQ 2613.E545
- Guilleragues, Gabriel Joseph de Lavergne, vicomte de, 1628-1685
  The letters of a Portuguese nun (Marianna Alcoforado) translated by Edgar Prestage
  Language: English, French
  London: David Nutt, 1893
  With appendix (English verse translation, published anonymously, London, 1713)
  "Large paper edition. Fifty copies printed on Dutch handmade paper"
  Cadbury Research Library PQ 9191.A5A1

- Johnston, John, and Wallace, J.W.
  Visits to Walt Whitman in 1890-1891 by two Lancashire friends, J. Johnston and J.W. Wallace with twenty illustrations
  London: Allen & Unwin, 1917
  Cadbury Research Library PS 3238

- Kerouac, Jack, 1922-1969
  The subterraneans
  Cadbury Research Library PS 3521.E7

- Lawrence, T. E. (Thomas Edward), 1888-1935
  Seven pillars of wisdom: a triumph
  London: Johnathan Cape, 1935
  Cadbury Research Library q D 568.4.L2

- Loti, Pierre, 1850-1923
  Madame Chrysantheme / (illustre de 30 bois originaux de A. Roubille)
  Paris: Marpon & cie., 1921
  Cadbury Research Library PQ 2339.M2

- Mann, Thomas, 1875-1955
  Tristan: sechs Novellen (containing Der Weg zum Friedhof -- Tristan -- Der Kleiderschrank -- Luischen -- Gladius Dei -- Tonio Kröger)
  Language: German
  Berlin: S. Fischer, 1903
  Cadbury Research Library PT 2625.A6

- Pitter, Ruth, 1897-1992
  Urania
  London: Cresset Press, 1950
  Cadbury Research Library PR 6031.I7

- Purdy, James
  Eustance Chrisholm and the works
  Cadbury Research Library PS 3531.U7
• Purdy, James
  Malcolm
  New York: Farrar, Straus & Cudahy, 1959
  Cadbury Research Library PS 3531.U7

• Radclyffe Hall, Marguerite, 1880-1943
  Poems of the past & present
  London: Chapman and Hall, 1910
  Cadbury Research Library PR 6015.A408 P64

• Sackville-West, Vita, 1892-1962; Nicolson, Nigel, 1917-2004
  Portrait of a marriage
  London: Weidenfeld and Nicolson, 1973
  Cadbury Research Library PR 6037.A15

• Sappho
  A fragment of an ode of Sappho from Longinus; also, an ode of Sappho
  from Dionysius Halicarn edited by Francis Henry Egerton
  Language: Multiple languages; Greek; Latin; English; French
  [Paris: privately printed by J.M. Eberhart, 1815]
  Cadbury Research Library p PA 4408.A2-1815

• Sewell, Brocard, 1912-
  In the Dorian mode: a life of John Gray 1866-1934
  Padstow: Tabb House, 1983
  Cadbury Research Library PR 6013.R203

• Shakespeare, William, 1564-1616
  Sonnets
  Decorated by Charles Ricketts
  London: Hacon & Ricketts, 1903
  Cadbury Research Library PR 2753.V2

• Sturgeon, Mary
  Michael Field
  London: George G. Harrap & Co., 1922
  Cadbury Research Library PR 4699.P5

• Symonds, John Addington, 1840-1893
  A problem in modern ethics: being an inquiry into the phenomenon of
  sexual inversion, addressed especially to medical psychologists and
  jurists
  London: [s.n.], 1896
  Cadbury Research Library HQ 76.S9

• Symonds, John Addington, 1840-1893
  In the key of blue and other prose essays
  London: Elkin Mathews & John Lane, 1893
  "Fifty copies of this large paper edition printed…"
  Cadbury Research Library PR 5522.I6-1893
• Symonds, John Addington, 1840-1893
  Walt Whitman: a study
  Cadbury Research Library PS 3231

• [Unknown]
  The Sketch
  Single page from The Sketch, 1 December 1897, containing book
  reviews of Opals (Custance); Marriage customs in many lands
  (Hutchinson); Medals and decorations of the British arms (Mayo)
  London: s.n., 1897
  Cadbury Research Library p q Z 1003.5.G7O63

• Whitman, Walt, 1819-1892
  Leaves of grass
  Washington: [s.n.], 1872
  Cadbury Research Library PS 3201

• Whitman, Walt, 1819-1892
  Leaves of grass: including a fac-simile autobiography, variorum
  readings of the poems and a department of Gathered leaves
  Philadelphia: David McKay, 1900
  Cadbury Research Library PS 3201

• Whitman, Walt, 1819-1892
  Specimen days in America; revised by the author, with fresh preface
  London: Walter Scott..., 1887
  Cadbury Research Library PS 3220.A1-1887

• Wilde, Oscar, 1854-1900
  Salome: a tragedy in one act translated from the French of Oscar
  Wilde; with sixteen drawings by Aubrey Beardsley
  London: John Lane The Bodley Head, 1930
  Cadbury Research Library PR 5820.S2

• Wilde, Oscar, 1854-1900
  The ballad of Reading Gaol by C.3.3. [Oscar Wilde]
  London: Leonard Smithers, 1899
  Cadbury Research Library PR 5817

• Wilde, Oscar, 1854-1900
  The portrait of Mr. W.H.
  [S.l.] : Privately printed, [1889]
  "Of this work, 200 copies only have been printed ...."
  Cadbury Research Library PR 5819.P6

• Woolf, Virginia, 1882-1941
  Orlando: a biography
  London : L. and V. Woolf at the Hogarth Press, 1928
  Cadbury Research Library PR6045.O75O7
The Yellow Book: An Illustrated Quarterly
Vol.1-13, 1894-1897
London: Elkin Mathews & John Lane
Cadbury Research Library AP 4.Y4

The Rainbow Trail

Students at the University of Birmingham put together ‘The Rainbow Trail’ in February 2017. This is a trail exploring the lives and communities of LGBTQIA+ people (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex, asexual and other marginalised identities). Books and objects featured in the trail are held at the University of Birmingham.


See The Rainbow Trail website for further information.