

Guide to LGBTQ+ resources at the Cadbury Research Library



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LGBTQ+ resource guide

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](#), at the University of Birmingham.

Items in this resource list have been found using our catalogues and indexes, and suggestions from staff members, students and 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 were not '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.

The National Archives has a useful starting [guide](#) for researchers wishing to research records relating to sexuality and gender identity history. Researcher may also be interested in the [Glasgow Women's Library](#), home to significant LGBTQ collections and the Lesbian Archive. [LSE](#) also holds a significant LGBTQ archive. Known transgender archives include [The Royal Society of Medicine](#), the [Museum of Transology](#), and the [Digital Transgender Archive](#).

The Cadbury Research Library would like to thank members of the University of Birmingham's staff LGBTQ group 'Rainbow Network' for their help and support in the creation of this resource guide.

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)

Known as 'The Ladies of Llangollen'

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.

Finding numbers: LAdd/3289-3300. Two of these letters ([LAdd/3297](#) and [LAdd/3298](#)) mention Carpenter's partner, George Merrill. Also a letter from Granville Bantock mentioning a visit by Carpenter, 1919. [MS140/2](#) (item 65).

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](#)

Housman, Laurence

Newscuttings relating to Housman's plays *Prunella* ([MS38/1063](#)), *Victoria Regina* ([MS38/2568](#)), *The Family Honour* ([MS38/3482](#)) and *Mr Gladstone's Comforter* ([MS38/4167](#)). There are also two letters ([LAdd/1826](#) and [LAdd/6401](#)) and numerous books by Housman, whose output includes plays, novels, poetry, and political pamphlets, as well as book illustrations. Housman co-founded the British Society for the Study of Sex Psychology with Edward Carpenter and was a member of the secret homosexual organisation the Order of Chaeronea.

Kerensky, Oleg

Papers dated 1959-1993 of Oleg Kerensky, ballet critic, arts journalist and broadcaster. Including scrapbooks of ballet and theatre productions, reviews for 'Gay News' and other publications ([MS126/5/1/4-7](#)).

Finding number: [MS126](#)

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)**Known as 'The Ladies of Llangollen'**

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 Evguenia 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](#)

Sassoon, Siegfried

Photo of poet Siegfried Sassoon and his partner during the 1920s-30s, Stephen Tennant, which was sent as a postcard from their stay in Sicily.

Finding number: [JG\(II\)/15-16 Box 1](#)

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, Emyln

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 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.

The University Archives have been used to study the University's involvement in psychological research and clinical practices associated with so-called conversion therapy in the 1960s and 1970s. The report '[Conversion Therapy](#)' and the University of Birmingham, c.1966-1983 published in June 2022. This publication cites University Committee minutes (UB/COM), Faculty Handbooks, (UB/P/9), University Research Committee Reports (UB/P/8), and records of St Francis Hall committee (UB/GUILD/A/21) as well as Guild of Students Handbooks

The University Archives are also likely to contain information about individual students or members of staff associated with an LGBTQ+ identify.

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 Geschlechtsgefühl 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
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

(See also letter by E. M. Forster: [CFGM/4/6/3](#))
- Gardiner, James
Several books: 'Who's a pretty boy then? One hundred and fifty years of gay life in pictures'. 'Monty's private pictures: Thirty-one postcards from 'A Class Apart''. 'A Class Apart'.
Cadbury Research Library temporary new purchase book ref: IRF/2021/18-20
- Genet, Jean, 1910-1986
Journal du voleur, Language: French
[Paris] Gallimard, 1949
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)
Cadbury Research Library PQ 9191.A5A1
- Hirschfeld, Magnus (1868-1935)
Sexual anomalies and perversions, : physical and psychological
development and treatment : a summary of the works of the late
professor Dr. Magnus Hirschfeld : compiled as a humble memorial by
his pupils : a textbook for students, psychologists, criminologists,
probation officers, judges, and educationists.
London : F. Aldor [1936]
Cadbury Research Library: HQ71.H5
- Hirschfeld, Magnus (1868-1935)
Sittengeschichte des 20. Jahrhunderts. [Bd 1-3], published c1966-1968
Cadbury Research Library: q DD235
- Housman, A. E. (Alfred Edward)
A Shropshire Lad
London: Kegan Paul, Trench, Trübner & Co., 1896
Cadbury Research Library: PR 4809.H15S4
- Housman, A. E. (Alfred Edward)
The collected poems of A. E. Housman
London: Cape, 1939
Cadbury Research Library: PR 4809.H15A17
- Housman, Laurence
Echo de Paris: a study from life
London: J. Cape, 1923
Cadbury Research Library: PR 4809.H18E24
- Housman, Laurence
Green Arras
London: John Lane at the Bodley Head, 1896
Cadbury Research Library: PR 4809.H18G74

- Housman, Laurence
The immoral effects of ignorance in sex relations
[London: Women's Freedom League, 1911]
Cadbury Research Library: p HQ31.H68

We hold numerous other works by Laurence Housman. See book catalogue for details
- 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
London: A. Deutsch, 1960, c1958
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). 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
New York: Farrar, Straus & Cudahy, 1967
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
- Radclyffe Hall, Marguerite: Newscuttings dated 1928 re her book 'The Well of Loneliness'. Cadbury Research Library ff PR6015.A33W3
- 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
Cadbury Research Library PR 5522.I6-1893

- Symonds, John Addington, 1840-1893
Walt Whitman: a study
London: G. Routledge & Sons, 1893
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 facsimile 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.I.] : 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

Recent suggestions for inclusion

Thank you to researchers for suggesting additional names to include in our LGBTQ guide. More research is needed before they are fully integrated into this guide so if you are researching any of the people listed below using the archives and rare books in our care, please get in touch.

Emily, Faithfull 1835-1895 publisher and women's activist

Lally, Gwen [real name Gwendolin Rosalie Lally Tollandal Speck] (1882–1963), pageant master and theatre producer.

Marsh, Sir Edward (1872– 1953), poet and civil servant. Finding number: [EM](#)

Painting, Norman George, 1924-2009, writer, broadcaster and actor. Finding number: [MS200](#)

Recent acquisitions

We have recently acquired additional rare books by the author Michael Field. Michael Field was a pseudonym used by English authors Katharine Harris Bradley (1846–1914) and Edith Emma Cooper (1862–1913).

We have also acquired further books by Edward Carpenter (1844-1929).

For details of these new book acquisitions, please address your email to the book team at: special-collections@contacts.bham.ac.uk