Guide to LGBTQ resources at the Cadbury Research Library

Last updated January 2023
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 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.

At present, whilst we have the title ‘LGBTQ resource guide’, there are no known Trans references listed. Please contact us if you know of items that could be included. Known transgender archives held elsewhere include The Royal Society of Medicine, the Museum of Transology, and the Digital Transgender Archive.

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 signification LGBTQ 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
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 Evgenia Souline, a Russian émigré 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, 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 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+ identity.

**Centre for Contemporary Cultural Studies** (University of Birmingham)
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 
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 
Cadbury Research Library temporary new purchase book ref: IRF/2021/18-20

• 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)
  Cadbury Research Library PQ 9191.A5A1

• Housman, A. E. (Alfred Edward)
  A Shropshire Lad
  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
  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
  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
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.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
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

The Rainbow Trail

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

Two books from the Cadbury Research Library were selected for inclusion in the trail. William Shakespeare’s ‘Sonnets’, decorated by Charles Ricketts, London: Hacon & Ricketts, 1903 (Classmark: PR 2753.V2). Also Oscar Wilde’s ‘The Portrait of Mr W H’ (Classmark PR 5819.P6)

See The Rainbow Trail website complied by the student group for further information.