

# Intellectual Heritage for Everyone

Our acquisitions 2015–2019



# We build, curate and preserve the UK's national collection of published, written and digital content

## *Living Knowledge: the British Library 2015 – 2023*

Between April 2015 and March 2019 the British Library made around 2,000 heritage acquisitions. Many of the items acquired cost less than a hundred pounds; others are of major national importance with a price to match their significance. Richly diverse in their origins and focus, each of them enhances and supplements the reflection of our past and current cultural life, which the Library's collections offer to the nation and audiences around the world.

Following our strategy *Living Knowledge: the British Library 2015–2023*, these acquisitions add value for researchers and engage a wide public audience with stimulating insights into the culture of the nation and its role in the world. We acquire individual items and collections after careful assessment of their importance and their price, in many cases after tough negotiations by the Library's expert curators.

The following pages feature a selection of our significant acquisitions, major national assets,

each of which had a market price of £10,000 or above.

Heritage items acquired during 2015–2019 included modern literary, historical and musical archives, medieval manuscripts, maps, stamps, discs and early printed books including incunabula. Many are already available for research in the Library's Reading Rooms and remotely, placed on public display and available in digital form via the British Library's Digitised Manuscripts pages at [bl.uk/manuscripts/](https://bl.uk/manuscripts/) or via Explore the British Library at [explore.bl.uk/](https://explore.bl.uk/).

The total Grant in Aid spent on major heritage items between 2015 and 2019 was £5.54m. However, the acquisitions attracted £4.95m in external support from generous private donors, from the National Heritage Memorial Fund, the Art Fund, Friends of the National Libraries, Friends of the British Library (Collections Trust) and others, together with the Acceptance in Lieu (AiL) scheme and the Cultural Gifts Scheme (CGS) administered by Arts Council England.

# 80

major heritage items and collections were safeguarded for the nation

# £10.49m

market value of assets added to the British Library's collections

# £2.01

the total of external support generated for every £2.25 invested

## Expert advice to Arts Council England on the export of books, manuscripts, maps and music

During 2015–2019 British Library experts provided advice to the Department for Digital, Culture Media & Sport (DCMS) via Arts Council England (ACE) on the export of heritage items to be sold overseas. Where an export licence is recommended, a surrogate copy may be requested for the collections, and these are added to the British Library's holdings and made available for research.

In 2018/2019, for example:

## 867

the number of permanent export licence applications advised upon by British Library experts

## £28,221,631

total value of items and archives advised upon

## 12

the number of archives and items of which digital and print copies were received

# The Edward Elgar Archive and autograph sketches relating to Pomp and Circumstance

Edward Elgar was the most important British composer of the early 20th century, and one of the first from that period to be appreciated worldwide. The acquisition of the first of his manuscripts through his daughter in the 1950s was one of the major foundations of the Library's unrivalled collection of manuscripts by major British composers. The Library's Elgar holdings now comprise the largest collection of Elgar primary sources anywhere, having significantly increased the amount of material over recent years. In 2016/2017 the Library purchased nine folios of autograph sketches relating to a sixth Pomp and Circumstance March by Elgar at the cost of £38,000. In 2018/2019 the major donation of the Edward Elgar Archive from the Elgar Foundation to the Library raised the profile of its Elgar collection even further.

The archive includes 220 music manuscripts, ranging from a few complete works to many individual sketch leaves, and around 11,000 letters to and from the composer, as well as digital images of the material. There are also around 200 annotated proofs and printed scores, demonstrating Elgar's changes to compositions during the publication process, as well as performance annotations and decisions about cuts made by the composer for the recordings he supervised. Other papers illuminate Elgar's biography and range from his own writings, diaries and descriptions of pieces through to official documents and dealings with publishers. This part of the collection also includes works by Alice Elgar, the wife of the composer and also an author and poet in her own right.

The archive was the subject of a public concert and study day held at the Library in November 2019.



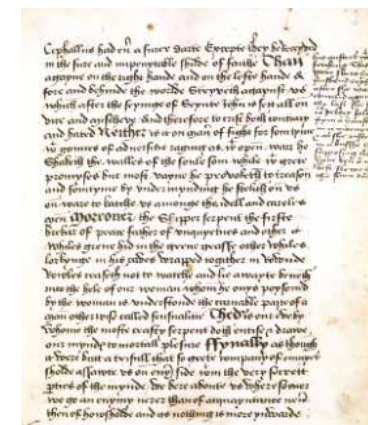
# English translation of Erasmus's *Enchiridion militis Christiani*, 1523

In 2015/2016 the Library acquired the only known manuscript of a contemporary English translation of the *Enchiridion militis Christiani*, or 'handbook of the Christian soldier', by the great humanist scholar and reformer Desiderius Erasmus. The *Enchiridion*, a compendium of humanistic piety, was Erasmus's most popular work and evoked widespread interest in 16th-century Europe. Between 1501, when Erasmus wrote the *Enchiridion*, and 1536, when he died, the original Latin text appeared in more than fifty printed editions. Between 1533 and 1545 there were thirteen editions printed in English, the first being published by Wynkyn de Worde for John Bydell.

The manuscript is dated to 1523, pre-dating the first printed edition of the text by ten years, and is also the earliest known translation into English of any of Erasmus's works. It has been suggested that the manuscript may represent a 'lost' translation of the *Enchiridion* by the religious reformer William Tyndale (d.1536). Two 16th-century accounts testify that Tyndale translated Erasmus's *Enchiridion* into English in the early 1520s. To date, there has been no secure evidence that it survived and scholars have long debated whether the 1533 printed edition was of Tyndale's translation. A preliminary comparison of the text of the manuscript with those of ten different 16th-century printed editions reveals that the manuscript preserves a hitherto unknown English translation of the *Enchiridion*.

The manuscript was placed under a temporary Export Stop and was acquired by the Library for £242,500 with the help of funding from the National Heritage Memorial Fund (NHMF).

The manuscript (now Add MS 89149) can be viewed online at [bl.uk/manuscripts/FullDisplay.aspx?ref=Add\\_MS\\_89149](https://bl.uk/manuscripts/FullDisplay.aspx?ref=Add_MS_89149).



## The Mostyn Psalter

The Mostyn Psalter is a late 13th-century manuscript Psalter-Hours produced in London and is a significant addition to the largest collection of medieval English Psalters in the world. The text includes a calendar, decorated with twenty small miniatures of the labours of the months, and a Psalter with eight large historiated initials. Canticles, a Litany, Collects and Hours of the Virgin with suffrages to saints and the Office of the Dead follow. The manuscript remains largely uncropped and preserves its original, impressive size.



The Mostyn Psalter-Hours belongs to a group of highly significant manuscripts produced in the last quarter of the 13th century in the ambit of Edward I's court (r. 1272–1307). The manuscript's original patron is unknown, but its high quality illumination and fine script indicate that it was made for an important individual. This first owner may have been a bishop, as an image of a bishop appears in the illustration for Psalm 101, where a donor portrait might be expected.

The manuscript was acquired by the Library by private sale and after a major fundraising campaign in 2017/2018 for £775,000. Funding came from the Friends of the National Libraries, the Friends of the British Library (Collections Trust), the Art Fund, the National Heritage Memorial Fund (NHMF) and the Library's Grant in Aid budget.

The manuscript (now Add MS 89250) can be viewed online at [bl.uk/manuscripts/FullDisplay.aspx?ref=Add\\_MS\\_89250](https://bl.uk/manuscripts/FullDisplay.aspx?ref=Add_MS_89250).

## The Glagolitic Breviary

The Library holds the largest collection of incunabula editions (books printed with moveable type before 1501) in the world and regularly adds to it. This Glagolitic Breviary was acquired as an example of a rare printing type cut specifically for this work and hitherto unrepresented in the Library's collections.

This *Breviarium Romanum glagoliticum* was printed in Venice in 1493 and is the third incunabulum printed in Glagolitic type for the Croatian community in Italy. It is the first production of Blaž Baromić, who established the first printing press in Croatia in 1494. Baromić was a priest, a canon, a jurist and the scribe of at least one Glagolitic Breviary in 1460. He may have been sent to Venice specifically to learn the art of printing books.

The Library's copy is one of only six known copies of this edition to survive today. It is in contemporary condition and shows many signs of having been in contemporary Croatian hands and heavily used. Its original binding contains fragments from Glagolitic manuscripts. The arms of the City of Nuremberg on the upper cover were added later.

This volume was acquired at auction in 2018/2019 for £101,400 with the support of the Friends of the British Library (Collections Trust) and funding from the Library's Grant in Aid budget.

The *Breviarium Romanum glagoliticum* has been catalogued and is now IA.21702.



# The Granville Archive

The Granville Archive comprises the papers of several generations of the Leveson-Gower family, including the papers of the first and second Lords Granville, both of whom held important political and diplomatic offices. The archive consists of three main parts: first, the papers of Granville Leveson-Gower (1721–1803) and his third wife, the political hostess Susanna Leveson-Gower (1742–1805); second, the papers of Granville Leveson-Gower, 1st Earl Granville (1773–1846), British Ambassador to Russia and France; and third, the papers of Granville George Leveson-Gower, second Earl Granville (1815–1891), Foreign Secretary three times under William Ewart Gladstone. The bulk of the archive is contained within the papers of the first and second Lords Granville. The papers of Granville and Susanna Leveson-Gower make up the smaller part of the archive, but they

include some important material relating to the American War of Independence and to the French Revolution.

The Granville Archive was acquired by private sale in 2018/2019 for £1,650,000 after a major external fundraising campaign. Funding came from the National Heritage Memorial Fund (NHMF), the Friends of the British Library (Collections Trust), the Friends of the National Libraries, the Bernard H. Breslauer Endowment, the Shaw Fund, the Blakeney Fund, the Eccles Centre for American Studies, the Library's Grant in Aid budget, and a private donor.

The cataloguing of the archive has been funded from the Library's Grant in Aid budget and from a restricted fund and was half way to completion by the end of March 2020.



# The Boosey & Hawkes Archive

The business archive of the British music publisher Boosey & Hawkes and its international affiliates contains manuscript scores, proofs, correspondence, contracts and ephemera dating from about 1880 to 1980. Since the early 20th century, Boosey & Hawkes has published the works of major composers such as Igor Stravinsky, Béla Bartók, Richard Strauss, Sergei Rachmaninov, Sergei Prokofiev, Aaron Copland, Sir Edward Elgar, Frederick Delius, Roger Quilter, Gerald Finzi, Gustav Holst, John Ireland, Dame Ethel Mary Smyth, Ralph Vaughan Williams, Benjamin Britten and Sir Peter Maxwell Davies. The archive contains extensive correspondence with and on behalf of these major composers which changes our understanding of the financial and contractual arrangements made between the composers and their publishers. It also shows the

work undertaken by the publishers in promoting their works in the concert hall and wider afield. In addition to being the publisher of the works of major composers, Boosey & Hawkes was also the pre-eminent publisher of brass and military band music, parlour songs and other more parochial genres which are all represented in the archive.

The Library purchased the Boosey & Hawkes Archive in 2015/2016 in a private sale for a negotiated price of £800,000 with funding from its Grant in Aid budget.

Cataloguing is in progress and is being funded from the Library's Grant in Aid budget. The Directors sub-series which makes up about a sixth of the entire archive is now MS Mus.1813/2/1/1-301.



## The Michael Palin Archive



The comedian, actor, writer and television presenter Michael Palin (b. 1943) is best known for being one of the six members of Monty Python, who created the cult series *Monty Python's Flying Circus*, first broadcast on the BBC between 1969 and 1974. From the late 1980s, Palin began to focus on travel writing and gained a high reputation as a travel writer and documentary-maker. He has also written and created documentary films on art history, has published one play and several novels. The collection represents the archive of Michael Palin's literary and creative career and includes over 50 'Python Notebooks' containing drafts, working material and personal reflections relating to Palin's Monty Python writing. It also includes his personal diaries up to 2005 and project files comprising material relating to his film, television and literary work, including correspondence, drafts and annotated scripts relating to subsequent Python projects.

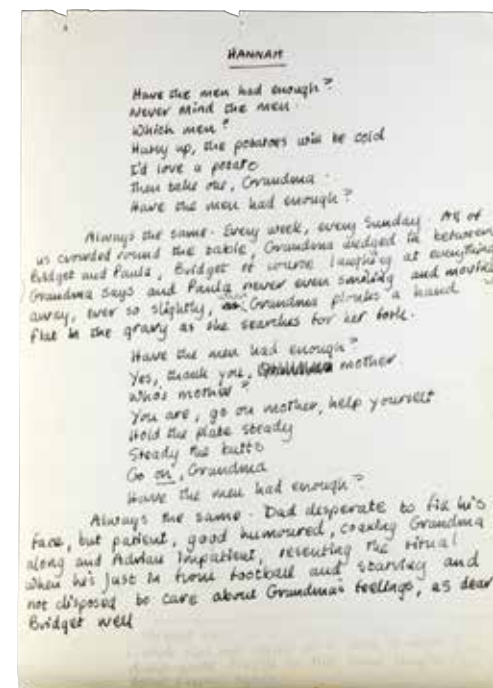
The archive of Michael Palin was acquired by donation in 2016/2017. Michael Palin also paid for the cataloguing of the archive after its arrival at the Library, and the archive is now Add MS 89284.

A selection of documents from the archive following Michael Palin's career from the mid-1960s to the late 1980s was displayed in the Library's Treasures Gallery in 2018.

## The Margaret Forster Archive

The near-complete archive of Margaret Forster (1938–2016), author, among other works, of *Georgy Girl* (1965) and *Diary of an Ordinary Woman* (2003), contains her personal diaries, manuscripts and typescript drafts of published and unpublished works, adaptations for film, radio and television, and correspondence of a personal and professional nature. Forster's writing process is well documented in the archive, with successive revised drafts existing for almost all works. For many books there are also notes, illuminating correspondence with agents and editors, and sometimes proofs, which together present a comprehensive picture of the creative process from initial ideas up until publication. Four unpublished novels have been identified among Forster's papers, including her first attempt at a novel *Green Dusk for Dreams* from 1960. Among the special correspondence are letters from high-profile British writers including A S Byatt, Jonathan Coe, Carmen Callil, Sebastian Faulks, John Fowles, Penelope Fitzgerald, Alan Hollinghurst, Hilary Mantel, Claire Tomalin and Graham Swift.

The archive of Margaret Forster was acquired by private sale for £25,000 in 2017/2018 with funding from the Library's Grant in Aid budget. The archive has been catalogued and is now Add MS 89408.



## The Olwyn Hughes Archive

The archive of Olwyn Hughes (1928–2016), literary agent and sister of the poet Ted Hughes, includes over 100 unpublished letters from Ted Hughes to his sister as well as substantial correspondence from other authors, including Seamus Heaney, Doris Lessing, Henry Williamson and Emma Tennant. It provides a rich resource for scholars researching the life, work and legacy of Hughes, Sylvia Plath and of the significant interplay between their respective oeuvres. The archive reveals the underlying influence of a literary agent on orchestrating the development, reception, output, presentation and subsequent reputation of some of the authors Olwyn Hughes represented. The material builds on the Library's collection strengths, including the Ted Hughes Archive, the Sylvia Plath material and

the archives of other literary agents. Olwyn Hughes had a considerable influence on the life and career of her younger brother, Ted. Upon the death of Ted's first wife Sylvia Plath in 1963 Olwyn abandoned her life in Paris and returned to England to support her brother. She subsequently founded a literary agency and became the guardian not only of Ted Hughes's work, but also that of Sylvia Plath. Olwyn and Ted were extremely close and the archive reflects their deep personal attachment as well as the business side of their relationship.

The Olwyn Hughes Archive was acquired by private sale for £195,000 in 2017/2018 with funding from the Library's Grant in Aid budget. Cataloguing of the archive is ongoing.



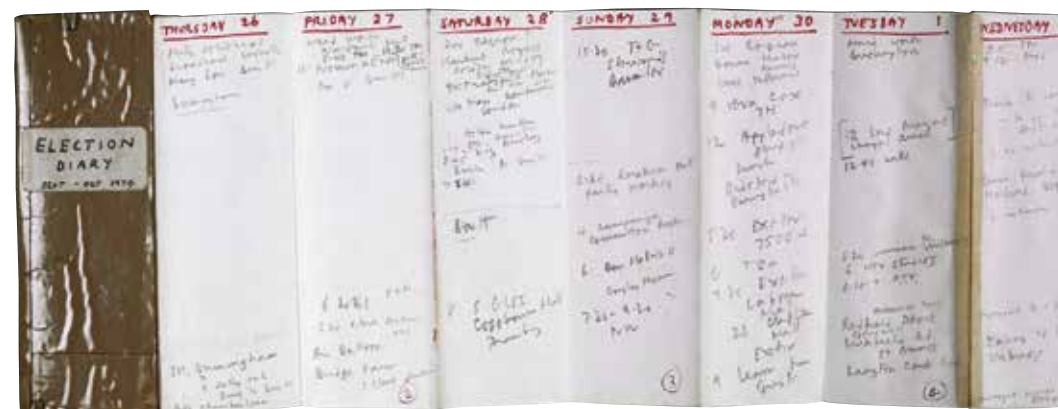
## The Tony Benn Archive

The archive of the politician, writer and diarist Tony Benn (1925–2014), Labour's longest-serving MP, comprises diaries (both audio and transcript, daily thoughts and reflections in diaries kept both in and out of Parliament), papers from his ministerial career, constituency papers, political correspondence (e.g. arranged by particular subjects including the 1975 Common Market referendum, the Falklands War, the Gulf War, Stop the War, and also distributed within the other categories of material), Labour Party files (covering some of the pre-War history of the Labour Party, both in Bristol and nationwide, also Benn's chairmanship of the Party in 1971–1972, his campaigns for the leadership and deputy leadership, and particularly party policy and organisation in the 1980s), speeches and articles (including many unpublished and never given),

scrapbooks and press cuttings over forty years; and around 2,000 political pamphlets covering a huge variety of topics. While most of the archive is paper-based, it also contains a significant amount of audio-visual material.

The Benn Archive will be hugely valuable for current and future generations of researchers into post-war British politics and society, into the Labour Party and the labour movement, as well as into the long and influential career of Tony Benn himself. It is a very substantial addition to the Library's growing collection of contemporary archives in the field of politics, campaigning and activism.

The Tony Benn Archive was acquired for the nation under the Acceptance in Lieu (AiL) Scheme in 2018/2019.



## The Mervyn Peake Visual Archive

The Visual Archive of the writer Mervyn Peake (1911–1968) complements the Mervyn Peake Archive acquired in 2010 and reunites the two archives of Mervyn Peake's work. While the Mervyn Peake Archive acquired by the Library in 2010 is broadly literary in content, it contains a substantial amount of visual material, including Peake's original drawings for *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* and *Alice Through the Looking-Glass* as well as printing plates and proofs of illustrations. The Visual Archive now adds to the material in the collection since 2010 and contains unpublished material and rough sketches which are key to understanding Peake's artistic and literary development. It features Peake's illustrations for classic works of literature including *Treasure Island*, *Household Tales* by the Brothers Grimm, *The Hunting of the Snark* and *Dr Jekyll and*

*Mr Hyde*, together with illustrations for his own novels (including *Gormenghast*), children's books, plays, poetry and television projects. The archive also includes drawings of famous literary, theatrical and artistic figures. Reuniting both halves of the Peake Archive will enable scholars to trace the creative genesis of Peake's highly acclaimed children's book *Captain Slaughterboard Drops Anchor* (1939), for example.

The Mervyn Peake Visual Archive was purchased after a major fundraising campaign for £513,823 in 2018/2019. Funding came from the National Heritage Memorial Fund (NHMF), the Art Fund, the Friends of the National Libraries, the Friends of the British Library (Collections Trust) and the Library's Grant in Aid budget.



## Lewis Carroll's *Through the Looking-Glass*, 1893

Lewis Carroll (1832–1898) exerted very strict quality control over his publications, particularly over the printing of the illustrations in his books. He received six copies of this particular printing of *Through the Looking-Glass* from his publishers, and this copy contains a large number of annotations regarding quality, noting over-printing of illustrations, unsatisfactory paper colour and poor folding which resulted in text appearing in the wrong place on the page.

When 60 copies of the 1,000 copy print run had already been sold, Carroll purchased the remaining 940 copies, had them bound in inferior cloth and donated them to good causes. He then asked his publishers, Macmillan, to issue a printed apology asking the 60 purchasers to return their faulty copies for a replacement. As a result of Carroll's intervention, only four copies of this edition in the original cloth are thought to survive. Unlike the copies of the print run that were sent to good causes, however, this copy is bound in superior red cloth, tooled in gold, with all edges gilt. This unique copy holds significant research value for the printing history of Carroll's works and provides a valuable addition to the Library's unparalleled collection of Alice-related material in print and manuscript.

Lewis Carroll's *Through the Looking-Glass* was purchased at auction for £39,000 in 2018/2019 with funding from a restricted fund and the Library's Grant in Aid budget. The volume was displayed in the Library's *Cats on the Page* exhibition shortly after acquisition and will also be part of the UK tour of this exhibition. It is catalogued and is now C.194.a.1428.

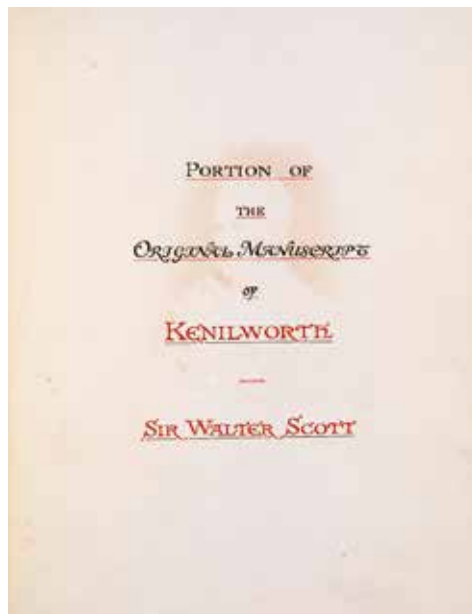




## Autograph manuscript leaves from Walter Scott's *Kenilworth*

These two leaves from the original manuscript of the novel *Kenilworth* by Sir Walter Scott (1771–1832) include the end of Chapter III and beginning of Chapter IV. They are two of the pages that had been removed from the autograph manuscript before it was acquired by the British (Museum) Library in 1855. They were given by Scott's publisher John Ballantyne (d. 1821) to the geologist William Edmund Logan. Reuniting these leaves with the original manuscript is of significant benefit to the public and academic researchers.

The *Kenilworth* leaves were acquired at auction for £16,041 in 2016/2017 with funding from the Friends of the British Library (Collections Trust) and the Library's Grant in Aid budget. The leaves have been catalogued and are now Add MS 89229.



## Updates on previous acquisitions

In this second edition of *Intellectual Heritage for Everyone*, we would like to provide updates on some of the acquisitions which featured in the first edition, covering the years 2013–2015. Since these acquisitions joined the British Library's collections, they have been made available to a worldwide audience in a number of ways, including through cataloguing, digitisation, scholarly articles and online resources.

The extensive **George Canning and Canning Family Papers** have been fully catalogued, and the material is available as Add MS 89143 (George Canning Papers), Add MS 89177 (Ulick de Burgh Papers) and MSS EUR F699 (Charles and Charlotte Canning Papers). The papers can be ordered via Explore Archives and Manuscripts and consulted in the Manuscripts Reading Room.

The equally large **D'Oyly Carte Opera Company Archive** has been fully catalogued as Add MS 89231 and can be ordered via Explore Archives and Manuscripts and consulted in the Manuscripts Reading Room. An event to celebrate the completion of the cataloguing project was held in September 2018. This was followed by a display of material from the collection in the Library's Treasures Gallery between September 2019 and January 2020.

**W H Auden's notebook** of 1939 has been catalogued and is now Add MS 89035. It can be ordered via Explore Archives and Manuscripts and consulted in the Manuscripts Reading Room. Twelve images of the journal are also available as part of the Library's online resource *Discovering Literature: 20th Century*: [bl.uk/collection-items/w-h-audens-journal-entry-for-1-september-1939](https://www.bl.uk/collection-items/w-h-audens-journal-entry-for-1-september-1939).

The **Bowes Playing Cards** are the subject of an entry in the Library's Maps and Views blog which also contains a selection of images: [blogs.bl.uk/magnificentmaps/2014/10/new-acquisition-the-bowes-playing-cards-of-1590.html](https://blogs.bl.uk/magnificentmaps/2014/10/new-acquisition-the-bowes-playing-cards-of-1590.html).

The **Catholicon Anglicum** was the subject of an article by Dr James Freeman published in the *eBLJ* in 2016: [bl.uk/eblj/2016articles/pdf/ebljarticle52016.pdf](https://www.bl.uk/eblj/2016articles/pdf/ebljarticle52016.pdf).

Stephen Gardiner's *A tractise declaryng and plainly prouyng, that the pretended marriage of priestes, and professed persones, is no mariage, but altogether unlawful (London, 1554)*, was the focus of the PhD thesis *The Life and Theology of Bishop John Ponet (1516–1556)* completed in 2018 by the Rev Dr Mark Earngey and supervised by Professor Diarmaid MacCulloch.

The important late 15th-century copy of **Nizami's** famous Persian poem, the *Khamsah* ('quintet') from Sultanate India is now catalogued as Or.16969. Anticipating demands for international loans we are currently individually mounting the 39 paintings. Meanwhile the *Khamsah* was the subject of a major presentation on Sultanate painting at *Connected Courts: Art of the South Asian Sultanates* held at Oxford in September 2019.

The **Ruth Praver Jhabvala Papers** are the main focus of an AHRC Collaborative PhD Studentship, hosted by the British Library and the University of Exeter. The cataloguing of the Papers is part of the PhD and is nearing completion.

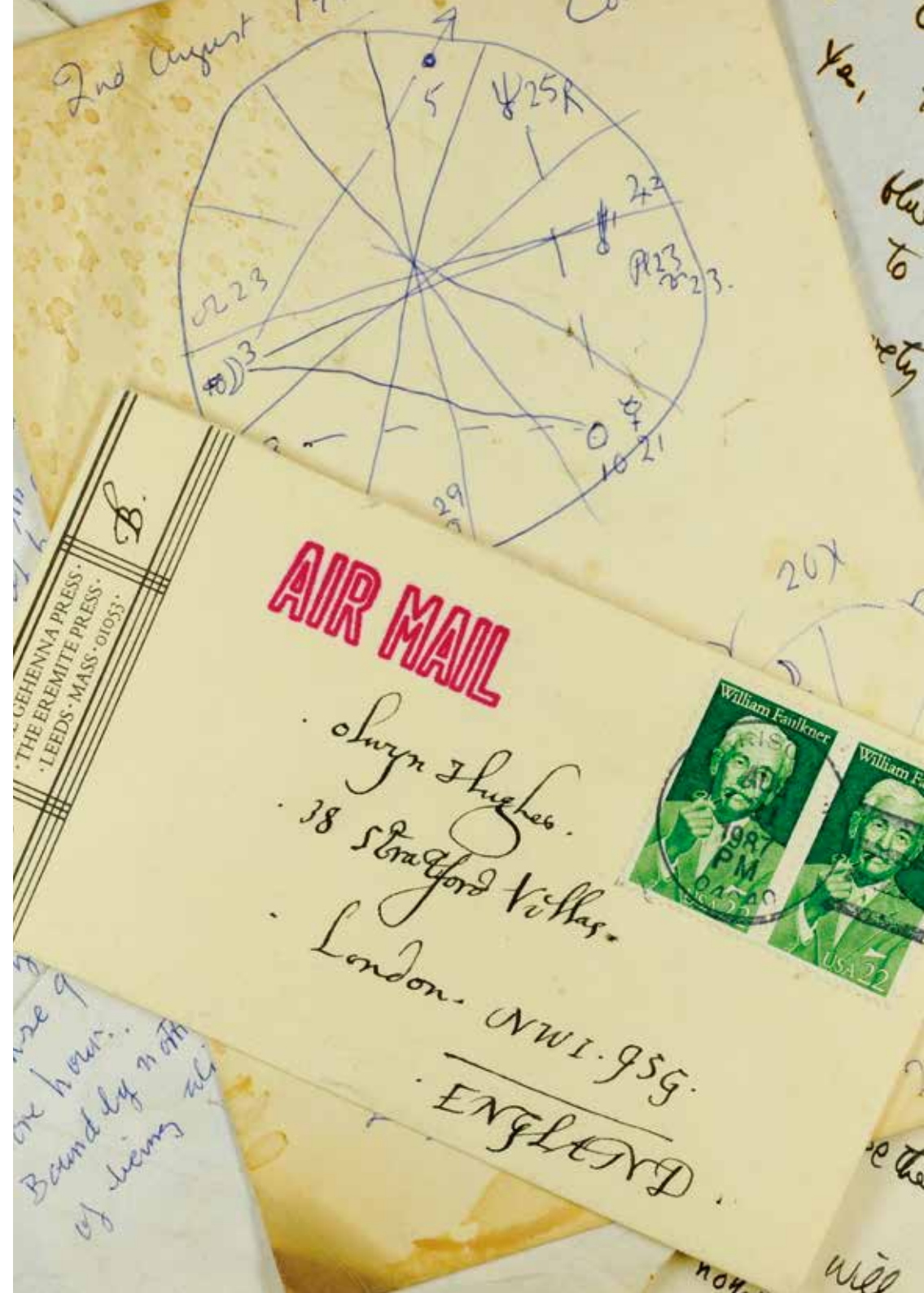
Pauline McGonagle's project is focussed on the idea of 'disinheritance' in the writings of Ruth Praver Jhabvala and has featured on the Library's website in a Collaborative Project Case Study: [bl.uk/case-studies/pauline-mcgonagle](http://bl.uk/case-studies/pauline-mcgonagle).

The collection has been discussed in two articles:  
Pauline McGonagle, 'A Transnational History of a Writer in Four Packages', *Wasafiri Journal*, vol. 34, 2019, issue 3. [www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/02690055.2019.1613006](http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/02690055.2019.1613006)

Pauline McGonagle, 'Researcher's Notebook: My First Encounter with Ruth Praver Jhabvala', *The Still Point Journal*, February 22, 2017. <https://thestillpointjournal.com/2017/02/22/researchers-notebook-my-first-encounter-with-ruth-praver-jhabvala/>

There has also been international media coverage of the Archive:  
**Article by Hasan Suroor in the Business Standard, India** (July 2018)  
**Article by Danish Khan in the Mumbai Mirror** (July 2018).

An event, *Ruth Praver Jhabvala: A Celebration*, was held in the Library's Knowledge Centre in July 2018 with speakers including James Ivory, Anita Desai, Simon Callow and Felicity Kendal. A recording of the event can be watched on YouTube: [youtube.com/watch?v=tzwl0Ck6ReA](https://youtube.com/watch?v=tzwl0Ck6ReA)





Did you know that...  
I shall himself at a...  
& one of his...  
I shall...

I have been feeling  
as a new sort of...  
your...  
a...  
which I am...  
it seems...  
I have...  
more the...  
I cannot help...  
a little - the...  
to know is...