Introduction

The archives holds institutional records, collections of private papers and archives of organisations in a range of formats, visual as well as written, such as letters and papers, manuscript, parchment, photograph, audio-visual and digital media and microfilms, dating from the 18th century to present day. The collections also include rare prints and artefacts dating from 16th century to 1960s.

The Archives provides convenient access to a wealth of primary sources for enhancing knowledge of history and conducting original research. Located on the 2nd Floor of the Mile End Library, the Archives Reading Room provides a dedicated quiet study space for anyone wishing to view items held in the Archives. Email archives@qmul.ac.uk, telephone 020 7882 3873 or visit the website www.library.qmul.ac.uk/archives for more information.

Modules and Research Degrees

The archives holds sources that may be useful for students or researchers studying the following modules, courses and research degrees:

Undergraduate

- Ideas and Practice in Geography and Environmental Science: GEG4002
- Reinventing Britain: GEG4106
- Health, Biomedicine and Society: GEG5113B
- Cultural Geographies: GEG5126
- Society and Space: GEG5127
- Gender and Development: GEG6101
- Victorian London: Economy, Society and Culture: GEG6117
- Geographies of Democracy: GEG6133
- Religion, belief and space: GEG6135

MA

- Art, performance and the city: GEG7102
- Empire, race and Immigration: GEG7109
- Cities, space and power: GEG7123
- Migration and Mobilities: GEG7129
- Retheorizing development futures: GEG7132

Research Degrees

- Culture, Space and Power
- Economy, Development and Social Justice
- Health, place and population
Catalogues and Finding Aids

Collections can be searched via the Archives Catalogue: http://archives-catalogue.library.qmul.ac.uk/CalmView/default.aspx Digital records and online exhibitions are available through the archives website http://www.library.qmul.ac.uk/archives For some uncatalogued collections only a summary description is available in the Archives Catalogue. Alternative finding aids such as draft box lists are available. Email the archives to request a copy: archives@qmul.ac.uk or for advice about your area of research.

A-Z of Relevant Collections

Benson, Stella (1892-1933): Papers and correspondence of the English feminist and writer related to her time living in China, including a League of Nations investigation report into the trafficking of women and children in Hong Kong, fl.1930-1947. (Ref No: PP1).

Blick-Jones (c.1912-2000s): Papers and documents from Andrew Blick and George Jones’ political research whilst writing several books about the Office of the British Prime Minister and their aides, alongside other material relating to their teaching and research. Includes transcribed interviews with officials who worked at 10 Downing Street from 1912 to the late 1990s, and collected published material and reports about British Prime Ministers back to the early 18th Century. (Ref No: PP48).

Brooke, Eileen Minnie (d.1989): Papers related to Brooke's work as a pioneer and supporter of public health orientation in mental health programmes, c.1880-1977, including material from international conferences and research concerning mental health issues and suicide as a mental health issue, alongside World Health Organisation reports. (Ref No: PP32).


Chesworth, Donald Piers (1923–1991): Papers of the politician and administrator, c.1906-1991, concerning his involvement in the Labour Party, role on London County Council in North Kensington in 1960s, including gathering evidence against Peter Rachman, and interest in community relations, race relations, equality, housing, living conditions. Documents his commitment to federalism and international socialism including participation in the International Union of Socialist Youth in the 1940s and work in Tanganyika, Mauritius, and War on Want and World Political Action Trust 1960s-1970s. Records his involvement in the voluntary sector and various educational bodies such as Toynbee Hall in 1970s-1980s. (Ref No: PP2).

Delf Smith, Ellen Marion (1883–1980): Papers of the botantist 1895-1974 and former lecturer at Westfield College. Documents her experiences of academic life in early 20th at the all women’s college and challenges she faced establishing botany and science teaching. (Ref No: PP3).


Galbraith, Winifred (fl.1917-1940): Papers and photographs of the Westfield College alumna, relating to her missionary work in China at the I Fang Girls College, c.1920s-1940s. Also contains manuscripts for an unpublished novel, and an autobiography, both focussing on experiences of missionary work in China. (Ref No: PP45).

Geography Department Administrative Records, Queen Mary University of London (1923-2005): Documents, correspondence and images from the Geography department, related to teaching, courses, field trips, staff and students. (Acc No: M113).

Lytelton, General Sir Neville Gerald (1845–1931): Papers of the Lyttelton and Grenfell families, c.1840-1960. Letters and photographs documenting Neville Lyttelton’s army service in India, Africa, Ireland, during late Victorian and Edwardian period, provide an insight into colonial history. Letters to and from family and friends document service in the the Zulu War, Boar War, First World War, and Second World War and the impact on those at home. Photographs, sketches, poetry, and papers relating to the plight of Belgian refugees and help afforded to them by Lady Lyttelton. Letters with eminent friends and politicians, family photographs and other ephemera from late Victorian and Edwardian period. (Ref No: PP5).

Maynard, Constance (1849-1935): Writings of the pioneering Mistress of Westfield College, dating from 1866-1935, provide an excellent source for the study of religion, gender and sexuality, and education in the Victorian and Edwardian periods. Diaries and an unpublished autobiography chart her education at Girton where she was amongst the first generation of women to enter higher education, her role in establishing Westfield College, her emotional reactions to events in her life and her adoption of Stephanie ‘Effie’ Anton. (Ref No: PP7).

National Union of Tailors and Garment Workers (c.1889-1989): Administrative records of the trade union, including correspondence with organisations, manufacturers, other unions, committee minutes, c.1889–1989. Also includes publications such as the Garment Worker. (Ref No: NUTGW).

The People’s Palace (1728-1987): Papers reveal the emergence of a scheme to establish a ‘palace of delights’ in east London in the 1880s which lead to the opening of the People’s Palace in 1886. Documents the entertainment and educational programmes and facilities provided until its closure in the early 1950s. Charting connections with the community and institutions such as the Beaumont Institute, Drapers Company and royal patronage. Covers management and finances, and the impact of key events such as the opening ceremony of the Queen’s Hall by Queen Victoria, the devastating fire of 1931 and construction of a new palace building. Institutional records provide an insight in art and culture provision in East London in the nineteenth and early twentieth century. The Palace Journal, newsletter of the People’s Palace which ran from 1887 to 1895, provides an excellent snapshot of East London at that time. (Ref No: QMC/PP).

People’s Palace Projects (2008): Papers, reports and film of an independent arts charity based at Queen Mary University of London and founded in 1996, aiming to advance the practice and understanding of art for social justice by working with a wide range of local communities in the UK, Brazil, Africa and beyond. Documents participatory arts projects, performances, educational initiatives and debates that brought artists, activists, academics and audiences together for projects that address a wide range of social justice and human rights issues. (Ref No: QMC/PPP).

Queen Mary College (1887-1989): Includes records of former bodies East London College, and East London Technical College which developed out of the People’s Palace Technical Schools, 1880s-1989. Papers and photographs chart the incorporation of the College into the University of London, grant of a royal charter, growth of the institution and it’s impact on the local area and higher education. Institutional records contain records relating to the People’s Palace from the 1950s to present day. (Ref No: QMC).

Queen Mary University of London (1989-present): Records of Queen Mary and Westfield College and the current institution. (Ref No: QMW).

Queen Mary University of London Publicity Photographs (c.1978-2005): Photographs produced for prospectuses and other College publications, including images from Geography department relating to teaching and activities, c.1990s-2000s. (Acc No: M94).

Schmitthoff, Clive Macmillan (1903–1990): Papers and photographs of the law lecturer, and papers of the Auerbach family, in English and German c1880-1990. Documents his career, from the revocation of his right to practice as an advocate in Germany on the grounds of being Jewish, his flight to UK in 1933, retraining in law at LSE, internment during the Second World War for being an ‘enemy alien’, war time service, and subsequent academic career as a leading expert in international and commercial trade law. Also includes the papers of Erna Auerbach, an art historian, and the Auerbach family c.1880s-c1960s, a German Jewish family of lawyers, including records describing their plight for post-war restitution. (Ref No: PP20).

Skeel, Caroline (1872–1951): Papers of the classicist, and professor of history 1850-1964, documenting her education at Girton College and subsequent career at Westfield College. Includes papers related to her connection with the Church Missionary Society. (Ref No: PP11/CS).

Temple, William (1881–1944): Letters before he became archbishop of Canterbury c.1901-1936, including discussions on religious beliefs and the church. (Ref No: PP13).

Westfield College (early 16th century-2010): Institutional records of the former women’s college, chart its establishment as a pioneering higher education college for women in Hampstead in 1882, its incorporation into the University of London, the introduction of male students in 1964, and merger with Queen Mary College in 1989. Reveals the role of religion, a commitment which differentiated the college from contemporaries, and documents international connections, namely with Christian colleges established by missionaries and former students in India and China. Provides an excellent insight into women’s history society in Victorian and Edwardian periods, class, gender, and religion. Documenting higher education for the first generations of women to experience it, the changing relationships between staff and students as the college expanded, and development of the curriculum to include sciences. Includes reminiscences and memorabilia from former staff and students. (Ref No: WFD).