

Please note, this guide has not been updated since it was published. We therefore recommend that you also check the Archives catalogue (<http://archives.collections.ed.ac.uk>) and Print catalogue (<http://discovered.ed.ac.uk>) in addition to using this guide.

Rare books, manuscripts and archives are held at the Centre for Research Collections within the Main Library, University of Edinburgh.

Please see our webpages for more information:
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Resources in Edinburgh University Library for the Caribbean and for the study of Black and Asian communities in Britain

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The Library's general collections are, by and large, its post-1920 collections of printed books and pamphlets, periodicals, audio-visual and electronic materials, which are housed in the Main and Faculty Libraries on 23 separate sites. They serve the University's nine Faculties of Arts, Divinity, Education, Law, Medicine, Music, Science & Engineering, Social Sciences, and Veterinary Medicine. Special collections are made up of the Library's historic (pre-1920) general collections and named specialist collections of manuscripts, printed books and maps, University of Edinburgh theses, the University of Edinburgh Archives, and the Lothian Health Services Archives. Most of the special collections are housed in the Main Library, with some specialist collections held in New College (Divinity) Library and the Reid Music Library.

Materials on the Caribbean and on Black and Asian people and communities in the UK are to be found throughout the Library's collections, none of which is dedicated or even focused on the Caribbean or on Black and Asian communities. These areas are, or have been until recently, researched and taught in wider contexts, such as Commonwealth and American History, Social and Political Studies, Ecology and Resource Management, and Tropical Veterinary Medicine. Some of the Library's major catalogues are still accessible only in manual formats, and many of the historical collections are shelved in non-classified sequences with no subject guides to assist geographic or topical searches.

With some exceptions, these subject areas do not represent a major interest within the University, and this is reflected in the Library's collections. It is possible only to give a summary view, but this should enable users at least to begin profitable searches in the Library and its catalogues.

Special Collections

Special collections are made up of the Library's historic (pre-1920) general collections and named specialist collections of manuscripts, printed books and maps, University of Edinburgh theses, the University of Edinburgh Archives, and the Lothian Health Services Archives. Most of the special collections are housed in the Main Library, with some specialist collections held in New College (Divinity) Library and the Reid Music Library.

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Manuscripts

The following individual manuscripts, including microform sets, contain relevant material.

West Indies

Royal Navy. Naval Office shipping lists for the West Indies, excluding Jamaica, 1678-1825. Reels 14-15. (Microfilm, 2 reels.) [Mic.P.1332-1333]

The Senhouse papers; [material relating to the West Indies, 1762-1831 in the Cumbria County Council Archives Department]. Filmed at the Record Office, The Castle, Carlisle, 1975-76. (Microfilm, 2 reels.) East Ardsley, W. Yorkshire, 1977. [Mic.P. 1334-1335]

Some account of life in the West Indies, in letters of J. Dalzel, 1774, 1778. [Dk.7.52/53, 60]

Letter about recruitment of troops for the West Indies, from Colonel B. Gordon to J. Meyrick, 19 February 1777. [Gen. 886*/8, no. 3]

Journal of a voyage on H. M. S. Nile to Bermuda, Antigua, Barbados, Trinidad and Jamaica, by William Jardine RN, 17 April - 1 July 1860 and 25 December 1860 - 11 March 1861. [Dk.6.20/316]

McCusker (John James) The rum trade and the balance of payments of the thirteen Continental Colonies, 1650-1775. (Unpublished PhD dissertation, University of Pittsburgh, 1970.) [Mic.P.1039]

Barbados

Barbados mentioned in letters from S. Lewis to Mrs W. P. Hinds,

1835-1838. Typed transcript. [Gen. 1429/8]

Letter by Barclay Harper of Barbados to Sir W. Jardine saying that he is not pleased with Mr Bishop's method of teaching him to skin birds, [?Edinburgh], 29 August 1826. [Dk.6.20/136]

[?Barclay] Harper [?of Barbados] mentioned in a letter by R. K. Grenville to Sir W. Jardine, Edinburgh 16 November 1831. [Dk.6.20/129]

Bermuda

Letter by M. Boulton about minting copper coins for Bermuda, 6 August 1804. [La.II.453*]

Cuba

Letter by C. Mackenzie, a commissioner under the slave trade restriction treaties, to Professor Robert Jameson, 12 December 1832. [Gen. 129 (Ja.9)]

Diary of a visit to Cuba by Professor J. H. Ashworth, 1930. [Gen. 857]

Dominica

Letter from Dominica by Archibald(?) Gloster, Judge in Dominica BWI, to Rear Admiral Sir Charles P. Durham, 28 May 1815. [La.II.79]

Grenada

Letters (3) about Grenada from A. J. Alexander to Professor J. Black, mentioning mineralogical experiments, local cures for yaws, negro medicine, lime from coral, glass and sugar cane, water- spouts, thanking for sending books, and giving a journal of rainfall for September 1772 - March 1773. Grenada (and n.p.), April and July 1773, and n.d. [Gen. 873/1/58-75]

Capture of Grenada by the French mentioned in a letter by J. Cross, 11 October 1779. [Dk.1.30 fol. 169]

Guadeloupe

Copies of letters (20) in French from Governor Robert Melville to Jaham Valmont, 1760. [Gen. 863/2]

Jamaica

Royal Navy. Naval Office shipping lists for Jamaica, 1683-1818. Reels 6-7. (Microfilm, 2 reels). [Mic.P.1330-1331]

Account of a visit to Jamaica by the Reverend Francis Borland, 1700 [La.III.262 p. 27]

The Gale-Morant [plantation owners in Jamaica] papers 1731-1925 in the Library of the University of Exeter; introduction by Richard B.

Sheridan. (Microfilm, 2 reels.) Easr Ardsley, West Yorkshire, 1977. [Mic.P.1328-1329]

Letters (6) from Archibald Sinclair and (2) from Lewis Gordon to Sir R. Gordon of Gordonstoun, written from Jamaica 1759-1761. [La.II.498]

Letter from George Johnstone to Katherine Balfour of Port Royal, Jamaica, 25 March 1763. [La.II.73/86]

Vassall (William) sugar plantation owner, Jamaica. The Vassall letter books 1769-1800. (Reproduced from the originals in Sheffield City Libraries.) Introduction by Walter Minchinton. East Ardsley, W. Yorkshire, 1963. (Microfilm, 1 reel.) [Mic.P.1336]

Letter books etc. of Sir Archibald Campbell of Inverneil, 1776-1784 (microfilm). [Mic.M.1430]

Letters and papers relating to public affairs in Jamaica 1781-1804 (17 items.) [La.II.481]

A Mr Steele, resident in Jamaica, advised by Professor William Cullen to consult John Hunter, surgeon in London, 1784. [Dc.4.101-3]

Meteorological journals kept in Jamaica by John Lindsay, 1785-1792. 89 ff. [Dc.6.96]

Letter from the Duke of Portland praising the conduct of the Earl of Balcarres in Jamaica, 11 January 1796. [AAF]

Letters (2) of Alexander Lindsay, 6th Earl of Balcarres, written from Jamaica, 1796, 1798. [Dk.7.63 nos 4-5]

Letter from Jaques, Laing & Ewing to C. Stewart about a consignment of books unsaleable in Jamaica. Jamaica 15 July 1797. The ship mentioned was the Rogelle. [In La.III.353]

Problems of running a sugar estate on Jamaica, natural history specimens from Jamaica, etc. mentioned in a letter from R. Parnell to Sir W. Jardine. Montego Bay, 22 March 1840. [Dk.6.20/273]

John Crockett of Jamaica mentioned in a letter by M. J. McKen to Sir W. Jardine, Golden Grove, Port Morant, Jamaica, 26 March 1841. [Dc.6.20/225]

Montserrat, Leeward Islands

Delvin estate papers, Montserrat, Leeward Islands, 1812-38. (Reproduced from the original manuscripts accumulated by Sir J. Talbot and now in the archives at Ruddington Park, Harrogate. Microfilm, 1 reel.) East Ardsley, W. Yorkshire, 1970. [Mic.P.1327]

St Vincent

État présent de l' Isle del St Vincent, 1763. [In Dc.1.67]

Slavery, the slave trade and the anti-slavery movement

The slave trade in West Africa mentioned in letters of A. Dalzel. 1764 [DK.7.52/14-19, 21, 23, 30-31, 51, 54, 105-106]

Letter to R. Oswald inquiring if he would undertake an engagement to deliver negroes for a French business house. 1763 [Dk.1.30, f.98]

The papers of Sir Thomas Fowell Buxton 1786-1845, [from the originals in Rhodes House Library, University of Oxford, and as listed in Calendar of The Papers of Sir Thomas Fowell Buxton 1786-1845 by Patricia M. Pugh (List & Index Society, Special Series vol. 13, 1980)]. (Microfilm, 17 reels.) [Mic.P.1372-1388]

Letter from J. G. Woodhouse to J. H. Browne about G. J. Thorkelin's essay on the slave trade, 1788. [La.III.379/103]

Fragment of a report of a speech on the abolition of the slave trade. N.d. (watermark 1794). [La.II.648/322]

Letters (2) from J. H. Browne about G. J. Thorkelin's essay on the slave trade, 1799 & n.d. [La.II.379/104]

Grant of freedom and manumission by William Phillip to John Pierre his negro slave in Grenada, West Indies. 13 May 1811. [La.II 79]

Letter about slavery from T. Perronet Thompson to the Rev. R. Watson, 19 April 1824. [Dc.4.101-3]

Inquiries concerning slave trade ships at Honfleur mentioned in a letter of D. R. Moriwier to Sir C. Stuart, Baron de Rothesay, [Paris], 22 October n.y. (before 1828) [Dk.6.25/30]

Slave trade in Liberia mentioned in a letter of R. Hay to Sir C. Stuart, Baron de Rothesay, 4 December 1829. [Dk.6.25/78]

Letter about slavery from Mary Arabin to Sir C. Stuart, Baron de Rothesay, n.p, n.d. (probably Paris, 1829-30). [Dk.6.25/35]

Letter about slavery from G. Thomson to W. Oliphant, 1838. [In Df.9.164]

Estlin papers; minutes of the Clifton and Bristol Auxiliary Ladies Anti-Slavery Society, correspondence of John B. Estlin and Mary Estlin, and printed pamphlets relating to the anti-slavery movement in Britain and the USA, 1840-1884. (Microfilm of the original papers in Dr Williams' Library, London). [Mic.M.742-747]

Africans in the UK

John Wain. MSS of his play Frank (1984) based on the life of Dr Samuel Johnson's negro servant Frank Barber, and notes for its preparation, 1976-1984. Handlist H29. [MS 2867]. ALSO MSS of

Samuel Johnson (1774) and supporting notes, etc. Handlist H29. [MS 2863; 2862.1; 2866; 2875.4; 3124-3125]

Scotland Africa '97 archive. (Records of a year-long Scottish programme and festival 'to strengthen existing ties between Scotland and Africa and to create new channels of understanding and co-operation'.) 1997. Handlist H67. [Gen 1056-1059]

George Shepperson papers. Shepperson (born 1922) was Lecturer in Imperial and American History in the University from 1948 until 1963, and William Robertson Professor of Commonwealth History from 1963 until 1986. His research interests include the African diaspora in the UK and world-wide. One file contains one exchange of letters between C. L. R. James and Shepperson in 1968, a brief autobiographical note by James, the texts of two speeches by James, A national purpose for Caribbean peoples (Edinburgh, February 1964) and Black power: its past, today, and the way ahead (London, August 1967), and an annotated bibliography of James by John Gaffar La Guerre (September 1971)

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Printed Books

The C17, C18 and early C19 collections are Caribbean-rich, in that they include at least half of the contemporary printings listed in the bibliographies in the Cambridge History of the British Empire (12929-1963). This frequency falls off during the late C19 and early C20. The pre-1850 collections are rich also in general collections and individual accounts of travel and exploration, including early atlases, of the British Empire and of the British generally, and the Scots especially, abroad including the Caribbean area, Africa and South Asia.

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Archives

University of Edinburgh Archives

Some of the University's early medical graduates came from British families in the West Indies to study at Edinburgh, the earliest being Thomas Jarvis from Antigua (graduating in 1744), and the next Parker Bennet from St Kitts (in 1745); the third was John Hanbury Taylor from Jamaica in 1751). They and other students often produced dissertations with a Caribbean focus; the Library holds copies of most of these early dissertations, which were all written in Latin until 1834. Native Indian and Black African students have studied at the University of Edinburgh since the early 1870s: the first Indian students identified to date were Aghornath Chattopadyaya from Dacca, Bengal (matriculated 1871, graduated BSc 1875 and DSc 1876), Nanda

Kumar Ray, also from Dacca (matriculated 1873, graduated MB ChM 1878) and Prasanna Kumar Ray, again from Dacca (matriculated 1875, graduated 1876 DSc 1876). The first black African student identified to date was James Africanus Beale Horton from Liberia (graduated MD 1859). However, a former slave from West Africa, Thomas Jenkins, is believed to have attended classes at the University for few months in the 1820s, without graduating, before training elsewhere as a schoolteacher. The University Archives have the records of individual students since the C17; these are accessible offline (except for records of less than 75 years since graduation, which are not accessible at all). Archives of student societies include a centenary booklet of the Edinburgh Indian Association (1883-1983), one file of general archival material of the Association 1903-1911, and three files of legal papers ((1908-1912) concerning a case which came to court in 1912 about the lease of premises at 11 George Square, Edinburgh which the Association occupied in 1913. Summary notes about other student societies can be found in successive issues of the annual Students' Handbook (the 1961/62 issue, for instance, lists the African Association, Edinburgh Ghana Students' Association, Edinburgh Indian Association, Nigeria Union, Pakistan Students' Union, and West Indian Students' Association) and of the weekly Student newspaper. Further information about the Archives as a whole can be found at <http://www.lib.ed.ac.uk/lib/resources/collections/specdivision/eua.shtml>

Lothian Health Service Archive

The Lothian Health Services Archive is a repository for institutional administrative and clinical records, private papers, photographs and objects relating to the past and present of Lothian Health. The Archive is housed in Edinburgh University Library, and is supported by Lothian Health, Lothian University Hospitals NHS Trust, Lothian Primary Care NHS Trust, and West Lothian Healthcare NHS Trust. The Archive includes information on African and Asian staff and students who have worked and studied at the Royal Infirmary Edinburgh and other hospitals in the Lothian area. The LHSA aims to comply with the requirements of the Data Protection Act 1998, and access is given in accordance with the Act and with the practice of the General Record Office for Scotland.

Further information can be found at <http://www.lhsa.lib.ed.ac.uk/>

Centre for the Study of Christianity in the Non-Western World

The Centre is part of the Faculty of Divinity (New College, Edinburgh). Its archive and library holdings include material on the Christian churches in the Caribbean area. Further information on the Centre can be found at <http://www.div.ed.ac.uk/postgrad/centre/index.html>

John Levy Archive (Scottish Studies)

The John Levy Archive is a primary ethnomusicological resource of international importance, and is held in the Sound Archive of the School of Scottish Studies. It consists of nearly 700 original field recordings of music from various parts of the world, several thousand

photographs, and about 20 cine films. There is also Levy's personal collection of approximately 400 commercial LP discs (including some he produced himself), books, papers and miscellaneous artefacts, plus some copies of other fieldworkers' recordings. Levy's field recordings, which are generally of excellent quality, were made on a Nagra-S tape recorder between 1958-1972 in India (223 spools), Sri Lanka (55), Bhutan (48), Taiwan (101), China (81), South Korea (34), Iceland (35) and the UK (107). The scope of the recordings is wide, and features the religious musics of these Asian cultures (and related communities in Britain, including Sufi and Sephardic), as well as court musical traditions and indigenous folk musics. Further information can be found at <http://www.sss.ed.ac.uk/archives/index.html>

General collections

C20 material in the Library's general book and periodical collections sustain undergraduate and postgraduate taught courses on Caribbean history and on Black and Asian communities, race relations and slavery in the Faculties of Arts, Education, Social Sciences and Divinity and Music. Current courses include Caribbean Literature; Postcolonial Poetry; Race, Racism and The Other; and Ethnomusicology. The Reference Collections include basic reference and bibliographic sources, include the Clio World Bibliographical Series, Scarecrow Historical Dictionaries, Europa series on the regions of the world (retaining back sets) which provide the bases for literature searches.

Official publications

The Library has complete sets of British Parliamentary papers since the C18, and of Scottish Parliamentary papers since its re-convention in 2000. These contain much material on Black and Asian communities in Britain and Scotland, on slavery, and on British involvement in the Caribbean region. Access to these series is by the normal published indexes.

Maps

The Library has topographic series in the 1960s, with earlier and later ones in a few cases, of the individual islands and states of the Caribbean area. Atlases and current tourist maps are purchased selectively. These are currently being entered in the Online Catalogue under the RSLP Mapping the World programme.

Peter B. Freshwater

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