The Archives provides convenient access to a wealth of primary sources for conducting original research. We hold the records of Queen Mary University of London and its predecessor bodies, alongside collections of private papers and archives of organisations dating from the 18th century to the present day.

We look after items in a range of formats including letters, manuscripts, photographs, audiovisual, and digital media. The collections also include rare prints and artefacts dating from the 16th century to the 1960s.

The Archives Reading Room, located on the 2nd Floor of the Mile End Library at Queen Mary University of London, provides a dedicated quiet study space for anyone wishing to view items held in the Archives. The Reading Room is open for appointments every Monday-Friday between 9am-4pm.

To search the Archives Catalogue please visit the website archives-catalogue.library.qmul.ac.uk/CalmView/default.aspx

Not all of our collections are fully catalogued. Please contact us if you cannot find what you are looking for.

If you have any questions or would like to book an appointment to see an item from a collection please contact the Archives team via email archives@qmul.ac.uk, telephone 020 7882 3873 or visit the website library.qmul.ac.uk/archives for more information.

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Introduction to History of Emotions

The history of emotions is a field of research that seeks to explore human emotion and the variations in experience, understanding and expression of emotion among cultures and historical periods.

In the last decade, the history of emotions has grown as an area of study with a range of methodological and historiographical approaches now being applied to the subject. Exploration of this research field encompasses a wide geographical area and has a broad historical reach, and has encouraged many multidisciplinary approaches. Scholarly interest in the emotions has also seen interdisciplinary cooperation between historians, sociologists, anthropologists, psychologists, neuroscientists, education specialists and scholars of literature and art.

Research into this subject examines how emotions and their expressions are shaped by culture, how they are learnt or acquired in social contexts, and how emotions shape individuals, communities and national identities. Social norms and rules affect what someone can and may feel (and show) in a given situation, towards certain people or things. Research into the History of Emotions investigates and analyses the effect of these changing and variable norms and rules among different societies and at different historical periods. Studies also examine the impact of family, law, religion, government, and the military on human behaviour. Emotions are said to motivate human action and as a result influence social, economic and political developments. The exploration of the historical significance of emotions shows the impact history has had on the feelings and emotional expression of contemporary societies.
Queen Mary Centre for the History of Emotions

Queen Mary is home to the Queen Mary Centre for the History of Emotions (projects.history.qmul.ac.uk/emotions), launched in November 2008. It is the first research centre in the UK dedicated to the history of emotions. It aims to provide a focus for interactions between social and cultural historians and historians of science and medicine. It also seeks to contribute to policy debates and popular understandings of all aspects of the history of emotions.

Research themes include:

- **Theoretical categories**: passions, affections, sentiments, feelings, emotions
- **The idea of expression**: using the emotional body to read the emotional mind
- **Madness**: passions and pathology in medicine and psychiatry
- **Well-being**: happiness, public health, and emotions as political objects
- **Difference**: how have emotions associated with different races, sexes, and sexual orientations been experienced, categorised, and controlled?
- **Religion**: religious practices and regimes of emotion
- **Law**: the definition, control, and punishment of passions and emotions

**How to use this guide**

This guide provides an overview of collections held in the Queen Mary Archives that relate to the study of the history of emotions. We hold the records of Queen Mary University of London and its predecessor bodies, as well as the papers of individuals including former staff and students.

This guide is organised by research themes, covering Expression, Gender and Sexuality, Law, Mental Health and Wellbeing, and Religion and Race. However, many of our collections lend themselves to research across several of these themes, with referrals to other collections of interest listed at the end of each section. Collection reference numbers can be searched on the Archives Catalogue, where you will find a more detailed description of each collection: archives-catalogue.library.qmul.ac.uk/CalmView/default.aspx
Papers of Performance Artist **Ian Hinchliffe (1942-2010)**, including plans and promotional material alongside photographs capturing his performances and collaborations, with a focus on his durational performances, dating from the 1970s-1980s. (Ref: IH)

Materials relating to the work of Performance Artist, Tattooist and Piercer **Jon John (1983-2017)**. Comprised of artefacts in the form of clothing, props and artwork used in or generated by his performance pieces, with photographs and sketches, dating from 2010-2017. His performances drew on extensive field research in the Middle East, North Africa, and India, where he investigated folk usages of ritual self-injury as forms of secular as well as religious transcendence. His work was also centrally concerned with his intersectional identity as Gitano (Spanish Romani), Basque, and queer. Best known for using his body in situations of ritual suffering, duress, and difficulty in performance, Jon John professed his own investment in the themes of love, romance, tenderness, loss and grief. (Ref: JJ)

Papers, reports and film of Independent Arts Charity **People’s Palace Projects (founded in 1996)** dating from 2008. The charity is based at Queen Mary University of London. Interested in exploring the ways in which the arts can respond to urgent social crises, People’s Palace Projects aims 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. This collection 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. Mainly English, some Portuguese. (Ref: PPP)

You may also be interested in the following collections:

- **Constance Louisa Maynard (1849-1935)** - found in the Gender and Sexuality section
- **Westfield College (early 16th century-2010)** - found in the Gender and Sexuality section
- **Lyttelton and Grenfell (c.1782-1962)** - found in the Mental Health and Wellbeing section
- **People’s Palace (1782-1987)** - found in the Mental Health and Wellbeing section
- **Rudolf Rocker (1873-1958)** - found in the Religion and Race section
Gender and Sexuality

Papers of the pioneering Mistress of Westfield College Constance Louisa Maynard (1849-1935). The collection includes her private writings, such as diaries, an unpublished autobiography and an extensively annotated bible, which chart almost seventy years of her life, dating from 1866-1935. They cover her education at Girton College, where she was amongst the first generation of women to enter higher education, and her role in establishing Westfield College for women. Her Green Book diaries reveal her emotional reactions to and thoughts on events in her life, her Effie diaries focus on her turbulent relationship with her adopted daughter Stephanie 'Effie' Anton, and other diaries such as her travel journals and Sundial diaries focus on particular events or periods of her life. These documents and other papers, including her poetry, reveal her interests and influences, her close relationships with women, and her strong religious beliefs. (Ref: CLM)

Papers of the Botantist Ellen Marion Delf Smith (1883–1980), a lecturer at Westfield College, documenting her experiences of academic life in the early 20th century at the women’s college and the challenges she faced establishing botany and science teaching, dating from 1895-1974. (Ref: EMDS)

Institutional archive of Westfield College, charting 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 its merger with Queen Mary College in 1989, dating from the early 16th century-2010. The archive reveals the role of religion at the college, a commitment which differentiated it from its contemporaries, and documents international connections, namely with Christian colleges established by missionaries and former students in India.
and China. It provides an excellent insight into women’s history in the Victorian and Edwardian periods, 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. The archive also includes reminiscences and memorabilia from former staff and students. (Ref: WFD)

You may also be interested in the following collections:
- Jon John (1983-2017) - found in the Expression section
- Lyttelton and Grenfell (c.1782-1962) - found in the Mental Health and Wellbeing section

Papers and photographs of the Law Lecturer Clive Macmillan Schmitthoff (1903–1990) and the Auerbach family, dating from c.1880-1990. This collection documents his career, from the revocation of his right to practice as an advocate in Germany on the grounds of being Jewish, his internment during the Second World War for being an ‘enemy alien’ and subsequent academic career in international and commercial trade law. The collection also includes the papers of the Auerbach family, a German Jewish family of lawyers, including records describing their plight for post-war restitution. (Ref: CMS)

You may also be interested in the following collections:
- Rudolf Rocker (1873-1958) - found in the Religion and Race section
Mental Health and Wellbeing

Letters to and from the Artist James Smetham (1821–1889). The letters are mainly to William Davies, concerning Smetham’s work, schemes to raise money and his religious beliefs. Smetham called his letters “ventilators” and they often took the form of handmade notebooks with their contents resembling diaries or commonplace books. His letters reveal his decline into depression and mental illness. They date from 1853-1877. (Ref: JS)

Papers of Classicist and Professor of History Caroline Skeel (1872–1951) documenting her education at Girton College and subsequent career at Westfield College, dating from 1850-1964. Includes letters and biographical papers related to her distinguished career and covering the onset in 1907 of severe and lasting depression that eventually led to her early retirement in 1929. (Ref: CS)

Papers of Mathematician and Medical Statistician Eileen Minnie Brooke (d.1989) related to her work as a pioneer and supporter of public health orientation in mental health programmes, dating from c.1880-1977. This collection includes publications by Brooke, material from international conferences and World Health Organisation reports, and papers relating to mental health research undertaken in the 1960s-1970s. Topics covered by the papers include mental health services, suicide as a mental health issue, rehabilitation programmes, and the cost benefit of drugs. One of her published papers proved influential in shaping Government policy with regard to the future of psychiatric hospitals. (Ref: EB)

Papers and correspondence of English Feminist and Writer Stella Benson (1892-1933) relating to her time living in China, including a League of Nations investigation report into the trafficking of women and children in Hong Kong, c.1930-1947. (Ref: SB)

Institutional archives of the People’s Palace Technical Schools and East London Technical College, dating from 1782-1987. The papers reveal the emergence of a scheme to establish a ‘palace of delights’ in east London in the 1880s that led to the opening of the People’s Palace in 1886, a philanthropic organisation designed to bring culture, recreation and education to the East End. Charts the entertainment and educational
programmes and facilities provided until the early 1950s. Also documents connections with the local community and institutions such as the Beaumont Institute, Drapers Company and royal patronage. (Ref: QM/1)

Papers of the Lyttelton and Grenfell families dating from c.1782-1962 including letters, diaries, poetry and photographs documenting General Sir Neville Gerald Lyttelton’s army service in India, Africa and Ireland, and service of other family members in the Zulu War, Boer War, First World War and Second World War and the impact on family members, friends and others at home. (Ref: NL and NL/GRE)

You may also be interested in the following collections:
- People’s Palace Projects (founded in 1996) - found in the Expression section
- Westfield College (early 16th century-2010) - found in the Gender and Sexuality section
Religion and Race

Letters of Bishop William Temple (1881–1944), previous to his appointment as Archbishop of Canterbury, including discussions on religious beliefs and the Church, dating from c.1901-1936. (Ref: WT)

A typescript translation with annotations of ‘Behind Barbed Wire and Bars’ an unpublished work by Activist and Author Rudolf Rocker (1873-1958) about his internment during the First World War. Translator unknown, but possibly Joseph Leftwich (1892-1984). (Ref: RR)

Papers and photographs of Winifred Galbraith (fl.1914-1940) a Westfield College alumna, relating to her missionary work in China at the I Fang Girls College. This collection also contains manuscripts for an unpublished novel, and an autobiography, both focussing on experiences of missionary work in China, dating from c.1894-1960s. (Ref: WG)

You may also be interested in the following collections:
- Jon John (1983-2017) - found in the Expression section
- Constance Louisa Maynard (1849-1935) - found in the Gender and Sexuality section
- Westfield College (early 16th century-2010) - found in the Gender and Sexuality section
- Clive Macmillan Schmitthoff (1903–1990) - found in the Law section
- James Smetham (1821–1889) - found in the Mental Health and Wellbeing section
- Lyttelton and Grenfell (c.1782-1962) - found in the Mental Health and Wellbeing section
- People’s Palace (1782-1987) - found in the Mental Health and Wellbeing section
Visit us
The Archives Reading Room is based on the 2nd Floor of Mile End Library at Queen Mary University of London. The nearest tube stations are Mile End (Central, District and Hammersmith and City lines) or Stepney Green (District and Hammersmith and City lines). The Reading Room is open for appointments every Monday-Friday between 9am-4pm.

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