
SPECIAL COLLECTIONS NEWS

DECEMBER 2003



Wishing all our readers a merry Christmas and a happy New Year,

The staff of Special Collections.



Images: “Common holly: *ilex aquifolium*” detail from plate 136 of *The flowering plants of Great Britain* / by Anne Pratt. London : Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge, ca.1855 (History of Science and Technology Collection) and “*Hedera helix*” detail from plate 57 of *Beautiful leaved plants* / by E.J. Lowe and W. Howard. London : Nimmo, 1891 (Mitrinovic Library).

INTRODUCTION TO SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

The Special Collections at the University of Bradford are collections of books and archives which are stored and managed separately because they are old, rare, valuable, fragile or donated as a collection. They cover all kinds of material, from 17th-century printed books to modern University papers, and even J.B. Priestley's pipes. Special Collections is based in the J.B. Priestley Library on the University's main campus. The Special Collections staff catalogue, promote and care for the collections and help readers to make use of them.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

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We welcome feedback about this newsletter or any other aspect of our service.

HISTORY OF PHARMACY ON SHOW

A selection of books, pamphlets and postcards from the History of Pharmacy Collection is now on show in the J.B. Priestley Library foyer. The Collection includes pharmacopeias and herbals (including facsimiles of some very early texts) and offers fascinating insights into the social history of pharmacy, from patent medicines to quacks to unusual remedies.



Image: The display laid out in our storage area.

PRIESTLEY ON RADIO 4

In November, Radio 4 produced a season of broadcasts relating to J.B. Priestley. These included Priestley's famous "Postscripts", talks broadcast on radio during World War Two, now read by the actor Patrick Stewart, a great admirer of Priestley's work. Lemn Sissay, a radical poet, re-assessed "English Journey". Sissay followed Priestley's route to Bradford, and we were delighted to show him the J.B. Priestley Archive and exhibition.

NEW ARRIVALS

Special Collections received several important donations of books and papers in Autumn 2003 – our thanks to all our donors. For example, we have received many more books to add to the Mitrinović Library, mostly rare 19th and 20th century works on religion, philosophy and politics, plus the Mitrinović Archive. We are cataloguing this material and it will be made available as soon as possible.

Mitrinović Library web page: <http://www.brad.ac.uk/library/special/mitrinovic.php>

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (2): WHO CAN USE THE SPECIAL COLLECTIONS?

- Current staff and students of the University of Bradford.
- Non-members of the University are welcome to consult the Special Collections if relevant to their needs.

Please contact us to make an appointment before you visit, so that staff are available to help you and your research material is ready for you to use. We are also very pleased to host small group visits by arrangement. More information about using the Special Collections can be found on our web page:

<http://www.brad.ac.uk/library/special/using.php>

CARING FOR THE COLLECTIONS (2): WHY DO I HAVE TO USE PENCIL?

The books, papers and other materials in Special Collections are rare or unique, and often very fragile. To keep them in as good a condition as possible, we ask our readers to handle them with care e.g. to use pencils for making notes (pen can leave permanent and harmful marks). Pencils are available in the reading room for your use.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Please contact us for further details of any of these events or see our web page nearer the time:

<http://www.brad.ac.uk/library/special/index.php>

Writer-in-residence events

Our Writer-in-residence, Dr Christine Finn, is arranging several events at the University, including:

12 February 2004 onwards. "Bog Bodies": exhibition at the University's Gallery II, plus workshops.

The acids in bog water prevent the action of bacteria on bodies, so preserving them intact for millennia. Dr Finn is developing this exhibition to show how these marvellous "time travellers" have inspired poets and artists.

21 February 2004. "Imagining Time, Creating Art: Poetry, Film, Sculpture and Archaeology".

A School of Lifelong Education and Development (SLED) Saturday School, in which Dr Finn will explore with delegates the relationship between creative arts and archaeology.

February 2004.

A multimedia event based on works by J.B. Priestley and Jacquetta Hawkes.

Priestley Society events

The following events are joint ventures between the University's School of Lifelong Education and Development (SLED) and the J.B. Priestley Society. Both events consider Priestley's writing and campaigning for a better society.

20 March 2004. "J.B. Priestley: the People's War, the People's Peace 1940-51".

A SLED Saturday School, run by Dr Ken Smith (Chairman of the J.B. Priestley Society and a senior lecturer at the University). Priestley's wartime journalism and novels covered the social changes being caused by the war and also looked to the future: how to build a better society.

15 May 2004. The J.B. Priestley Society annual lecture at the University of Bradford.

In 2003, the first lecture in this series was given by Roy Hattersley (president of the J.B. Priestley Society) and proved very popular. The Society are delighted that Holger Klein, a leading Priestley scholar, has agreed to speak this year. Dr Klein will concentrate on Priestley's vision of the "good society".

THE J.B. PRIESTLEY SOCIETY



The J.B. Priestley Society runs several events every year including socials, dinners, readings and lectures. Members also receive the Journal and other occasional publications. New members are always welcome. For more information, please contact the Society:

<http://www.jbpriestley-society.com/>

A CHRISTMAS RHYME

“I wish you a merry Kessenmas an’ a happy New Year,

A pokeful o’ money an’ a cellar-full of beer.

A good fat pig an’ a new-cauven coo;

Good master an’ mistress, hoo do you do?”

Traditional, quoted on p.121 of Yorkshire dialect poems .../ compiled by F.W.

Moorman. London : Sidgwick and Jackson for the Yorkshire Dialect Society, 1917.

(Waddington-Feather Collection).

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