



Homerton College Library



Special Collections  
children's books, multimedia, local collection

You are probably quite familiar with Homerton College Library as a working undergraduate library, however did you know that the Library is also home to several special collections, which are unique to Homerton? This leaflet is designed to introduce you to these special collections.

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## Local Collection

The Local Collection is shelved on the ground floor of the Library and contains books, maps, pamphlets and journals which focus on Cambridge and the surrounding region. This is a varied collection which includes histories of Cambridge University and the Colleges, books about fenland wildlife, local archaeology and much more.

The collection is a mixture of both modern and historical items, all of which are reference only.

More general maps and atlases are shelved in the Quick Reference section opposite the Enquiry Desk.

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## Rare Book Collection

The Library holds a collection of nearly 500 rare books, most of which are children's books. Material from this collection is often on display near the Library entrance.

All of the items in the Rare Book Collection can be found on the Library's Heritage catalogue <http://heritage.homerton.cam.ac.uk/> (marked with the location 'Stack') and we are working to get all of them catalogued on iDiscover as well.

Please ask a member of staff if you would like to view any of the books, or for more information about the collection.

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# Children's Literature Collection

Due to our history as a Teacher Training College, Homerton is unique among the Cambridge Colleges in being home to a large collection of around 9,000 children's books. These are all shelved on the 2nd floor.

This collection stretches from the 1960's to the present day, and new books are purchased regularly. The books range from early years through to early teens with particular strengths in picture/illustrated books.

We have a number of 'big books' that are designed for story-time. These are kept in a large box on the 2nd floor.

Thanks to a generous donation by Professor Maria Nikolajeva, the Children's Literature Collection includes over 150 versions of Lewis Carroll's *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*, in many different editions and languages. These are all shelved on the 2nd floor at shelf mark 823 CAR/NIK. This donation also included a number of *Alice in Wonderland* related artefacts (some of which are for reference use only).



All of the books in the Children's Literature Collection are borrowable.

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# Homerton College Archive

The College Archive contains a wide range of material dating from the eighteenth century onwards, related to the history of the College and the various buildings that it has occupied in Cambridge and London.

Student records in the Archive contain significant material about the education of women teachers in Cambridge and the student experience. This includes examples of students work, particularly art and craft skills and biological science. However student records form only one part of the archive.

From 1730 the College was administered by the King's Head Society and sent its students to a number of different non-conformist academies in London. The King's Head Society and the Congregational Board of Education ran the College jointly from 1754 until the King's Head Society was dissolved in 1817. The archive therefore contains minute books and annual reports of the Congregational Board from 1843 - 1909, and reports by successive Homerton College Principals.

From 1768 the College was based at Homerton High Street in the east end of London and became known as Homerton Academy. The archive contains some material about the College's history in London, including the rebuilding of the College in 1824, complementary to collections in the Dr Williams's Library (Gordon Square, London) and the London Metropolitan Archives.

Homerton purchased the present buildings and moved to Cambridge in 1895. The buildings previously belonged to Cavendish College, founded by Joseph Lloyd Brereton. Brereton's papers came to the Homerton Archive and contain much of what is known about Cavendish College.

There is an extensive photographic archive, most of which relates to the Cambridge period of the College's history, but there are one or two significant early photographs of women students in London.

The Archive also contains memorabilia and artefacts related to the College history, such as clothes, medals and silverware.



Student Souvenir Albums, dating from 1877-88. Many such albums survived and are in the Homerton College archive collection. The earliest date from 1860's and are literary in character, with poems and biblical references. The later ones are highly decorative and artistic. These albums give an insight into the close-knit life of the college and student friendships.

More information about the history of the College can be found in Simms, *Homerton College 1695-1978: from Dissenting Academy to Approved Society in the University of Cambridge* (1979) and in Raby & Warner, *Homerton: The Evolution of a Cambridge College* (2010). Both of these books can be found in the Library.

For all enquiries relating to the Archive, please contact the College Archivist, Svetlana Paterson at [archives@homerton.cam.ac.uk](mailto:archives@homerton.cam.ac.uk)

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# Multimedia Collection

The Multimedia Collection includes hundreds of DVDs, CDs and printed music (scores, miniature scores and sets of parts). These are all borrowable in the same way as books. Please note that a small number of DVDs which are in high demand for coursework have a 2-day loan period rather than the usual 2 weeks (these are clearly labelled). If you need printed music for a concert and will need the music for a longer period of time, just speak to a member of staff who will be happy to arrange this for you.

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## Music Hire Service

Homerton, in partnership with Christ's College, runs a Music Hire Service. Members of Christ's and Homerton can borrow scores and parts from either library free of charge (there is a small charge for members of other colleges).

If you need the music for a concert we can be flexible on the hire period to suit you, just ask a member of staff. For more details about the Music Hire Service and to view the joint catalogue, please visit <http://www.christs.cam.ac.uk/current-students/library/music-hire/>

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If you would like more information about any of the collections described in this leaflet, please ask a member of staff or email [library@homerton.cam.ac.uk](mailto:library@homerton.cam.ac.uk)

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