



The Gamble Library's Special Collections

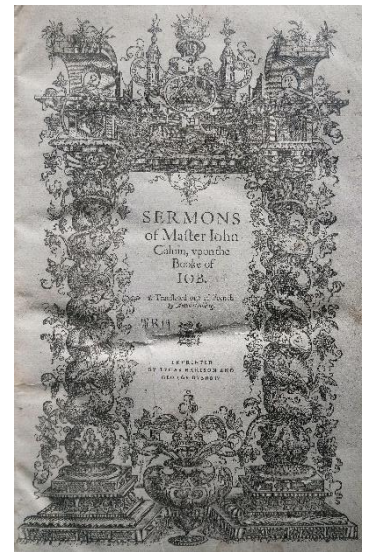
Gamble Guides

Introduction

The Gamble Library has a number of special collections which would prove very valuable to those researching Presbyterianism in Ireland, as well as historical and political topics. This Gamble Guide gives more information about each collection and how it can be accessed.

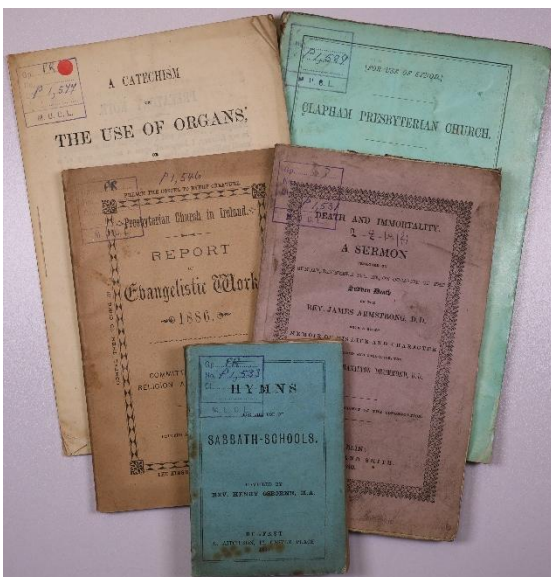
The Rare Books Collection

An invaluable resource for those researching Protestant theology, as well as historical, political, philosophical, and literary topics, from the mid-sixteenth to the mid-nineteenth century. It includes many examples of early printing and is comprised of around 8,000 volumes in total. Some of this collection is listed on the [British Library's English Short Title Catalogue](#) (advanced search 'Holding Institution' code for Union Theological College is bBFut). Other volumes can be seen on our [online catalogue](#). Cataloguing this collection is an ongoing task so it is worth contacting the Librarian to ask if the Library has the specific titles you want to consult. Items with the following shelfmarks are in this collection: RBR, HBK, HBL, HBX.



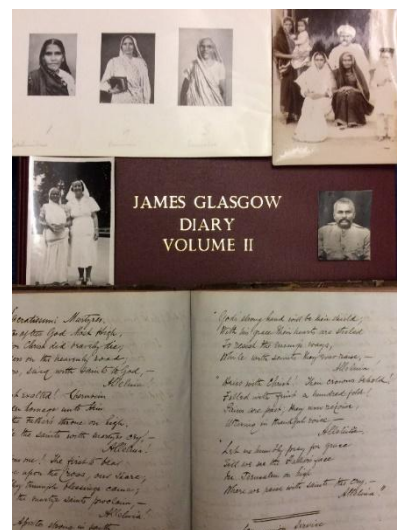
Pamphlet Collection

This is an important resource for those researching the history of Protestant theology and religious movements, especially the Presbyterian Church in Ireland, key historical events and personalities, and contemporary reactions to these. The Pamphlets Collection includes items published from the seventeenth century onwards. Those published prior to 1900 are mostly bound in around 800 volumes, although there are also a significant number of unbound pamphlets from a similar period. Older pamphlets are stored away from the main Library. These pamphlets once belonged to either Magee College or Assembly's College and were united together in the 1970s. Older pamphlets cover topics such as congregational worship, baptism, higher criticism, eldership, and the 1859 revival. All unbound pamphlets from the 1900s to the present day, and some of the pre-1900 pamphlets are searchable through the Gamble Library's [online catalogue](#). Cataloguing older pamphlets is an ongoing project. A paper-based catalogue from Magee College and a card catalogue from Assembly's College are available in the Library to help find items. An inventory of all the pamphlets is also being developed. Items with the following shelfmarks are in this collection: PAMP, RPA, RPM, RPT, PAM.



Presbyterian Mission Archive

This is an indispensable resource for those investigating the history of missions conducted by the Presbyterian Church in Ireland and Irish Presbyterians, in Ireland and further afield. It contains diaries, letters, scrapbooks, photographs, posters, audio recordings and minutes relating to the Presbyterian Church in Ireland's and numerous Irish Presbyterians' mission interests, and other mission organisations. Countries covered include India, Manchuria, Africa and Ireland. Items connected with key Presbyterian mission figures are held in the collection and various early Presbytery Minutes. For example, the Library holds the Laggan meeting minutes from 1672-95 which contain references to Francis Makemie, the father of American Presbyterianism who travelled from Donegal to America and established the first American Presbytery in the early 1700s. The collection contains papers belonging to former Professors of both Magee and Assembly's Colleges. The James Ernest Davey Archive is one example of this. It is also listed on JISC Archives Hub. Spreadsheets of the contents can be viewed and searched in the Library during our public opening hours.



Library staff have an electronic inventory of the Mission Archive which they can search for items of relevance to your research area. Please contact them before your visit. The Mission Archive is owned by the Presbyterian Church in Ireland and held in Union Theological College.

Irish Collection

An essential resource for those researching Irish Church and political history. It contains approximately two thousand items and holds the biographies of many notable Irish people. Congregational histories of most of the Presbyterian Churches in Ireland are included in the collection and the Minutes, Reports and Accounts of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland. The vast majority of the collection can be searched through the Library's online catalogue. Most items in this collection will have a shelfmark beginning with HIB.

Scottish Collection

An extremely helpful resource for those researching Scottish Church history. It contains around one thousand five hundred items including the biographies of key characters in Scottish Church history. The vast majority of the collection can be searched through the Library's online catalogue. Most items in this collection will have a shelfmark beginning with CAL.

Accessing the Special Collections

Special Collections can be consulted on a reference only basis in the main reading room during our opening hours, 08:30 to 16:30, Monday to Friday. Please contact the Librarian (librarian@union.ac.uk or 02890205093) to make an appointment to view special collections and provide details of your area of research so that relevant resources can be collected together for your pre-arranged visit. Most unbound pamphlets published from 1900 onwards, the Irish and Scottish Collections can be borrowed by Library members. Membership details are given on the Union Theological College website. Alternatively, visitors can consult these in the Library during our normal opening hours.