

Boase Collection

Thomas Sherrer Ross Boase (1898-1974) was Director of the Courtauld between 1937-1947. He had studied medieval history at Oxford and had a lifelong interest in the history of the Church. He turned his attention to the history of art during the 1930s and travelled widely throughout Europe and the Middle East.

While based at Cairo during the war years, in charge of British Council activities in the Middle East, he developed an interest in the history of the Crusades and took the opportunity to study Islamic and Christian monuments in the area. He published a number of important studies on these subjects but was equally at home lecturing in English Medieval and Victorian Art.

He left the Library a collection of material about the history of the Crusades, architecture and travel in the Middle East.

USING THE SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

- Most of the collections are catalogued on Aleph, the Library's online catalogue.
- Readers wishing to consult items from the collections should request these in advance. The CABS collection times are:

Term-time

Mon - Fri 10.30 14.15 17.00

Vacation

Mon - Fri 11.00 14.15 16.00

- **Use pencils only** or a laptop when consulting archives or special collections. The use of ink in any form, or of correction fluid, adhesive tape or chewing gum is prohibited.
- Items should be handled with care — do not lean on, trace, fold or otherwise damage them.
- Material may **sometimes** be photocopied or photographed. Ask at the desk.
- Books **must** be returned to the issue desk if the user wishes to leave the Library for a short period of time and at the end of the user's visit.

Current search base: CUA Catalogue

- Library catalogue
- Basic search
- Advanced search
- Multi-field search
- Inter-Library loan
- Browse indexes
- Results list
- Previous searches

Multiple-option search

Select field to search

All Words

Collection code

All Words

Click total number to see catalogue records.

Go Clear

Language: All

Format: All

Year: All

Library: All

yyyy (Use ? for truncation)

Type word(s) or phrase

Blank

SPECL

Words adjacent?

No Yes

No Yes

No Yes

Total: 2256

Records: 3147

5210

Quicklinks

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Search tips for the Special Collections

- To compile a list of titles contained in one of the bequests, use the Multiple-option search from the catalogue menu. In the first field <All Words> type the name of the bequest. In the second field select Collection code and type the SPECL in the field. To see the results, click on the Total link in blue hypertext.
- Many of the early printed books are collections of engraved plates, and many do not have titles. It is possible to search by the artist's name; however, it may also be necessary to search by the printer's or publisher's name or place of publication.
- Before requesting material, make sure you've checked if it is more than one volume.
- Not all items are on the computer system, so readers should also consult the card catalogue. For assistance, ask at the desk.

GUIDE TO SPECIAL COLLECTIONS



Vitruvius Pollio Architettura. 1536

Contact:

Erica Foden-Lenahan

Special Collections Librarian

T: 020-7848-7650

E: erica.foden-lenahan@courtauld.ac.uk

Opening hours

Term-time

Mon - Fri 9.30am - 7.00pm

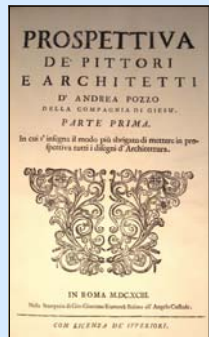
Vacation

Mon - Fri 10.30am - 5.00pm

INTRODUCTION

The Book Library's closed access collection (CABS) contains a **general collection** and a number of named bequests.

The general collection comprises more than 3000 items donated or purchased by the Institute since the 1930s. This is printed material relating to the history of art, dating from the early 16th-century to the present day, about half of which is in foreign languages.



*Perspectiva pictorum et
architectorum Andreae Pozzi.
1693-1700*

Specific subjects covered include; architecture, engraving, drawing, painting and sculpture, from ancient times to modern; early guidebooks to Italy and France, travellers' accounts and descriptions of classical sites, emblem books, artists' lives and general works of art history and theory.

Criteria for placing items in CABS include age and rarity, unusual formats and conservation concerns.

In addition there are a number of **bequests**. These are collections which were formed around the interests of particular figures formerly associated with the Institute. The bequests are described in this guide, with biographical information about the collector.

Most of the bequests contained both published material as well as archives. Please see the Guide to the Archives for further information about the unpublished papers held as part of the bequests.

Blunt Collection

Anthony Blunt (1907-1983) was Director of the Courtauld Institute between 1947 and 1974. Throughout this time he donated publications to the Library and after his death the Courtauld received most of the rest of his library.

In the forty years between 1939-1979 Blunt produced a body of work which testifies to his importance in the field of art history. In 1940 his Cambridge fellowship dissertation was published as *Artistic Theory in Italy 1450-1600*. There then followed a stream of scholarly works focusing particularly on Poussin, French 17th-century art and architecture, Italian Baroque architecture and the Royal Collections.

Blunt's scholarship was indebted to the primary source material in his collection. The Library now holds his collection of early printed books, some 500 titles in total.

Seilern Collection

Count Antoine Seilern (1901-1978) bequeathed most of his collection of works of art, now known as the Princes Gate Collection, and his entire library to the Institute. After he arrived in England from Vienna in 1939, Count Seilern became a personal friend of Johannes Wilde by way of their shared interests. His art collection is the result of nearly fifty years of a scholarly approach to acquisition and ranges over some 600 years from an early Italian altarpiece through to works from the 20th-century.

The book collection reflects Seilern's art interests and particular strengths are Flemish and Italian art, especially Venetian artists of the 16th - and 18th-centuries. His collection about or illustrated by Rubens is probably one of the finest in existence.

Wilde Collection

Johannes Wilde (1891-1970) bequeathed his collection of drawings, engravings, books, photographs and manuscripts to the Institute. The Book Library holds his books as well as his collection of off-prints and archive material.

Wilde's association with the Institute began after WWII when he was appointed Reader in History of Art, becoming Deputy Director in 1948. Although his scholarly interests were wide ranging, his most significant contribution was the re-assessment of Michelangelo's drawings as exhibited at The British Museum in 1953 and the catalogue published in the same year. His collection of books also reflects another of his great passions, 16th century Venetian painting.

His lectures, addressed to students at the Courtauld during the 1950s, about Venetian painting were published posthumously in 1974 followed by his lectures on Michelangelo in 1978. The Library also holds in its archives unpublished lectures concerning painting in Parma and Ferrara and Florentine art.

Antal Collection

Frederick Antal (1887-1954) studied under Max Dvorak in Vienna, and worked with Johannes Wilde in Budapest at the Museum of Fine Arts. He spent some time in Florence and Berlin before settling in England in 1933 where he occasionally lectured at the Courtauld. He was especially interested in the methods of art history and he developed a Marxist interpretation in the field. His international reputation was established with his book on Florentine painting of the 14th and early 15th century, published in 1948.

Antal's collection of books includes a fine selection of works on Hogarth, an artist to whom he applied his Marxist approach toward the end of his life.