

LAMBETH PALACE LIBRARY

Lambeth Palace Library is the historic library of the Archbishops of Canterbury. It was founded in 1610 by Archbishop Bancroft, who bequeathed his rich collection of printed books and manuscripts to form the nucleus of a free public library. With the support of James I and Archbishop Abbot the Library flourished, and its collections have steadily increased down to the present day. It now contains some 5,000 manuscripts (including more than 600 medieval codices dating from the ninth century onwards), over 200,000 printed books (including numerous incunables) and some 30,000 books printed before 1700, together with immense quantities of archives, and since 1996 the early collections of Sion College.

The Library is the main resource for the history of the Church of England, but its wide-ranging collections are of value for almost every branch of history, and are freely available for research.

The collections have been awarded Designated status by the Museums, Libraries & Archives Council in recognition of their outstanding national and international importance.



FRIENDS OF LAMBETH PALACE LIBRARY

President: His Grace the Archbishop of Canterbury

The Friends of Lambeth Palace Library came into being in 1964 as a focus of public goodwill towards the Library and as a source of support in augmenting its collections for the benefit of present and future generations. They bring together people with an interest in the Library, and provide invaluable help in the acquisition of rare books and manuscripts through grants made to the Library.

The Friends also support the work of the Library in several other ways, including conservation, sponsorship of exhibitions, publications, cataloguing and digitization, helping to preserve the collections and to enhance access to them for all.



Tree of Jesse from the 12th-century Lambeth Bible. The Lambeth/Maidstone Bible exhibition was sponsored by the Friends in 2013.

BENEFITS OF JOINING THE FRIENDS

- Annual meeting of the Friends held in the Great Hall of Lambeth Palace each summer, with a lecture by a well-known scholar followed by afternoon tea.
- Informative annual review, with details and illustrations of books and manuscripts acquired by the Library during the year, text of the annual lecture, and a report on the full range of the Library's activities.
- Yearly programme of events and visits to places of historical interest. Past visits have included Chilham and Saltwood Castles, Cambridge college libraries, Hatfield House, Wartski's, the Garrick Club, Rochester Cathedral, and many others.
- Special previews of major Library exhibitions
- Invitations to Library lectures
- Seasonal social events
- Occasional tours of the Palace, Library and gardens

JOINING THE FRIENDS

Please complete the enclosed application form and, if possible, the banker's order and gift aid declaration. Banker's orders save us administration costs and if you complete the gift aid declaration, we are able to recover income tax at no cost to yourself and increase the value of your subscription.

Please join the Friends so that, with your help, the Library may continue to develop and flourish.



Manuscript illumination in the Lambeth copy of the Gutenberg Bible.