



Lambeth Palace Library
Research Guide
Sion College Library
Catalogues





Lambeth Palace Library Research Guide

SION COLLEGE LIBRARY CATALOGUES

The collections of Sion College Library are well documented in a series of catalogues and inventories produced in the course of its history from 1632 to the closure of the Library in 1996. Two complete catalogues of the Library were printed, in 1650 and 1724. Others survive in manuscript. Below are:

- A list of catalogues and inventories of printed books and manuscripts, in chronological order, 1632-1996.
- A note on the Book of Benefactors and other records of accessions.
- A list of catalogues of special collections.

See the Lambeth Palace Library online catalogue of archives and manuscripts for fuller descriptions of each item.

Catalogues and Inventories of Printed Books and Manuscripts, in Chronological Order, 1632-1996.

Catalogue of the printed books and manuscripts, compiled by John Spencer (d.1680), Librarian of Sion College. Arranged by authors, with printed books and manuscripts together in one sequence. In the hand of John Spencer. The catalogue was begun in 1632; Spencer continued to add to it until 1649 (Sion L40.2/E4).

'Catalogus universalis librorum omnium in bibliotheca Collegii Sionii apud Londinenses ... per J.S. bibliothecarium ...' (London, 1650). Printed catalogue of the Library, by John Spencer. Arranged by authors. Printed books and manuscripts are recorded in a single sequence.

'Catalogus librorum omnium M.M.S.S. in Bibliotheca hac de Sione apud Londinenses. Per I.S. Bibliothecarium collectus. 1650'. A catalogue of the manuscripts of Sion College by John Spencer. Arranged alphabetically, primarily by author, or by title in the case of anonymous works, with Greek, Latin and English manuscripts in one series. Includes the manuscripts transferred to Sion College from St. Paul's Cathedral Library in 1648. With shelfmarks. In the hand of John Spencer. (Sion L40.2/E92).

Three interleaved copies of the printed catalogue of Sion College Library by its Librarian John Spencer (d. 1680): 'Catalogus universalis librorum omnium in bibliotheca Collegii Sionii apud Londinenses ... per J.S. bibliothecarium ...' (London, 1650). The interleaved pages in all three copies record additions to the Library 1650-66 in the hand of John Spencer. These copies were used as the principal catalogue of Sion College Library from 1650 to the Fire of London in 1666. The three copies were for the use of the Governors, the Librarian, and readers. (Sion L40.2/E169-171).

A catalogue of the chained books [folio and quarto printed books] in Sion College Library. In the hand of John Spencer. Compiled in 1653 and with additions made by Spencer to at least 1665 and probably to the Fire of London in 1666. The catalogue is a shelf list, in shelf mark order. Each page is divided into nine sections, corresponding to the tables attached to the presses of chained books and showing the contents of each shelf in the chained section of



Lambeth Palace Library Research Guide

the Library. The catalogue was intended to enable the Governors of Sion College to audit the books. (Sion L40.2/E93).

Catalogue of the printed books kept 'in archivis', ie. on closed access and not forming part of the chained library. These were primarily the smaller works, octavo or smaller (but including some quartos) which were not chained, but stored in a gallery; none survived the Fire of London Begun in 1650 and continued until 1665. Arranged by shelfmarks A1 to T56. In the hand of John Spencer. (Sion L40.2/E5/1).



Lambeth Palace Library Research Guide

Catalogue of the printed books and manuscripts kept 'in archivis'. Begun in 1658 and continued until 1665.

Comprises: catalogue of printed books 'in archivis', arranged by shelfmarks A1 to T56 (ff. 2r-70v); catalogue of rare and special books kept in a locked repository (f. 72r-v); catalogue of Greek, Latin and English manuscripts, arranged in one series by authors A-Z, including the manuscripts transferred to Sion College from St. Paul's Cathedral Library in 1648 (ff. 75r-106r); catalogue of Arabic, Persian and Turkish manuscripts (f. 107r-v); catalogue of books from the Library of St. Paul's Cathedral transferred to Sion College in March 1648 (ff. 108r-113v). In the hand of John Spencer. (Sion L40.2/E5/2).

Catalogue of the printed books and manuscripts of Sion College saved from the destruction of the College in the Fire of London of 1666 and carried to safety at the Charterhouse. Arranged by authors. Comprises printed books, in two series, folios and quartos (ff. 1-30); Greek manuscripts (f. 31r); Latin manuscripts (f. 31v); English manuscripts (f. 32r-v); books lost in the fire or in transit, folios and quartos only (ff. 34-44); books recovered (f. 45); statistics of losses and survivals (f. 46r). In the hand of John Spencer. (Sion L40.2/E58/1).

Catalogue of the printed books and manuscripts of Sion College saved from the destruction of the College in the Fire of London of 1666 and carried to safety at the Charterhouse. Arranged by shelfmarks. Comprised printed books, in two series, folios and quartos (ff. 3r-29); Greek manuscripts (f. 31r); Latin and English manuscripts (ff. 31v-32v); commentaries on the Bible, the Sentences of Peter Lombard, the works of Aquinas etc (ff. 33r-46v). In the hand of John Spencer. (Sion L40.2/E58/2).

Lists of books from the Library of Sion College lost in the Fire of London in 1666, and of books recovered.

In the hand of John Spencer. c.1666-c.1672. 17 ff. only (Sion L40.2/E117).

An author catalogue of printed books in Sion College Library, without shelfmarks. Records books of all sizes, although folios are not noted as such.

The catalogue is written in several hands and was used and added to over a period in the late 17th century. The latest book recorded was published in 1694 (f. 57r), plus one addition of a book printed in 1698 (f. 20r). The catalogue does not appear to include the bequest from George Berkeley, 1st Earl of Berkeley, received all or part in 1698. It is probably the new catalogue which was ordered to be made following the appointment of William Lewis as Librarian in 1680; see E.H. Pearce, 'Sion College and Library' (London, 1913), pp. 256-7. It was used during the Librarianship of William Nelson, 1682-1704. The catalogue passed to Nelson's successor Samuel Beardmore, Librarian 1704-8. (Sion L40.2/E113).

A catalogue of books, arranged alphabetically by authors. Incomplete: authors A-S only. c.1700. Although sizes are not given in every case, the books appear to be quartos, octavos and duodecimos only. The catalogue is in the hand of a Sion College Librarian, probably William Nelson, Librarian 1682-1704, as found in Sion L40.2/E113, an author catalogue of Sion College Library. The present catalogue may have been a supplement to it.



Lambeth Palace Library Research Guide

Catalogued at Sion College and included as part of Sion L40.2/E62 on the assumption that the volume is a catalogue of the collection given by George Berkeley, 1st Earl of Berkeley. However the catalogue includes a small number of works received by Sion College from other benefactors (eg. at f. 3r are listed three works by Peter Allix, given by him c.1688, as recorded in the Book of Benefactors p. 104). After the loss of all the small unchained printed books in the Fire of London in 1666, the



Lambeth Palace Library Research Guide

Berkeley benefaction was the only significant increase in the Library before 1700. The present catalogue is therefore substantially, but not entirely, a catalogue of books of Berkeley provenance. (Sion L40.2/E62/3).

Shelf catalogue of books in Sion College Library. Incomplete, 17 ff., covering shelves Q2-T24 only. Early 18th century. Possibly in the hand of William Reading but earlier than his catalogue of 1724. (Sion L40.2/E116).

William Reading, 'Bibliothecae cleri Londinensis in Collegio Sionensi catalogus' (London, 1724). The second printed catalogue of Sion College Library. Arranged by subjects, with an index of authors.

Includes provenances of many books.

A printed copy of William Reading, 'Bibliothecae cleri Londinensis in Collegio Sionensi catalogus' (London, 1724). Interleaved and continued with additions in manuscript by successive Librarians of Sion College, ie. William Reading (Librarian 1708-44), William Brakenridge (Librarian 1745-62) and William Clements (Librarian 1762-99). The volume was kept up to date as the catalogue of Sion College Library from 1724 to 1785, when Robert Watts was commissioned to produce a new version. At ff. 209-214 is a continuation of the catalogue of manuscripts. (Sion L40.2/E96).

A printed copy of William Reading, 'Bibliothecae cleri Londinensis in Collegio Sionensi catalogus' (London, 1724). Bound in 3 volumes, interleaved, and continued with additions in manuscript. The interleaved text was written by Robert Watts (d.1842). In June 1785 Sion College resolved 'that a new interleaved catalogue be provided, and bound in two volumes, and that the Revd. Mr. Watts be employed to make a fair transcript of the whole...' [ie. a transcript of the earlier interleaved copy, now Sion L40.2/E 96]. The work was completed (in three volumes including the index) in 1789. Watts was appointed Sion College Librarian in 1799. The volumes were kept up to date by Watts as the catalogue of Sion College Library from 1785 to c.1837. (Sion L40.2/E97-99).

A catalogue of printed books in Sion College Library. c.1842-c.1849.

The books are numbered sequentially 1-8028 and arranged in subject classes from case A1 to K13. Includes books published to c.1848. This is the catalogue begun by Henry Christmas, afterwards

Noel-Fearn (1811-1868), Librarian of Sion College, on his appointment in 1842. In 1849 a Committee of Sion College objected to the catalogue as confusing and impossible and urged the need for an alphabetical rather than a classified catalogue. Christmas was dismissed as Librarian in 1849. (Sion L40.2/E118).

A catalogue of printed books in Sion College Library, used from c.1851 to c.1900, with some additions to 1940.

A printed copy of the catalogue of the Bodleian Library: 'Catalogus librorum impressorum bibliothecae Bodleianae in Academia Oxoniensi', 4 vols (Oxford, 1843-51); volume 4 with title 'Catalogus impressorum librorum quibus aucta est bibliotheca Bodleiana annis MDCCCXXXV- MDCCCXLVII'. Interleaved and bound in 10 folio volumes. With marginal notes recording shelfmarks of copies held in Sion College Library. The interleaved pages



Lambeth Palace Library Research Guide

record works held in Sion College Library but not in the Bodleian Library, and subsequent additions to Sion College Library. The volumes record all printed books in Sion College Library c.1851 and additions until c.1900 (when a card catalogue appears to have been initiated as a replacement finding aid), and also additions to existing series, new editions of existing works, supplements etc, from c.1900 until the bombing of 1940. Occasional notes were added subsequently recording books sold (eg. in 1938 and 1964) and volumes destroyed in the bombing of 1940-41. (Sion L40.2/E174).



Lambeth Palace Library Research Guide

A shelf list of the printed books and manuscripts in the archives (ARC) series of Sion College Library. c.1860. By William Henry Milman, Librarian of Sion College. The shelf list shows the books arranged in 'foruli' 1-32, with shelfmarks in the form 'Arc XXII. 2' etc. Later shelf marks have been added in the margin in another hand. (Sion L40.2/E112).

Card catalogue of printed books in Sion College Library. Begun c.1900 and revised continuously until the closure of the Library in 1996.

Catalogue of the manuscripts in Sion College Library. Arranged in series by language, and alphabetically by author or title within each language. The catalogue was begun by Charles H. Limborch, Sub-Librarian, in 1909 and continued until the closure of Sion College Library in 1996. (Sion L40.2/E175).

Survey of Sion College Library, carried out by Hodgson & Co, auctioneers. 1937-39. The survey purports to record all books in the Library earlier than 1836 with a significant financial value (over £2), or of special literary interest or particular association with Sion College. 3 vols. (Sion L40.2/E108-110).

Lists of manuscripts and printed books with an insurance value of £25 or above. 20th cent. (Sion L40.2/E111).

'Books of rarity and value in Sion College Library, 1958. 20 pp. 'Books valued at £500 or over', 1961. 2 pp. (typescript copies included in Sion L40.2/E173).

'Summary list of the Latin and English manuscripts in Sion College Library, London', by Christopher

J. Kitching of the Royal Commission on Historical Manuscripts. 1990. Typescript, 13 pp. (copy included in Sion L40.2/E173).

Book of Benefactors and Other Records of Accessions

Book of Benefactors. A register recording the gifts of benefactors to Sion College Library, written for the most part by successive Librarians of the College, beginning in 1629. It primarily records gifts of printed books and manuscripts, but also gifts and bequests of money, paintings and other objects.

The Book of Benefactors provides an extremely important account of gifts and bequests to Sion College Library, but not a complete record. See the online catalogue description for contents and details of gaps and omissions. After 1889 the Book of Benefactors ceased to be used, although a number of notable gifts 1839-1982 were entered retrospectively in the late 20th century. The titles of books received from Stationers' Hall under the copyright privilege were only recorded in the Book of Benefactors between 1742 and 1789. On the recording of these books at other times, see below. (Sion L40.2/E64).

A parallel record of benefactions to Sion College, in the hand of John Spencer and covering the years 1629-66. Although described by him as a transcript of the Book of Benefactors, it includes numerous additional entries and some extra details. (Sion L40.2/E60).

A register of the names of benefactors of Sion College Library. This was displayed on a



Lambeth Palace Library Research Guide

desk in Sion College Library, to which it was attached by a chain, part of which survives. It contains the names of benefactors only, without details of the books which they gave. (Sion L40.2/E105).

'Books brought in to Sion College Library from Stationers' Hall'.

Lists of books acquired by Sion College Library between 1789 and 1803 under its copyright privilege. The lists record the batches of books received from Stationers' Hall at Michaelmas and Lady Day each



Lambeth Palace Library Research Guide

year. Within each list books in sheets, in boards, sewn or stitched, as well as music books, are recorded separately. (Sion L40.2/E61).

See the online catalogue description of this item for related material relating to the Sion College copyright privilege.

Catalogues of Special Collections

Jesuit Library. 'A catalogue of books given by His Majesty to Sion College, London, and delivered to Dr. Atfield [Ambrose Atfield], President of the same College the 8th of June 1679'.

Catalogue of the library of a Jesuit community at Holbeck Hall, Nottinghamshire. This library was confiscated by the authorities in March 1679 at the time of the Popish Plot and sent to the Privy Council in London. It was bestowed on Sion College by Charles II. The library contained a substantial collection of around 1,000 books. The catalogue was compiled by John Spencer, Librarian of Sion College. (Sion L40.2/E90).

Berkeley collection. Catalogues of the library of George Berkeley (1626/7-1698), 1st Earl of Berkeley, at Durdans, near Epsom, Surrey. The collection was formed at Durdans by Sir Robert Coke,

M.P. (1587-1653). It was given to Sion College by his nephew George Berkeley, 1st Earl of Berkeley, in 1681 or 1682, although part of the collection was not received at Sion College until after Berkeley's death in 1698. (Sion L40.2/E62).

See the online catalogue description of this item for related material.

Gibson pamphlets. A catalogue of the printed pamphlets collected by Edmund Gibson (1669-1748), Bishop of London. Compiled in 1816 by Robert Watts, Librarian of Sion College. (Sion L40.2/E91).

Scott pamphlets. 'A catalogue of two hundred and seventy five volumes of tracts, pamphlets, sermons and charges etc presented to the Library of Sion College by the late William Scott M.A., Perpetual Curate of Christ Church Hoxton and afterwards Rector of St. Olave Jewry in this city and sometime President of this College'. 1876. Records 7,171 printed items given by William Scott in 10 donations 1859-70. 3 folio vols. Shelved in Lambeth Palace Library reading room.

Goode pamphlets. 'Catalogue of pamphlets, sermons and tracts chiefly from the library of the late Very Revd William Goode D.D., Dean of Ripon. Purchased at the sale of his library in 1869'. 1876. Records 1,670 printed items. 1 folio vol. Shelved in Lambeth Palace Library reading room.

Russell pamphlets. 'A catalogue of 410 volumes of charges, pamphlets, sermons and tracts etc in quarto and octavo collected and bound during the presidency of the late John Russell D.D., Canon of Canterbury, Rector of St. Botolph Bishopsgate and many years Treasurer of Sion College. 1878.

Records 4,776 printed items. 2 folio vols. Shelved in Lambeth Palace Library reading room.

General pamphlet collection. 'Catalogue of all the pamphlets and brochures, political, dramatic etc, contained in the General Library of Sion College. 1891. Records 15,544



Lambeth Palace Library Research Guide

printed items, including the Gibson pamphlets but not the Scott, Goode or Russell pamphlets. 4 folio vols. Shelved in Lambeth Palace Library reading room.

Budd collection. 'Catalogue of books tracts and pamphlets bequeathed by the will of the Revd. Theodore Budd, Vicar of Briningham, Norfolk, who died on the 22nd of January 1900. Presented by his executor to Sion College in pursuance of Order of Court dated June 1900...'. (Sion L40.2/E154).