

THE
LONDON
LIBRARY

A GUIDE TO:

ART COLLECTIONS

General Information

The Library's **books** on fine and applied art are housed in the Art Room, up the short flight of steps leading from the main Issue Hall. **Periodicals** on art-related subjects are kept in the Library's general sequence, with current issues available from the Reading Room, and earlier bound volumes shelved in the Periodicals section in the Basement.

The Art Room comprises two levels: the ground-floor and the gallery reached by the stairs from the ground floor of the room. The Art sequence continues in T.S. Eliot House initially on the first floor and then on the floor directly above on the Mezzanine (Floor M).

The Collections

The Library has acquired a large collection of monographs on major artists and architects; the emphasis is on English language publications, but works in the other major European languages are also included. European art forms the largest part of the art collections, but art of the Americas, and Asian and African arts are well represented. The applied arts and works of art criticism and theory have not been neglected. *Catalogues raisonnés* of major artists and catalogues of art exhibitions in this country and significant international ones are acquired whenever possible.

Shelfmarks

The Library's catalogues indicate an Art Room location by the prefix A. (for Art). The collection is then sub-divided into the following categories:

Aesthetics	
Art (General)	Gold and Silver Work
Architecture	Illumination of Manuscripts
Artistic Anatomy	Ivory
Brasses	Jade
Bronzes	Lace
Caricature	Lithography
Carpets	Majolica
Cave Painting	Metalwork
Christian Art	Mosaics
Clocks	Needlework
Collage	Ornament and Decoration
Colour	Painting
Drawing	Papiermarché
Embroidery	Pewter

Enamel
Engraving
Etching
Fans
Finger-rings
Furniture
Gems
Glass

Portraits
Pottery
Sculpture
Snuffboxes
Tapestry
Vases
Weaving
Woodcarving

It is worth noting that some of these categories individually cover a very large number of books (eg A. Art (Gen.) and A. Painting), while others are very small, possibly containing only one or two books each.

To avoid confusion over alternative spellings of artists' names etc, it is important to note down shelfmarks exactly as they appear in the Library's catalogues.

Shelf Mark Locations

ART ROOM GROUND

A. Aesthetics 4to → A. Pottery 4to, Symmonds

ART ROOM GALLERY

A. Pottery 4to, Techniques → A. Wood Carving 4to

A. Aesthetics → A. Art, Memorie

TS ELIOT HOUSE Floor 1

A. Art, Menard → A. Painting, Quaglio

CENTRAL STACK Floor M

A. Painting, Rabbani → A. Wood Carving &c.

BASEMENT

Art Small Folio

Ask at Issue Desk for Art Folio

A detailed floor plan for the Art Room is available from the Issue Desk.

Shelving Arrangements

Books are shelved in separate sequences according to size, octavo, quarto (4to), small folio or folio. The larger size indicators appear at the end of the shelf-mark in the Library's catalogue entries:

- A. Architecture, 4to.
- A. Christian Art, sm. folio
- A. Engraving, folio.

If there is no size indicator the volume is octavo size. Within each size sequence, the subject categories are arranged alphabetically.

The ground floor of the Art Room houses 4to material, and begins on the far left of the room on the shelves immediately next to the lift. The 4to sequence runs clockwise around the outer wall to the glass door and then continues in a clockwise direction on the left side of the inner arc of shelves in the centre of the room. The sequence then continues on the outer shelves of the inner arc running anti-clockwise back to the free standing shelves directly facing the lift. The remainder of the 4to sequence is shelved on the balustrade on the gallery running anti-clockwise from the top of the stairs.

The octavo sequence follows directly on from the end of the 4to sequence continuing on the shelving to the right of the doorway (into Eliot House) and runs clockwise around the rest of the room and then into the first floor of Eliot House. The remainder of the octavo sequence is housed on the Mezzanine easily reached by the Eliot House lift from the 1st floor. The small folio sequence is arranged on rolling cases in the Basement, easily accessible by lift from the Art Room. Art folio should be requested at the Issue Desk.

Within each subject category, books are arranged alphabetically by author or - if they are about a single artist - by artist and then by author within the artist sequence; in the latter case, the name of the artist appears as part of the shelf-mark in the catalogue entry:

- A. Painting, Picasso
- A. Artistic Anatomy, Stubbs

The alphabetical position of anonymous or edited works varies; please check the Library's catalogues carefully for the main heading (ie the first words of the catalogue entry following the shelfmark).

Catalogues of collections and exhibitions

Catalogues of works from a single gallery are shelved alphabetically under the name of the gallery, within the appropriate subject category (ie A. Painting, A. Sculpture etc for catalogues covering works in a single medium, or A. Art (Gen.) for those catalogues including works in more than one medium).

The alphabetical position of catalogues of loan exhibitions (ie those including works from a number of collections) is usually determined by the title of the individual exhibition. Large-scale monographs produced in association with exhibitions of the works of a single artist are treated as standard monographs, and are therefore shelved under the name of the artist within the relevant subject category (eg A. Painting), and then alphabetically by author.