

The logo for The London Library, featuring the text "THE LONDON LIBRARY" in a white serif font centered within a solid black square.

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 then continues in TS 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, Asia and Africa 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	Papiermaché
Embroidery	Pewter
Enamel	Portraits
Engraving	Pottery
Etching	Sculpture
Fans	Snuffboxes
Finger-rings	Tapestry
Furniture	Vases
Gems	Weaving
Glass	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. Painting 4to, Rozhdestienskii

ART ROOM GALLERY

A. Painting 4to, Reubens → A. Wood Carving 4to

A. Aesthetics → A. Art, Azevedo

TS ELIOT HOUSE Floor 1

A. Art, Babelon → A. Gems

TS ELIOT HOUSE Floor M

A. Glass → A. Wood Carving &c.

CENTRAL STACK Floor M

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:

Architecture, 4to.

Christian Art, sm. folio

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 TS Eliot House) and runs clockwise around the rest of the room and then into the first floor of TS Eliot House. The remainder of the octavo sequence is housed on the Mezzanine easily reached by the TS Eliot House lift from the 1st floor. The small folio sequence is located on the Mezzanine of the Central Stack. Art folio should be requested at the Issue Desk.

If the Library holds a significant number of books about a single artist, including critical works, the name of the artist appears as part of the shelf-mark in the catalogue entry:-

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

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 or by gallery.

Always check the Library catalogue carefully for the 'shelved under' information which will help you locate the book within the shelfmark sequence.

Periodicals

The Library maintains current subscriptions to the following periodical titles and society publications of art interest. Latest issues are available for consultation in the main Reading Room. Earlier back issues are available for loan in bound volumes.

Current issues of titles marked * are not displayed in the Reading Room racks: please enquire at the Reading Room Enquiry Desk or at the Issue Desk in the main hall.

Art, History & Applied

Apollo

Ars Orientalis*

The Art Book

Art Bulletin

Art History

Art Journal

Art Monthly

Art Newspaper

Art Review

Artibus et Historiae*

British Art Journal

British Journal of Aesthetics

Burlington Magazine

Ceramic Review

Church Monuments

Collections Review

Costume

Crafts
Decorative Arts Society Journal
Dumbarton Oaks Papers*
Frieze
Furniture History
Gainsborough's House Review
Genava*
Georgian Group Journal
I Tatti Studies*
Irish Arts Review Yearbook*
Journal of Design History
Journal of Glass Studies
Journal of the History of Collections
Journal of Stained Glass
Master Drawings
Metropolitan Museum of Art Bulletin
Modern Painters
Monumental Brass Society Trans.
L'Oeil
Oxford Art Journal
Parkett
Print Quarterly
RA: the Royal Academy Magazine
Regional Furniture
Renaissance Studies
The Sculpture Journal
Silver Society Journal
Société de l'Art Français Bulletin*
Textile History

Online Sources

The Library subscribes to a number of online resources some of which will be of use for readers and researchers in art studies. They are all available within the Library and members can also get access to them from home via the Library website using their membership number and PIN.

Arts:Search
International Bibliography of Art
Oxford Art Online