

THE
LONDON
LIBRARY

A GUIDE TO:

TOPOGRAPHY
COLLECTION

Scope of the Collection

The Topography section of the Library, located on Level 1 of the rear stacks, covers travel books and works on the local history, geography, archaeology, architecture, economics, society and culture of particular nations or areas. Included in the collections are a great number of travellers' impressions of different regions throughout the world, dating from the 16th century onwards, with a separate section on travellers' impressions of England (T. Foreign Impressions of England).

While purely historical books are generally shelved in the History stacks (Levels 2, 3 and 4), books on **local history** are included in the Topography section. Books on English local history, for example, are shelved in the T. England section, which is sub-divided in alphabetical order by place (eg T. England, Bath or T. England, Worcestershire); there are also more general sub-divisions, such as T. England, Roads. T. England (Gen.), which comes at the beginning of the T. England sequence, covers the topography of England as a whole. Books on London, however, have their own section: T. London (i.e. not included with T. England, but located independently in its alphabetical position under 'L'). There is a set of Pevsner's architectural guides shelved in the various county shelfmarks as well as another set for reference only in the Reading Room.

The Topography section includes books in all major European languages.

Shelving Arrangements

Books on individual places, travel and exploration

All books in the Topography section have a shelfmark beginning with T. There are 239 sub-divisions within the Topography section, arranged strictly in alphabetical order from T. Abyssinia to T. Zululand. The shelfmarking system, substantially unrevised since its inception a century ago, retains place-names current at that time; complete lists of all sub-divisions, with cross-references from modern names, are available in handouts displayed at the beginning of the Topography stacks. Sub-divisions include continents and regions (e.g. T. America, South), nation states (e.g. T. France), and smaller areas within nation states or covering land in several nation states (e.g. T. Kurdistan or T. Danubian Provinces). Books covering the Indian sub-continent, for example, will therefore be found at T. India, T. Beluchistan, T. Cashmere and T. Asia (Gen.).

Three cities have their own shelfmarks, located in their alphabetical positions (i.e. not within England, France, or Italy): T. London; T. Paris; and T. Rome.

There is a separate shelfmark for works on major voyages (historical and modern): T. Voyages; but works on travel and exploration of particular places will be found under the appropriate country or region sub-division, as above.

The main alphabetical sequence of Topography shelfmarks begins in the Back Stacks in the front part of Level 1 and covers T. Abyssinia to T. Denmark; the remainder of the sequence (T. East to T. Zululand) is shelved in the rear section of Level 1. There are two separate sequences for **oversize books**: larger format books have the designation '4to.' (quarto) in their shelfmark, and very large books have the word 'folio'; these are shelved at the beginning of the Topography section, before the main sequence of standard size volumes.

Searching for books on a particular place

In addition to the general subject shelving arrangement of books in the Topography section, the Subject Indexes of the Library's catalogues offer a more detailed, reliable and comprehensive way of locating books on a particular place, throughout the entire collections. Records on the computer catalogue incorporate standard contemporary Library of Congress Subject Headings: it is therefore possible to search for books using current versions of place-names. The computer catalogue includes all material acquired by the Library since 1950 and the retrospective cataloguing project is adding earlier titles all the time.

For older material not yet on the online catalogue, the Library's printed catalogue also includes comprehensive Subject Indexes. Like the shelving arrangements, they tend to retain Edwardian nomenclature, but comprise a much more detailed breakdown of the collection, including entries on individual countries, regions, areas, towns, villages, and even buildings. The printed catalogue subject index (in four separate blue volumes next to the red guard-book catalogue volumes) covers acquisitions up to 1950 although many are now also on the online catalogue. **It is highly advisable to check the catalogues for shelfmarks of titles sought as books may not be located where you might expect them to be, e.g. T. Formosa not T. Taiwan!**

Guide Books

The Library's main collection of guide books is shelved in the gallery above the Circulation Desk in the Issue Hall. There is a wealth of material of historical interest, dating from the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, including a collection of Baedeker guides and Murray's handbooks. In addition, there is a series of guides to each state and many cities in the USA, shelved at T. America (Gen.) Guide Books in the main Topography section; and a collection of pamphlet guides to National Trust properties, shelved at R.R. Guide Books in the main Reading Room. All guide books, apart from the National Trust pamphlets, are available for loan.

Archaeology

The Topography section includes a great deal of material of archaeological interest. Books about archaeology and excavation in general, or about the theory of archaeology, can be found in T. Archaeology (Gen.). Books on archaeology in a particular country can be found in the Topography sub-division for that country (eg T. Turkey). There are a number of exceptions to this general rule. Books on archaeology in Europe as a whole are found in T.

Archaeology (Gen.). Books on the archaeology of the Germanic peoples are shelved at T. Teutonic Archaeology. Books on archaeology in Egypt and Assyria are shelved in the History stacks (Levels 2, 3 and 4) at H. Egypt (Ancient) and at H. Assyria & Babylon. Books on the archaeology of the Slavic peoples can also be found in the History stacks, at H. Slavs.

Periodicals

The Library maintains subscriptions to many periodical titles which complement the topography collection. These include:

Africa: journal of the International Institute of African Languages and Cultures; Anatolian Studies; Annales: histoire, sciences sociales; Architectural History; Archivio Storico Italiano; China Quarterly; Economy & Society; Europe: revue mensuelle; Europe-Asia Studies; Geographical Magazine; Hakluyt Society Publications; Imago Mundi; Irish Geography; Journal of Latin American Studies; Middle Eastern Studies; Modern Asian Studies; National Geographic Magazine; Population Studies; Quarterly Journal of Economics; Royal Geographical Society's Geographical Journal; Social History; and Urban History.

Holdings of periodicals in the field of archaeology are particularly extensive, and include the following titles:

American Journal of Archaeology; Archaeologia Cambrensis; Cahiers Archéologiques; Current Archaeology; Egyptian Archaeology; Industrial Archaeology Review; International Journal of Nautical Archaeology; Journal of Egyptian Archaeology; Journal of Hellenic Studies; Journal of Roman Studies; Levant; London Archaeologist; Medieval Archaeology; Oxford Journal of Archaeology; Public Archaeology; Revue Archéologique; Royal Archaeological Society Journal; Société Française d'Archéologie Bulletin; and World Archaeology.

Current and recent back issues of these periodicals are available for consultation in the Reading Room. Earlier issues are bound and shelved in the open stacks where they are available for loan. *Complete holdings records for all of these titles are included on the Library's computer catalogue: please check under the Periodicals search option (number 3 from the main menu) for the precise shelfmarks for back issues and volumes.*

Online versions of some of these titles are also available on the 'CD-ROM & Online Services' workstations in the Issue Hall and Reading Room; these include: *Geographical Magazine; Hakluyt Society Publications; Imago Mundi; National Geographic Magazine; Royal Geographical Society's Geographical Journal.*

The Library has also retained its holdings of a number of relevant non-current periodical titles. These include: *Alpine Journal; Annales d'Histoire Economique et Sociale; Asian Review; Balkan Review; Civilisations; and Geographisches Jahrbuch.* Details of the holdings and

shelfmarks for volumes of these periodicals are listed under their titles in the red-bound guardbook author catalogues in the Issue Hall.

Online sources

<http://www.intute.ac.uk/socialsciences>

The Intute: Social Sciences, including links to gazetteers, statistics and reports on nations.

<http://maps.google.co.uk/maps>

This site instructs the Google search engine to find information and maps of any capital city or nation.

<http://www.un.org/Depts/Cartographic/english/htmain.htm>

The site for the cartographic department of the United Nations offers online maps throughout the world.

Reference and general works

A range of topographical reference works are kept for consultation in the Library's main Reading Room on the 1st Floor. This includes a collection of **atlases**, shelved in the glass-fronted cases at the rear of the room, for which there is a subject index in the card cabinets immediately inside the main Reading Room doors. A set of Ordnance Survey 1" maps in large bound volumes can be found on the gallery above the atlas cabinets. **Gazetteers** to all parts of the world can also be found in the Reading Room, at the shelfmark R.R. Dicts., Geography, Gazetteers &c. The shelfmarks R.R. Dicts., Antiquities and R.R. Dicts., Classical include a rich collection of reference works on archaeology, the ancient world and classical civilisations.

Books on **cartography** and the history of maps and map-making are shelved in the Science & Misc. section (on Level 4), at the shelfmark: S. Maps (and S. Maps, 4to. and S. Maps, folio for oversized books).

Books on the subject of topography, as opposed to topographical books, can be found in the Bibliography section (on the 5th Floor), under the shelfmarks: Bibliog., Topography &c. (Gen) and Bibliog., Topography, England &c. Included here are also **bibliographies** of individual countries and bibliographies of writings on travel and exploration.