

THE
LONDON
LIBRARY

A guide to the German collections

Scope of the collections

The London Library holds a remarkably extensive collection of German-language books and material on the history and culture of the German-speaking peoples, with a particular emphasis on the period from the 18th century to the present day. There are especial riches in German literature and history, but German material is also well represented in other subject areas of the Library, particularly in art, philosophy, religion and topography.

From its beginning the Library has aimed to collect 'standard books in various languages', i.e. a representative selection of literature in each of the major European languages. German books have been collected extensively from the outset, and the German literature section is now the largest of the foreign-language sections in the collections. The Library's founder, Thomas Carlyle, had a personal interest in German literature and history. He admired Goethe, corresponded with him and promoted interest in him in Britain. The Library possesses the copy of *Balladen und Romanzen* (1829-1830) sent as a gift from Goethe to Carlyle.

At the Library's founding, Prince Albert, the first patron, donated several German books (along with a cheque for £50): the 1842 catalogue of the collection mentions '... a valuable selection of the best German authors from his Royal Highness Prince Albert, the Patron of the Institution; and they [the Committee] look forward with some confidence to this source, as likely to bring many important additions to the stores of the library'. The report of the Committee of May 1861 mentions a further donation by Prince Albert.

The 1842 catalogue already includes Goethe's, Schiller's and Jean Paul's collected works. Armin and Brentano appear in the 1847 catalogue. Christian von Bunsen (Prussian Ambassador in London 1842-1854) was a member of the Library Committee for many years and contributed to the cultural exchange between Prussia and Britain.

German books have been bought ever since. There are some gaps for the war years, but important German publications published outside Germany were acquired during those periods. In 1944 the Library suffered a hit by a German bomb which destroyed part of the Religion section and with it Luther's and Zwingli's works, but these have since been replaced. More fortunately for the Library, Dr Schor, a librarian who had worked at the Austrian National Library, joined the London Library staff in 1944 and was in charge of German book selection for about thirty years. After 1945, important GDR publications, mainly literature and fiction, were acquired as well as Western German literature. Up to the 1970s Dr Schor also widely acquired standard works in German on other subjects such as Greek and Roman history and archaeology,

in addition to books on German subjects. Whilst the collection no longer has a specialist librarian, suggestions for individual titles are welcome within the history, literature and art collections.

Email suggestions@londonlibrary.co.uk

Further reading: Mockert, Barbara: 'The London Library', in *German studies: British resources: papers presented at the British Library 25-27 September 1983* (London: British Library, 1986), pp. 177-179

Mockert, Barbara: 'The London Library', in *Handbuch deutscher historischer Buchbestände in Europa*. Bd 10, Great Britain and Ireland (Hildesheim: Olms, 2000), pp. 114-117.

On the Allan Library: *A directory of rare books and special collections in the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland*. 2nd ed. (London: Library Association, 1997), pp. 287-289.

The Book Collector 16, no. 2 (1967), pp. 211-215.

Literature

The German literature collections include the works of all standard and canonical authors. The coverage spans works from c. 800 (e.g. *Hildebrandslied*) to the present day, and in the open access stacks members will find borrowable copies of a wide range of 19th and 20th century editions alongside more recent publications. Of the ca. 16,000 vols. in the German Literature section, about 6,000 are 19th century editions. The Library has maintained its holdings of the writings of popular German authors from the late-19th and early-20th centuries, many of whom are not easily available elsewhere. The collections include Austrian and Swiss publications.

The German literature collection (with the exception of German fiction translated into English, which can be found in the main Fiction section on the 2nd Floor of the Central Stack) is located on the 3rd Floor of the St James's Building, and is divided under the following subject subdivisions:

L. German Anthols. includes poetry and prose anthologies (usually extracts from larger works. Collections of complete short stories can be found in **L. German Fiction**, see below).

L. German Drama, Hist. of covers studies and works of general criticism on German drama.

L. German Fiction includes a wide range of novels and short-stories, all in the original German. Please note that translations into English of novels and short-stories by German authors are shelved in the main (English) Fiction section of the Library on the 2nd Floor. Collections of folk-tales, such as Grimm's *Kinder- und Hausmärchen*, are shelved at S. Folklore &c.

L. German Fiction, Trans. (immediately following L. German Fiction) covers translations of German fiction into languages other than English.

L. German Lit., Hist. of covers works on the general history on German literature, and works on more than two authors, in all languages.

L. German Lit. includes editions of collected works of major German writers, as well as individual works of poetry, drama and essays (for fiction see L. German Fiction) by a wide range of authors. Following the works of each individual author you will also find works of literary criticism and commentaries on individual authors in all languages. The Library is rich in German classical literature, and the best represented author in this section is Goethe. The Library possesses several editions, from *Goethe's Werke: Vollständige Ausgabe letzter Hand* (Stuttgart: Cotta, 1827-1842), to *Hamburger Ausgabe* and *Münchener Ausgabe*. Under `L. German Lit., Goethe' you will also find biographical works on Goethe together with literary criticism. Schiller is represented by editions from *Sämtliche Werke* (Stuttgart: Cotta, 1812/1815) to *Schillers Werke: Nationalausgabe*. The most important other 18th and 19th century authors are also represented in contemporary and/or modern editions, as are 20th century authors: The Library possesses, for example, Brecht's *Werke: grosse kommentierte Berliner und Frankfurter Ausgabe* and Kafka's *Schriften, Tagebücher, Briefe: kritische Ausgabe*, and subscribed to the literary works of Thomas Mann in *Grosse kommentierte Frankfurter Ausgabe*. Although the emphasis is on literature from the 18th century onwards the Library holds editions of the most important medieval and early modern German works, and subscribed to *Münchener Texte und Untersuchungen zur deutschen Literatur des Mittelalters*.

L. German Lit., Trans. covers translations of literary works by German-language authors into all languages. Please note that fiction translated into English is shelved in the main (English) Fiction section of the Library on the 2nd Floor.

There is also a small section at **L. Swiss Lit., Hist. of** (on the 4th Floor of the St James's Building, accessible only via the small staircase from the 3rd Floor) for works of general history and criticism of Swiss literature in all languages.

Please note also the separate sequences for oversize books: **L. German Lit., 4to.** (also 3rd Floor of the St James's Building), and **L. German Lit., folio** (2nd Floor of the Central stacks).

History and biography

In the Library's extensive History section there is a main shelfmark for general works on German history (located on Level 3 of the Back Stacks) followed by two further subdivisions by topic:

The section **H. Germany** covers a wide range of material in English and German on the span of the history of Germany from its earliest origins up to the present day, including general works on the history of the Holy Roman Empire. Works dealing specifically with the history of Germany since 1918 are shelved in the separate shelfmark: **H. German Republic**. The strong 19th century foundations of the collections have been maintained and built upon. The Library possesses many 19th century standard historical works: e.g. Leopold von Ranke's *Neun Bücher preussischer Geschichte* (Berlin: Bei Veit und Comp., 1847-1848) or, *Zur deutschen Geschichte: vom Religionsfrieden bis zum dreissigjährigen Krieg* (Leipzig :Duncker und Humblot, 1868), or Friedrich von Raumer's *Geschichte der Hohenstaufen und ihrer Zeit* (Leipzig: F.A. Brockhaus, 1823-1825). The Library subscribed to the important historical series *Monumenta Germaniae Historica* and *Schriftenreihe der Vierteljahreshefte für Zeitgeschichte*, as well as to notable series of contemporary government documents, such as *Akten zur auswärtigen Politik der Bundesrepublik Deutschland*, *Kabinettsprotokolle der Bundesregierung*, and the Austrian *Protokolle des Ministerrates*. Some of these subscriptions may now be electronic rather than physical.

The shelfmark **H. Germany, Constitutional Hist.** (immediately following **H. Germany** on Level 3 of the Back Stacks) includes works on German governmental institutions and constitutional history. Works on Austrian or Swiss constitutional history are to be found in H. Austria or H. Switzerland. **H. Germany, Social &c.** includes a wide range of works on German economic, social and cultural history. There are separate individual shelfmarks for books on the history of some towns or regions, such as:

H. Bavaria

H. Danzig

H. Hanse Towns

H. Saar

H. Saxony

H. Schleswig-Holstein

H. Silesia

There are also specific shelfmarks for individual German rulers (including Holy Roman Emperors) where you will find books dealing with the histories of the periods of their reign as well as rulers' biographies. Examples include:

H. Charlemagne

H. Frederick I, King of Prussia

H. Henry III, Emp. of Germany

H. Maximilian I, King of Bavaria

For general histories of Austria and Switzerland, there are the shelfmarks **H. Austria** and **H. Switzerland**. For the social, economic and cultural history of Austria there is also **H. Austria, Social &c.** Other relevant shelfmarks include:

H. Army, German &c. (& Austrian) for books on German and Austrian **military history**. In addition to that, there are separate individual shelfmarks for particular wars: e.g. **H. FrancoGerman War**, or **H. Schleswig-Holstein War**. There is a significant amount of material on Germany during the First and Second World Wars in the shelfmarks **H. European War I** and **H. European War II** (Level 3 of the Back Stacks). Works on the Holocaust can be found in **H. Jews**.

H. Austrian Campaigns

H. Colonies, German

H. Franks

H. Revolution of 1848

H. War of 1866

Each of these shelfmarks can be found in its alphabetical position in the History section, across Levels 2 and 3 of the Back Stacks. In each of these subject areas there are more books in English than in German. Please note the separate sequences for oversize books on Level 2 of the Back Stacks, such as **H. Germany, 4to.** and **H. Germany, folio.**

Biography

Biographies and autobiographies of notable German figures (including diaries and collections of letters), excluding monarchs, can be found in the main biography stacks on the 3rd and 4th floors of the Central Stack. Most monarchs have their own shelfmarks in the History stacks on Level 3 and Level 2, where biographical material together with histories of their reigns can be found. The Library holds extensive biographical material on literary authors, philosophers, artists, monarchs and statesmen. Please note that correspondence or autobiographical material of literary authors is sometimes included as part of their collected or selected works, and will therefore be shelved in the Literature section. Works containing collections of biographies of more than 2 persons can be found at the shelfmark **Biographical Colls.**

The Library subscribed to *Genealogisches Handbuch des Adels* which is shelved at **Genealogy & Heraldry** on Level 7 of the Back Stacks. Most of the earlier volumes of *Almanach de Gotha* can also be found there (the latest issue is shelved in the Reading Room at R.R. Annuals). The Library's extensive collection of **biographical dictionaries** (shelved at R.R. Biographical Dicts in the Writers' Room, Gallery level) includes a number of works on German authors, artists, and important historic figures, such as *Das Personenlexikon zum Dritten Reich*, or, *Statisten in Uniform: die Mitglieder des Reichstages 1933-1945*, *Biographische Enzyklopädie Deutscher Philosophen*, or *Deutsches Schriftstellerlexikon, 1830-1880*. The Library also subscribed to *Neue Deutsche Biographie*, *Österreichisches biographisches Lexikon, 1815-1950*, and *Wer ist Wer*.

Art

The Library's extensive collection of art books includes a wide range of material on German, Austrian and Swiss art and artists from the Middle Ages up to the present day, both in German and English. The Library subscribed to Prestel's new *Geschichte der bildenden Kunst in Deutschland*, and possesses **Geschichte der bildenden Kunst in Österreich** (both shelved at A. Art). There are also books in German on general art history and criticism, such as Belting's *Das echte Bild: Bildfragen als Glaubensfragen*. Apart from monographs the Library acquires Catalogues raisonnés of major artists, such as *Paul Klee: catalogue raisonné*, as well as a selection of catalogues of relevant exhibitions held in Britain, the United States or the German speaking countries, such as *Hans Holbein the Younger: the Basel years*, and catalogues of major museum and art galleries, such as *Brücke-Museum Berlin: Malerei und Plastik*.

Exhibition catalogues are shelved alphabetically under Exhibition title, and catalogues of museums can be found under the name of the museum. Throughout the art collections it is important to note that a significant number of books in each subject area will be found in the separate sequences for oversize books (labelled 4to., small folio, and folio). Books covering work in more than one medium are shelved at A. Art. Books on individual artists will be found under the sub-section for the medium concerned (e.g. A. Painting, A. Sculpture) and then under the artist's name (e.g. A. Painting, Cranach).

Thieme-Becker's and Vollmer's *Allgemeines Lexikon der Bildenden Künstler*, Vollmer's *Allgemeines Lexikon der bildenden Künstler des XX. Jahrhunderts*, and Saur's *Allgemeines Künstlerlexikon* can be found in the Reading Room at R.R. Dicts., Biography. The Library also subscribed to *Reallexikon zur deutschen Kunstgeschichte*, shelved at R.R. Dicts., Art.

Topography and travel

The Library's Topography collections are located on Level 1 of the Back Stacks. The Topography collections include archaeology, architecture, geography, local history, travel writing, and some guide books, such as the Dehio's *Handbuch der deutschen Kunstdenkmäler* and *Dehio-Handbuch: die Kunstdenkmäler Österreichs*, and *Kunstführer durch die Schweiz*.

Please note that in addition to the main subject sequence there are two further sequences for oversize books (labelled 4to. and folio). There are individual shelfmarks for the German speaking countries:

T. Austria

T. Germany

T. Switzerland

And separate shelfmarks for:

T. Bavaria
T. Galicia
T. Heligoland
T. Silesia
T. Tyrol

Books on the archaeology of the Germanic peoples are shelved in T. Teutonic Archaeology. The Library also possesses important works on classical archaeology and excavation reports in the German language.

In the Library's main collection of **guide books** (shelved in the gallery above the Issue Desk on the Ground Floor) there are the following relevant subsections: Alps

Austria &c. Germany

Switzerland

Tyrol

There is a wealth of material of historical interest, including a number of Baedeker guides: all are available for loan.

Religion and philosophy

The emphasis of the Library's **Philosophy** collections (on the 3rd Floor of the Central Stack) is on primary texts: the collected works of each of the major German philosophers, in the original and in translation, can be found in their alphabetical position. The Library holds many 19th century editions of major philosophers, but also subscribed to the latest editions, such as Kant's *Gesammelte Schriften*, Heidegger's *Gesamtausgabe*, or Hegel's *Gesammelte Werke*. There is also commentary and criticism, predominantly in English. The Library subscribed to series such as *Studia Leibnitiana: Supplementa*, or, *Studien und Texte zur Geistesgeschichte des Mittelalters*. Ritter's *Historisches Wörterbuch der Philosophie* can be found at R.R. Dicts., Philosophy.

The Library's **Religion** section is located on the 5th Floor of the Central Stack (with oversize 4to. volumes shelved in a separate single sequence on the same floor). Very large volumes (Religion, folio) are kept in secure accommodation, but can be made available for consultation in the Reading Room. There are various versions of the Bible in German shelved in R. Bibles, R. Old Testament or R. New Testament. The Religion collection also includes many tracts and philosophical writings, often in Latin, published in Germany in the 18th and 19th centuries. There is a complete edition of Luther's works (Weimar edition), and the Library subscribed to Zwingli's *Sämtliche Werke*. The Library also possesses a selection of the works of modern German theologians.

For German, Austrian and Swiss ecclesiastical history there are the shelfmarks R. Germany, Eccles. Hist., R. Austria, Eccles. Hist., and R. Switzerland, Eccles. Hist. Books on the history of the Jews in Germany are shelved in H. Jews in the History section. For books on the Reformation there is the shelfmark R. Reformation. For books on the relation between church and state in the German speaking countries see R. Church & State.

The Library subscribed to *Studia Judaica* and *Schriftenreihe wissenschaftlicher Abhandlungen des Leo Baeck Instituts*. *Lexikon für Theologie und Kirche* (2nd ed. 1957-65), *Theologisches Wörterbuch zum Alten Testament*, and *Theologisches Wörterbuch zum Neuen Testament* can be found at R.R. Dicts., Religion.

Religion special collections

Allan Library

In 1925 the Library acquired the library of Thomas Robinson Allan (several thousand 16th to 19th century mostly theological works in Latin and German, many of them printed in Germany). Apart from several early Bible editions, such as *Biblia dudiesch dat erste deell* (Halberstadt 1522) or *De Biblie uth der uthlegginge Doct. M. Luthers yn dyth dudiesche ulitich uthgesettet mit sundergen underrichtingen* (Lubeck: Lud. Dyetz, 1533), the Allan collection included standard works of the Reformers, such as Johannes Bugenhagen's *Annotationes in decem epistolas Pauli* (Nuremberg 1524). Works of Catholic theology include e.g. Hermann Busenbaum's *Medulla theologiae moralis* (Passau 1729), or *Enchiridion locorum communium adversus Lutherum* (Cologne 1573). There are works on church history, such as Gürtler's *Historia Templariorum* (Amsterdam 1703) or Johann Georg Hering's *Compendieuses Kirchen- und Ketzerlexikon* (Schneeberg 1744), dogmatic theology such as Martin Gebert's *Principiae theologiae dogmaticae* (St. Blasien 1758), and biblical scholarship, such as Acosta, Gabriel: *Commentaria quinque in totidem libros veteris Testamenti ...* (Lyon 1641), Elijah ben Asher's *Grammatica Hebraica* (Basel 1543), or Hieronymus Emser's *Annotationes ... uber Luthers naw Testament gebessert und emendirt* (Dresden 1524).

As well as theological works, the Allan Library includes works on related Humanities subjects. Please note that rare and valuable books are kept in secure accommodation, but can be made available for consultation in the Reading Room. A catalogue to the Allan Library is kept in the Cataloguing Room: *A catalogue of books chiefly theological collected by Thomas Robinson Allan in usum amicorum* (Leipzig: n.d.), bound with *A catalogue of a collection of Bibles ... formed by Thomas Robinson Allan ... [London?] 1883 [with MS additions]*. Please also note that the Library no longer possesses all the works listed in those catalogues as the incunabula were sold in 1966, most from the Allan Library.

Montefiore Pamphlets

The Montefiore Pamphlets, 664 bound volumes of pamphlets were bequeathed to the Library in 1939 by the heirs of Claude Joseph Goldsmid Montefiore, the Jewish philanthropist (1858-1938). About half of the

pamphlets are in German, dating from between 1818 and 1938, and deal with Jewish history and theology, Old Testament studies, Jewish-Christian relations, Progressive Judaism and social welfare. The volumes are kept in the Safe.

Language, dictionaries etc.

There is a range of German-language dictionaries available in the Reading Room (on the 1st Floor) at **R.R. Dicts., German**, ranging from Jakob and Wilhelm Grimm's *Deutsches Wörterbuch* to *The Oxford-Duden German dictionary* (2nd ed. 1999) and *Der Duden in 12 Bänden*. More specialised works include Friedrich Kluge's *Etymologisches Wörterbuch der Deutschen Sprache* (23rd ed. 1995), Dornseiff's *Der Deutsche Wortschatz nach Sachgruppen* (8th ed. 2004), or *Althochdeutsches Wörterbuch* (1968-2006). For Austria there is *Österreichisches Wörterbuch* (37. Aufl. 1992).

Older language dictionaries, such as *Der Duden in 10 Bänden* (20. Aufl. 1991) or *Wörterbuch des Wiener Dialektes* (1980, Nachdruck der Ausgabe von 1929) can be found in **Philology, German** in the Library's Philology section (Front Basement) and are available for loan. The Philology section also contains a range of English or German language works about the German language, including its history, grammar and usage, and dialects, such as Donaldson's *German: an essential grammar*, Hermann's *Mittelhochdeutsche Grammatik* (25. Aufl. 2007), or *Rotwelsch: die alte Sprache der Gauner, Dirnen und Vagabunden*.

For works on the history and linguistics of Germanic languages see **Philology, Teutonic**.

Bibliography and library catalogues

The Bibliography section on the 5th Floor of the Central Stack contains a range of relevant bibliographies and library catalogues.

Library catalogues, including some German ones, can be found at Bibliography (Gen.). *Gesamtkatalog der Wiegendrucke* is shelved at Bibliog. (Gen.), 4to. The section Bibliog. German is reserved for bibliographies of books written in German language or published in Germany, across all subjects. Examples include The British Museum's *Catalogue of German printed books to 1900*, and Gero von Wilpert's *Erstausgaben deutscher Dichtung* (2., vollständig überarbeitete Aufl. 1992). For Swiss publications there is the section Bibliog. Swiss. Bibliographies of books on German history can be found in Bibliog. History (Gen.), such as *Historische Bibliographie* (1986-1995, & CD-Rom), or *A bibliography of German studies, 1945-1971*. Bibliog. Topography contains bibliographies of works on particular places, such as *Berlin-Bibliographie*. Bibliographies dealing with one particular person are shelved at Bibliog. Biog., such as Bibliog. Biog., Fontane. At Bibliog. Theology there are some 18th century catalogues of theological libraries, booksellers' catalogues and theological bibliographies, some of them from the Allan Library. Bibliog. Libraries includes books on German collections, such as *Handbuch deutscher historischer Buchbestände in Europa* (in the 4to. section), or works

dealing with the history of German libraries, such as *Die Geschichte der Anna Amalia Bibliothek*. For works on publishing in Germany see Bibliog. Publishing, and Bibliog. Books, Booksellers &c. for the German book trade.

The Library also subscribed to **Lexikon des gesamten Buchwesens (LGB2)** (2., völlig neubearbeitete Aufl. 1987-) which can be found at **R.R. Dicts., Bibliography**.

Reference works

At the shelfmark **R.R. Lang. Dicts., German** there is a range of reference copies of German language dictionaries. The section also includes reference works on German literature, such as the *Oxford Companion to German Literature* (2nd ed. 1986).

The Library also possesses a range of more general literary dictionaries in German, e.g. *Kindlers Neues Literatur Lexikon* (*Kindlers Literatur Lexikon* is shelved in L. Literature, Hist. of (Gen.) and available for loan). Kosch's *Deutsches Theater-Lexikon* is shelved at R.R. Dicts., Drama. There is also Wilpert's *Sachwörterbuch der Literatur*, and Frenzel's *Stoffe der Weltliteratur* (2., überarb. Aufl. 1963).

In addition to that the Library has acquired other German language standard reference works on Humanities subjects, all shelved in their alphabetical position (by main entry) at the relevant shelfmark, including e.g.:

R.R. Dicts., Art: **Reallexikon zur deutschen Kunstgeschichte; Reallexikon zur Byzantinischen Kunst**

R.R. Dicts., Bibliography: **Lexikon des gesamten Buchwesens (LGB2)**

R.R. Dicts., Classical: Pauly's *Real-Encyclopädie der classischen Alterthumswissenschaft*, as well as *Der Neue Pauly* (in Old Dicts.) and its English translation *Brill's New Pauly*; *Lexicon iconographicum mythologiae classicae (LIMC)*

R.R. Dicts., History: *Lexikon des Mittelalters*

R.R. Dicts., Philosophy: Ritter's *Historisches Wörterbuch der Philosophie*

R.R. Dicts., Religion: *Lexikon für Theologie und Kirche* (2nd ed. 1957-65); *Theologisches Lexikon zum Alten Testament*

R.R. Biographical Dicts.: *Allgemeine Deutsche Biographie* and *Neue Deutsche Biographie*; *Österreichisches biographisches Lexikon, 1815-1950*; Saur's *Allgemeines Künstlerlexikon*; Thieme-Becker's and Vollmer's *Allgemeines Lexikon der Bildenden Künstler*; Kosch's *Deutsches Literatur-Lexikon* (3. Aufl., 1968-2006; the 2nd ed. is shelved in Old Dicts. and available for loan)

The Library also possesses some general German language encyclopaedias, shelved in their alphabetical position (by title) in R.R. Encyclopedias: Meyers *Konversations-Lexikon* (5th ed. 1893-97); Meyers *Neues Lexikon* (2nd ed. 1972-1978); and the more up-to-date *Brockhaus Enzyklopädie* (17th ed., 1966-1976; 16th

edition has title: *Der Grosse Brockhaus* and is shelved in Old Dicts., Brockhaus). Zedler's *Grosses vollständiges Universal-Lexicon aller Wissenschaften und Künste* (Halle 1732-1750) is shelved in Old Dicts., folio (without the four supplement vols. from 1754).

Electronic resources

Through the Library's website members can use a range of electronic journals at home or in the Library, as well as other electronic publications and databases. There is also access to JSTOR, an electronic periodicals archive which allows members to access back-runs of over 750 additional periodical titles.

https://londonlibrary.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/discovery/search?vid=44LON_INST:LondonLib