

THE  
LONDON  
LIBRARY

A GUIDE TO THE:

# FOOD AND DRINK COLLECTION



## Scope of the Collection

The Library's collection of books covering food and wine is extensive. The 12 shelfmarks covering the holdings are all part of the larger Science & Miscellaneous collection which covers all subject areas not part of the main humanities and arts collection that form the majority of the Library's stock.

There are around 1400 volumes across all the Food and Drink shelfmarks and coverage is from generally the 18<sup>th</sup> century to the present. The earliest title however is *Questiones naturales antiquorum philosophorum tractantes de diversis generibus ciborum et potus...*, 1505. There are few older journals no longer subscribed and two titles current titles, *Petits Propos Culinaires* and *Gastronomica*. There are reference and bibliographic works in the Reading Room and Bibliography. The Library continues collect across all the aspects of the collection but the smaller shelfmarks will have little added due to the nature of their specialism. There are works in many European languages, especially in the earlier parts of the holdings.

## Finding Works

With the Retrospective Conversion programme still running, readers may need to search both catalogues when looking for older works (pre-1950). It is advisable to start searches on the computer catalogue as a great many older works have already been added, but if a work is not found then a search in the red Guard Books may be necessary. Do please ask for help from the Desk if you have problems searching either catalogue. It is strongly recommended that initial searches are done in the Catalogue Hall to avoid fruitless browsing in the wrong shelfmark!

## Arrangement of Works

In addition to the main S. Food &c. shelfmark there are separate collections for a number of foodstuffs and drinks which take in social and economic aspects. These include Beer &c. Cheese, Cocoa, Coffee, Hops, Salt, Sugar, Tea, Vegetarianism, Vinegar, Vines, and Wine. Some are very small indeed but reflect the Victorian arrangement of the collection originally. Most of the shelfmarks will have a 4to (quarto) collection as well as the standard 8o (octavo) collection.

S. Food &c.: includes diet, recipes, regional histories, general histories, customs, advice, works on some individual foodstuffs such as bread, potatoes, jams etc., conference papers, and all manner of general observations about food. Many of the earlier 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century works offer advice on household management and include recipes as well as stain removal tips and how to control servants. There are also plenty on dietary concerns both from the health as well as meal-planning angles. The collection does not include large numbers of regional recipe books as might be found in a general bookshop. There are no popular celebrity chefs in the current mode but a few works by chefs of earlier periods are represented. There are also no modern housekeeping or household management works but a good number of earlier works dating up to the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

The Oxford Symposium on Food (which is complete but for the 1992 volume) is shelved in 8o or 4to according to the size of individual volumes.

S. Beer &c.: covers the history of brewing and of brewers. There are a few small titles from a Whitbread series. The earliest work is Louis Pasteur's *Etudes de la biere* 1876, followed by John Bickerdyke's *Curiosities of ale and beer: an entertaining history*, 1886, and James Death's *Beer of the Bible: one of the hitherto unknown leavens of Exodus*, 1887, and *A history of Friary Meux* by Lady Meux, 1896.

S. Cheese: This includes the history of cheesemaking, specific cheese histories, regional and world histories and a cheese companion. Titles include James Long's *Cheese and cheesemaking, with special reference to fancy continental cheeses*, 1896, Maurice Des Ombiaux's *Les fromages*, 1926 and Andre L. Simon's *Catechism concerning cheeses*, 1936.

S. Cocoa: This is one of a number of foodstuffs-as-commodities where the bulk of the titles concern commercial and industrial aspects, including company histories. There are histories of Rowntree and Cadbury as well as the history of chocolate in the Mesoamerica. Titles range from Richard Cadbury's *Cocoa*, 1892 to Allen Young's *The chocolate tree – a natural history of cacao*, 2007.

S. Coffee: Another foodstuff-as-commodity with an emphasis on the cultivation and commerce but little on company histories. There are a few titles on the running of coffee plantations for aspiring planters. The earliest title on the shelves is *A treatise on the cultivation of coffee and the management and purchase of estates*, 1865. There are also a number 18<sup>th</sup> century titles in the Safe including Richard Bradley's *Virtue and use of coffee with regard to the plague*, 1721.

S. Drink: There are numerous works on the temperance movement and the problems of alcohol and alcoholism; many of the works address 'demon drink'! There are also works on the drinks' trade, one or two non-brewing or wine-making company histories (e.g. Bulmers), tracts on abstinence, titles on legislation, Prohibition, and the Anti-Saloon League Yearbooks from 1918-1925. There is also a recipe book for making liqueurs. Early works include Spencer Thomson's *Temperance and total abstinence*, 1850, James Miller's *Nephalism – the true temperance of Scripture, science and experience*, 1861 and *Habitual drunkenness and insane drunkards*, 1878, by the late Lord Chancellor, Visitor of Lunatics. The 4to. collection has a number of works on specific spirits and drinks mostly published in the past 30 years.

S. Fruit: Works on specific fruit, cultivation and use as well as company histories. A number of pre 1700 works are held in the Safe including Austen's *Treatise on fruit trees* 1653 and Fairchild's *The city gardener* 1722.

S. Hops: The three titles here can be listed in full: J. F. Brown's *Guinness and hops*, 1980; and the two delightfully entitled *Hopping in Kent* by Alan Bignell, 1977 and *Hops and hopping* by

J.B. Marsh, 1892. There are also 2 or 3 pamphlet titles listed in the subject index for 1913 and a Parliamentary Paper.

S. Salt: Titles here cover the salt industry as well as histories of salt production and diet and health aspects. The earliest is James Rattan's *Handbook of common salt*, published in Madras in 1877.

S. Sugar: Titles cover the slave-trade aspect and also the sugar industry including company histories, the botany of sugar as well as planters' manuals. The earliest one here is J.W. Evans' *Sugar planter's manual*, 1847. There is quite a number of pamphlet items listed in the older London Library subject index volumes in the Catalogue Hall, as well as Parliamentary Papers; some of the pamphlets are 18<sup>th</sup> century and are bound into a number of different volumes within the main locked Pamphlet collection; please ask at the Enquiries Desk.

S. Tea: Titles here as with other foodstuff-as-commodity cover the commerce and industry, company histories and manuals for potential planters as well as histories of specific teas and customs. Early titles include R. Fortune's *Journey to China*, 1852, W.N. Lees' *Cultivation of tea in India*, 1863 and A.T MacGowan's *Tea-planting in outer Himalayah*, 1861. There are also a small number of 18<sup>th</sup> century pamphlets listed in the LL subject index volumes, mostly on the taxation of tea. These may be located within the main locked Pamphlet collection and accessed via the Enquiries Desk.

S. Vegetarianism: A small but interesting collection of titles. Most of the 12 titles are post 1960 but earlier titles include a 1935 German work on vegetarianism in the ancient world and 2 editions of H.S. Salt's *Logic of vegetarianism* from 1906. Works on vegetables and fruit as a diet are found in S. Food &c. from which we would suggest the theory is found in S. Vegetarianism but the practice in S. Food &c.

S. Vinegar: An extremely small section comprising 2 titles: Louis Pasteur's *Etudes sur le vinaigre, sa fabrication, ses maladies, ses moyens de les prévenir; nouvelles observations sur la conservation des vins par la chaleur*, 1868 and *The manufacture of vinegar*, 1871 by the appropriately named M. Dussauce. The creation of the shelfmark might have been instanced by two titles in three years but one feels it was a slightly hasty decision as there has been nothing since!

S. Vines: Another smallish section concerned here with cultivation of vines for 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century readers and some later regional histories. Early works include Clement Hoare's *Cultivation of grapes on open walls*, 1848, John Phin's *Open air grape culture and the manufacture of wines*, New York 1862 and *Le phylloxera en Suisse* 1879 from the Commission Federale du Phylloxera. Ebenezer Ward's *Vineyards and orchards of South Australia*, 1862 is quite a surprise given it was written less than a century after Australia was discovered.

S. Wine: This is the other main area of the food and drink collection. This section covers wines in general, regional production, individual labels, anthologies of wine writing, drinking companions and to some degree some overlap with S. Vines. Titles include the Constable wine library series. There are about a dozen titles by Andre Simon but they are in English. The overlap with S. Vines is apparent in the earliest title being John MacCulloch's *Remarks on the art of making wine*, 1816.

Other titles of interest include Robert Druitt's *Report on cheap wine*, 1865, Cyrus Redding's *History and description of modern wine*, 1836, and Louis Pasteur's *Etudes sur le vin*, 1866. There is quite a number of works on individual wines or spirits from both the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century with a fair number of these in the 4to. section.

## Reference and Bibliography

Bibliog. Food & Drink: A collection of works on food and drink with bibliographies on food and cookery, household management, and wine. There are also a couple of auction catalogues of notable collectors in the subject.

R.R. Dicts., Food & Drink: The titles here include the *Larousse Gastronomique* 1938, *Food of the western world* by Theodora Fitzgibbon, 1978 and the *Oxford companion to food* (2<sup>nd</sup> ed. 2006) and the *Oxford companion to American food and drink*, 2007, the *Oxford companion to wine* edited by Jancis Robinson (2006) and the *Oxford companion to the wines of North America* edited by Bruce Cass, 2000, a *Hachette atlas of wine*, 2000, *Lichine's encyclopedia of wine*, 1982, and Andre Simon's *Dictionary of wine, spirits and liqueurs*, 1958.

There are a great many websites devoted to all aspects of food and drink and the Library offers online access to a number of resources that may be useful, including JSTOR for journal articles.