

THE
LONDON
LIBRARY

A GUIDE TO:
**IBERIAN &
LATIN AMERICAN
COLLECTIONS**

Scope of the Collection

The Library holds something over 10,000 volumes in subjects of Spanish, Portuguese and Latin American interest. There are notable strengths in the Literature and History sections of the collections, with a dedicated shelfmark for the Spanish Civil War, but there is also good representation in most of the other major collections in the Library, particularly in Topography, Art, Religion and Biography. The general Spanish collections include some works in Catalan, Gallego and Euskera. A number of works have been donated or bequeathed over the years, the most notable of which is the literature collection of Robert Bontine Cunningham Graham in 1936.

Given the importance of the Library's collection of 17th century Spanish plays and sueltas there is a separate Guide describing them in detail as part of the Library's Special Collections.

The London Library continues to devote a part of its foreign collections budget to the acquisition of Spanish monographs, focusing mainly on contemporary literature and fiction, biographies and historical works, art books, reference works and other cultural studies, building upon the historic strengths that have been developed over several generations. A small number of works in Portuguese are added periodically. Donated works in both languages are welcomed within the remit of the collection policy.

Literature

Spanish

The Literature collections comprise fiction, poetry, plays, essays, literary criticism and comment and anthologies as well as a small historical collection of works translated into European languages other than English. The Spanish Literature Collections include editions of collected works of the major writers from the medieval to contemporary periods, with particular strengths in the drama of the Siglo de Oro period and numerous editions of the works of Cervantes. Various editions of works by Calderón de la Barca, Lope de Vega, Tirso de Molina, Francisco de Rojas Zorrilla, Ramón de la Cruz, Pérez Galdos, Pío Baroja as well as García Márquez, Neruda, Paz, Borges and Vargas Llosa are held and continue to be acquired. Many additional individual works of poetry, drama and essays from a wide range of authors are also represented. Library policy is not necessarily to acquire every work by an author but it does aim to acquire collections or collected works editions if these are felt to usefully fill gaps. There is not a policy to actively acquire titles in Catalan, Euskera, Gallego or other regional variations but if works are requested or offered through donation they will certainly be considered. Works of or about pre-Columbian literature, including codexes, are shelved as part of the American Indian collection.

Individual plays or volumes of poetry are not generally acquired for the foreign language collections these days, due to budget considerations concerning binding into boards for the open shelves, but collections or collected works will be acquired as appropriate. Spanish fiction has its own shelfmark and includes all authors writing in Spanish as their primary language.

Following the works of each individual author there will be literary criticism and commentary on them and their works in either Spanish, Portuguese or English with occasional titles in other European languages. Biographical works regarding these authors are shelved in the Biography collection.

Translations into English are acquired where possible. There are also small collections of Catalan and Euskera shelved separately, although Gallego titles are shelved with the Spanish works. The collection is constantly added to with attempts to represent new Spanish and Spanish American writers. The Portuguese collection is smaller in scope but most key authors from the medieval period to the mid-20th century are represented and efforts are made to acquire some new works as the budget permits.

The highlight of the Spanish collection is the 17th century collection of plays and sueltas, although they are now held in secure accommodation as part of the Library's Special Collection. A complete list of the plays can be found in Karl C. Gregg's *An Index to the Spanish Theatre Collection in the London Library*. Charlottesville, Virginia: Biblioteca Siglo de Oro, 1984.

Most of them were presented to the Library by John Rutter Chorley (1806-1867), scholar of Spanish literature and poet, and a close friend of Thomas Carlyle, the Library's founder. The collection was later enlarged by a gift from Mrs. G.H. Dawkins of plays previously owned by W.B. Chorley, brother of J.R. Chorley.

Portuguese

All Portuguese-language materials of a literary nature, including fiction, poetry, drama, essays and journalism, plus literary criticism and works on the history of literature, in either Portuguese or English, are shelved together in the Portuguese collection. There is a good representation of classic authors with works of criticism and commentary following each author as necessary. Collections of works by Camões, Eça de Queiroz, Jose Saramago, Fernando Pessoa (and his four pseudonyms) as well as a number of Brazilian writers are all held.

For historical reasons a small collection of works on the history of Brazilian literature, in either Portuguese or English, are shelved separately in the literature collection.

Please note that, because of linguistic ambiguities, a number of early works of Portuguese provenance (from 10th-12th centuries) have been classified by earlier cataloguers within the Spanish collection: it is always recommended that the Library's catalogues are carefully consulted to identify correct shelfmarks.

Translations into English of fiction (novels and short-stories) by Spanish or Portuguese writers are held in the Library's main Fiction collection.

History & Biography

History

Within the Library's History collections works are not subdivided by language, so relevant books in all languages will be found in the main sequence under the appropriate subject shelfmark. There are shelfmarks for individual Iberian and most Latin American & Caribbean countries as well as broader subject collections covering the discovery of the Americas and some more regional specialisms.

The shelfmark H. Spain covers a wide range of material in a number of languages on the history of Spain to the current day as well as its empire until Independence. Works on the history of individual Spanish American countries both pre- and post-Independence are held in specific country collections with the exception of the Central American republics, which for historical reasons, are shelved at H. Central America. There are also separate collections on Spanish economic and social history and the Spanish Constitution as well as particular strengths in a collection for the Spanish Civil War. Individual kings, queens and emperors are also afforded separate shelfmarks containing significant collections for biographical material and histories of the country in the period of their reigns.

The shelfmark H. Portugal covers the history of Portugal to the current day and of its empire until Independence. Works on the history of Brazil both pre-and post-independence are held in H. Brazil.

There are also collections covering Spanish military history, the Peninsula War, the War of Spanish Succession and the Spanish American War.

Works on the indigenous civilisations of the Americas may be found in a number of different collections within History and Topography depending on the aspect of the work.

Biography

The Library's collections are particularly rich in biographical material and many literary authors, monarchs, members of the European aristocracy, statesmen, politicians and revolutionaries are represented here in both English and Spanish, and to a lesser extent Portuguese. The Library has recently acquired the 50

volume *Diccionario biográfico español* published by the Real Academia de la Historia which is shelved with other biographical dictionaries in the Writer's Room area of the Reading Room suite.

Art

The Library's large collection of art books includes a wide range of material on Spanish, and to a lesser extent Portuguese, art and artists. There are books on the works of individual artists such as El Greco, Ribera, Zurbarán, Velázquez, Murillo, Goya, Picasso, Dalí and Miró as well as catalogues of major exhibitions held in Madrid and London and catalogues of major art galleries such as the Prado (and some private collections). There are also works on the architecture of Spain and Portugal from the periods of the caliphates to the present day, ceramics and mosaics, gold and silver work, sculpture and wood carving as well as drawing and etching. Works are in Spanish, Portuguese and English as well as other European languages on occasion.

Topography, Travel & Archaeology

The Library's extensive topography collection covers a wide range of material, and many works are of a large quarto format suitable to books of this nature, containing maps and other illustrative material. The collection includes works on the geography of Spain, Portugal, Central America and South America in all its constituent parts, the archaeology of the Americas as well the Iberian peninsula, the history of individual countries, regions, cities and towns and occasionally individual buildings. It includes many accounts of travellers to these countries as well as broader collections covering the voyages of medieval explorers around the known and unknown world. There are particular strengths in 18th and 19th century editions, many containing maps and plans of cities. Some may now be part of the Special Collections in the Safe but all are available to consult in the Library on request. There are, additionally, guide-books to many countries, mostly published in the late 19th and early 20th century, which are kept in the separate Guide Books collection in the Issue Hall, and some atlases, statistical surveys and other official publications.

Periodicals

The Library maintains a small number of subscriptions to periodicals relating to Spanish and Portuguese studies. The Library has always maintained a policy of retaining everything acquired and this includes periodical material, most of which is held in the Basement collections. Whilst the Library currently subscribes to print and online editions of:

It also has partial holdings from 1923-2010 for *The bulletin of Spanish studies* and its successor *The bulletin of Hispanic studies* as well as *Cultura española* in a short run of 16 issues from 1906-1909. Other topics of Spanish interest may be found in broader European-focused titles covering literature, history, economics etc.

Reference works, dictionaries & Philology

There is an extensive range of Spanish, and to a lesser extent Portuguese, dictionaries held in the Reading Room or Philology collections. The oldest Spanish work on open access in these two collections is the *Diccionario de la lengua castellana* published in 6 volumes by the Real Academia Española between 1726 and 1739 in Philology, but later dictionaries for current usage remain part of the reference only collection in the Reading Room. Other reference works include the *Enciclopedia universal ilustrada europeo-americana* 1908-1930 and its *Suplemento anual* from 1935-2001 and the *Diccionario biografico español* in 50 volumes from 2009-2013.

The Portuguese collection includes the *Elucidario das palavras, termos, e frases, que em Portugal antigamente se usáraõ, e que hoje regularmente se ignorão: obra indispensavel para entender sem erro os documentos mais raros, e preciosos* by Joaquim de Santa Rosa de Viterbo in two volumes published in 1798-9 as well as the more up to date *Dicionário Dom Quixote dos verbos da língua portuguesa* from 1999 and the *Routledge Portuguese bilingual dictionary*, 2011.

The Philology collection contains a range of books about various aspects of the Spanish and Portuguese languages including grammars, usage and history as well as broader works on Romance philology and Indo-European languages, but does not acquire audio-visual material as teaching aids.

The Library's complete set of the *Diccionario hispanoamericano de heráldica, onomástica y genealogía* can be found in the Genealogy section of the main book-stacks at Genealogy & Heraldry, 4to.

Cultural Aspects – ‘Science & Miscellaneous’

Cultural aspects of the countries covered by the core languages collected are often to be found in the Library's Science & Miscellaneous collection. Subjects here include Capital & Labour, Education, Medicine, Music, Photography, Political Science, Political Economy and Women, in all languages, as well as smaller collections ranging from Advertising to Life-boats and Logic to Zoology.

Particular subjects of interest to the Iberian and Latin American collections are Bull-fighting, Dancing, Dress and Volcanoes. The Natural History collections include a number of works on the flora and fauna of Latin America.

Religion & Philosophy

Works on the religions of Spain and Portugal (and by extension Latin America) can be found in the Ecclesiastical History collections of these two cultures as well as throughout other shelfmarks in Religion depending on the aspect of the work. Some works by Saint Ignatius of Loyola and Fray Luis de León can be found here although the earliest work, *De los nombres de Christo* by Fray Luis de León published in 1595, is in the Safe. There are separate collections covering the Roman Catholic Church, the various Books of the Bible and many other subdivisions such as Church Festivals, Saints, Science & Religion, Mohammed (for theological works on Islam) and the Inquisition. There is a separate collection for Philosophy where works by Ortega y Gasset and María Zambrano are found along with many other titles in both Spanish and English as well as a single work in Portuguese entitled *O filosofo solitario*, published in Lisbon in 1786.

Online Resources away from the Library

The following is a selection of websites of Spanish, Portuguese and Latin American bibliographic interest:

The Biblioteca National Española www.bne.es

An ISBN database listing in-print publications is available via the Spanish Ministerio de Educación y Cultura at www.mec.es

The following may be useful in searching library collections in the UK and worldwide: copac.ac.uk/search

www.bibliothek.kit.edu/cms/english/website-durchsuchen.php

www.worldcat.org

A useful gateway for Latin American studies can be found at:
www1.lanic.utexas.edu

There are many other based at universities in the Americas and Europe.
For Iberian studies the following is a useful gateway
wessweb.info/index.php/Iberian_Studies_Web