

THE LONDON LIBRARY



Leaving a
Lasting Legacy

LEAVING A LASTING LEGACY

“ The London Library is so firmly and fondly established in the pride of its members, that its continuance in good health may easily be taken for granted. Yet, housing the collection safely, adding to it constantly, caring for it and administering the use of it, are permanently beyond the means of the income from members’ subscriptions, which must therefore be augmented by funds from other sources.

Of these, the legacy—money left to the Library in a Will—is the one which in St. James’s Square produces the warmest sense of something shared by the giver and the receiver: a love of books for themselves, a conviction that printed books are becoming more, not less, important, and, not least, a faith in the Library’s continuing to serve the readers who come after us.

Whether you read for pleasure, instruction, scholarship or all three together, a bequest to the London Library, however modest, is an eloquent and practical gesture towards the blessedness of a reading life. Please do consider it, and accept my thanks. ”

Tom Stoppard
President



A UNIQUE LITERARY LEGACY

From its founding in 1841, following Thomas Carlyle's personal crusade for the establishment in London of a scholarly lending library, The London Library has come to epitomise the most enlightened aspects of Victorian philanthropy.

The subsequent accumulation of the collections, and the growth of the building to house them, has only been possible through the generosity of supporters over many decades. Each gift has helped to strengthen the original ethos of the Library's celebrated earliest members, to maintain an institution dedicated entirely to education, learning and knowledge, open to all who may benefit from access to the riches available on its open shelves.

There have been several magnificent individual bequests, but behind these have been donations from generation after generation of 'ordinary' members, keen to give back something of what they have gained from their years of using the Library.

"It has been said that England has produced three institutions at once admirable and unique. I forget what the third is; but the other two are the Monarchy and the London Library."

Lord David Cecil
Member of The London Library,
1922–1986

This spirit of giving continues to be vital to the Library's development in the twenty-first century, and now more than ever is the time for us to take up the challenge of following our forebears' philanthropic example. As a registered charity, the Library relies heavily on donations and legacies to continue its work. It is only with the knowledge that this money is there for us that we can with confidence continue to add new books to the collections day after day; that we can repair and conserve the older acquisitions; and that we can equip the Library with the developing technologies that increasingly complement the contents of the printed holdings.

A legacy is a fitting way to acknowledge the scholarship, the literary refuge and the pleasure that the Library has offered to so many readers and writers over the years. And it is the most effective means of ensuring that this intellectual oasis in the capital survives and develops to serve the needs of generations of readers and writers to come.

Image: The Art Room



HOW YOU CAN HELP

By including The London Library among the beneficiaries mentioned in your Will, you can play a direct and vital part in helping to ensure our long-term survival and success. Bequests can be directed towards a range of key areas of the Library's work, such as new acquisitions, preservation and binding of the older book stock, or cataloguing; however, unrestricted gifts — the applications of which are left to the discretion of the Library's Trustees — are most valuable as they can be used wherever the need is greatest and can often help the Library to take advantage of unexpected opportunities for developing the building and the collections.

Some suggested forms of wording to pass to your solicitor are included below. It would also be helpful if you would complete and return to the Library the Notice of Intention included at the end of this leaflet.

All donations and bequests to the Library may be publicly acknowledged; or, if you prefer, you may express a wish to remain anonymous.

"I am convinced that if this library disappeared it would be a disaster to the world of letters, and would leave a vacancy that no other form of library could fill."

TS Eliot

President of The London Library,
1952–1964



TYPES OF LEGACY

There are three main types of gift that you can make in your Will:

Pecuniary Legacy

This is a fixed sum of money. The limitation of this type of gift is that its value decreases with subsequent rises in inflation.

Residuary Legacy

This can be a bequest of the remainder, or a proportion of the remainder, your estate after other legacies, Inheritance Tax, debts and expenses have been paid.

Specific Legacy

You can also bequeath specific personal assets such as property, stocks and shares, literary rights, books, art and antiques. If you are considering leaving a collection of books to the Library, we would welcome the opportunity to discuss your plans with you before you commit them to your Will.

"Let knowledge grow from more to more." *In Memoriam*

Alfred, Lord Tennyson
President of The London Library,
1885–1892

Suggested legacy wording to take to your solicitor:

Pecuniary Legacies

I give to The London Library (charity number 312175) the sum of £___ (amount in figures and words) absolutely and for the general purposes of the Library and I declare that the receipt by the Librarian or other proper officer of the Library shall provide a full and sufficient discharge of such a legacy.

Residuary Legacies

I give the residue (or ___ percentage of the residue) of my estate to The London Library (charity number 312175) absolutely and for the general purposes of the Library and I declare that the receipt by the Librarian or other proper officer of the Library shall provide a full and sufficient discharge of such a legacy.

Specific Legacies

I give to The London Library (charity number 312175) my: ___ (full description of item/items and its/their location) absolutely and for the general purposes of the Library and I declare that the receipt by the Librarian or other proper officer of the Library shall provide a full and sufficient discharge of such a legacy.



Image: The Times Room

FURTHER INFORMATION

More Information

If you require any more information about making a bequest to the Library or would like to discuss further your bequest, please contact:

Development Department
+44 (0)20 7766 4719
legacy@londonlibrary.co.uk
www.londonlibrary.co.uk/legacy

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TS Eliot

President of The London Library,
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Patron

Her Majesty The Queen

President

Sir Tom Stoppard, OM, CBE

Vice Presidents

Nicholas Barker, OBE, FBA
Lewis Golden, OBE
Mrs Drue Heinz, DBE
Jeremy Paxman

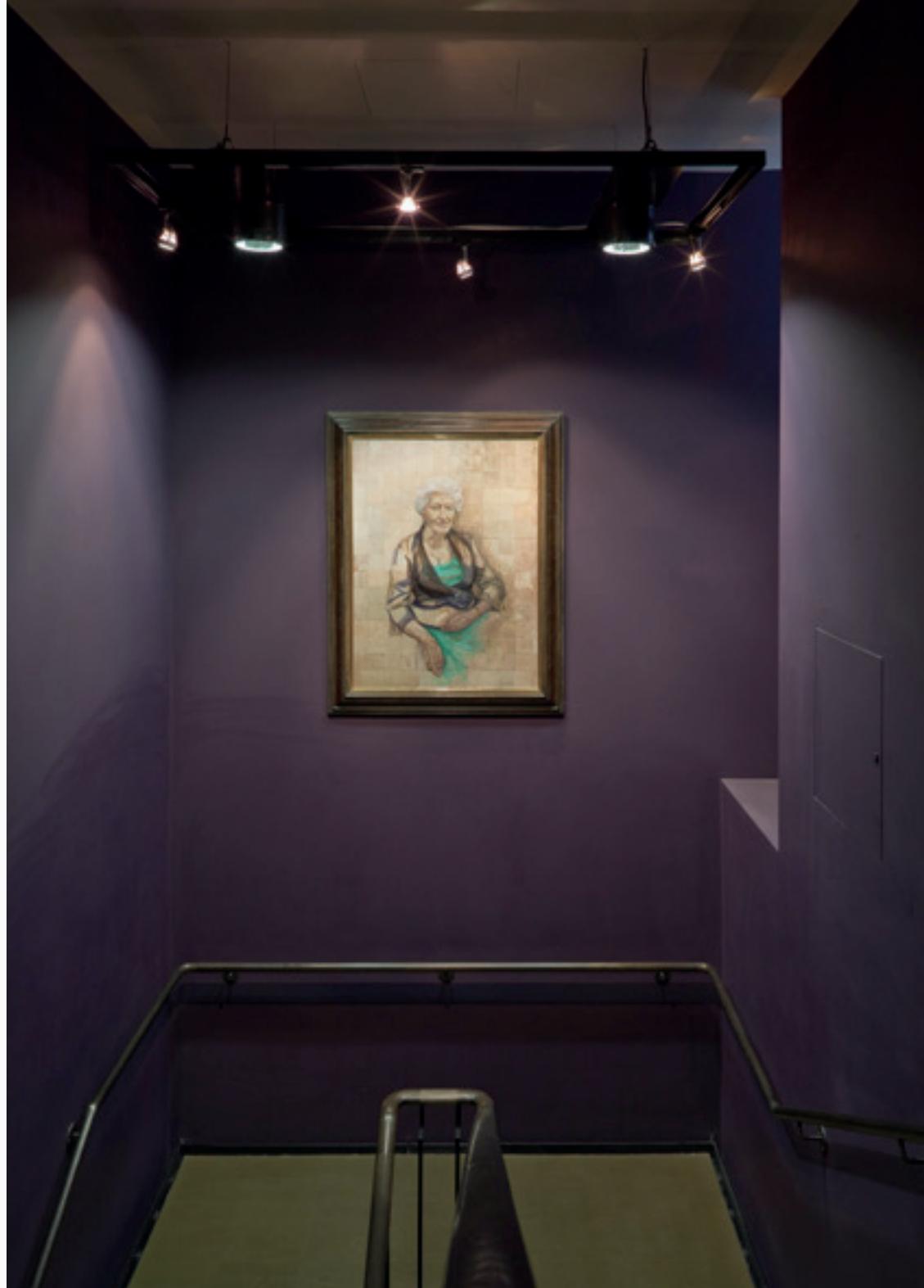
Chairman of the Trustees

Bill Emmott

Librarian

Inez T P A Lynn, BA, M.LITT, MC LIP

Image: Portrait of Mrs T.S. Eliot (Valerie).
Former Vice President and Benefactor



NOTICE OF YOUR INTENTION

The nature of Will-making is such that most often the donation the Library receives is an unexpected wind-fall. However, the knowledge that someone felt moved to remember the Library and its work after their death is especially gratifying and we would welcome the opportunity to show our appreciation of your gift during your lifetime.

Completion of this form has no binding legal consequences, does not limit your freedom to change your Will in the future, and will be treated in the strictest confidence.

Name _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

Telephone No. _____ Email _____

Membership No. _____ Date _____

I am making a **PECUNIARY / RESIDUARY / SPECIFIC** legacy to The London Library in my Will (please delete as applicable).

It would be very helpful if you felt able to give some approximate indication of the nature/value of your legacy:

I would like my legacy to applied as follows (please tick):

- General Endowment
- Building Preservation & Conservation
- Book Preservation & Conservation
- Acquisitions
- Electronic Resources
- Unrestricted





PLEASE SEND THE
COMPLETED
FORM TO

THE
LONDON
LIBRARY

FREEPOST Development Department
14 St James's Square
London SW1Y 4LG