

600 YEARS

CAMBRIDGE  
UNIVERSITY  
LIBRARY

1416 - 2016

2-5pm, Friday 17 March 2017

# BEHIND THE SHELVES

A rare peek behind the scenes of  
Cambridge University Library to mark the  
closing of our 600th anniversary celebrations

*Exclusive for all University staff and students and Library readers*

## DID YOU KNOW?

All members of the University are entitled to reading access and in most cases borrowing rights to millions of items held in the Library. To check that your University card is activated, email [registration@lib.cam.ac.uk](mailto:registration@lib.cam.ac.uk) with your full name and the 5 digit code beginning with "V" under the barcode on the back of your University card, or make an appointment with Reader Registration by telephoning **01223 333030**.



UNIVERSITY OF  
CAMBRIDGE

[www.lib.cam.ac.uk/BehindtheShelves](http://www.lib.cam.ac.uk/BehindtheShelves)

Cambridge University Library  
West Road, Cambridge CB3 9DR

Ever wondered how Darwin arrived at his theory of evolution? Or why the Library has in its collection a set of psychic thumbprints? Or what we really have stored in our 17-storey tower (hint: it's not what you might think!)? **Behind the Shelves reveals all!**

## SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

### *Curious Objects exhibition*

All day | Milstein Exhibition Centre, Ground Floor | DROP-IN

Toys, human hair and ectoplasm: the story of Cambridge University Library told through its more unusual and unexpected items.



### *Discovering Darwin*

2-5pm | Manuscripts Reading Room, 3rd Floor | DROP-IN

Find out how Charles Darwin arrived at his theories through his revealing letters, manuscripts and books from the *Beagle* voyage and beyond.



### *Medicine in Medieval Egypt*

2-5pm | Manuscripts Reading Room, 3rd Floor | DROP-IN

How was medicine practised in Medieval Egypt? These fragments from the Genizah Collections, including prescriptions and medical recipes, reveal all.



### *Maps of Cambridge*

2-5pm | Map Room, 1st Floor | DROP-IN

Trace the history of the city of Cambridge from the 1500s to the present day.



### *Rare books from everywhere and for everyone*

2-5pm | Sir Geoffrey Keynes Room, 4th Floor | DROP-IN

Be enchanted with this display illustrating the huge variety of rare books; from 15th century incunabula to 20th century special collections.



### *Treasures of the University Library*

2-5pm | Librarian's Office, 4th Floor | DROP-IN

A once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to view some of the Library's most treasured items in the office of the University Librarian.



### *'Ribaldry and rowing' and 'Readers ancient and modern'*

2-5pm | Manuscripts Reading Room, 3rd Floor | DROP-IN

Displays of unique material from the archives of the Footlights and University Boat Club, and an insight into 600 years of Library rules and regulations.



### *A voyage around the world*

2-5pm | Map Room, 1st Floor | DROP-IN

View spectacular artwork and photographs from each and every continent.



# BEHIND - THE - SCENES

Register for all tours on the 1st Floor balcony.  
Spaces are limited to up to 12 people per tour, and places will be offered on a first-come, first-served basis on the day.

## *Giles Gilbert Scott's 1934 building*

2.30-3pm, 3.30-4pm, 4.30-5pm | Meet on 1st Floor balcony | GUIDED TOUR  
From the tower to the basement; discover how we take care of 8 million items.



## *Conserving our collections*

2-2.45pm, 3-3.45pm | Meet on 1st Floor balcony | GUIDED TOUR  
Visit the studios of our Conservation and Collection Care Department to learn more about the vital role it plays in safeguarding the Library's collections.



## *Journey of your book request*

2-2.30pm, 3-3.30pm, 4-4.30pm | Meet on 1st Floor balcony | GUIDED TOUR  
Find out what happens when you request a book held within our closed stacks.



## *Historical printing*

2-5pm, tours every 30mins | Meet on 1st Floor balcony | GUIDED TOUR  
A 30-minute introduction to printing during the hand-press period.



## *Over 8 million and counting*

2-4pm, tours every 30mins | Meet in on 1st Floor balcony | GUIDED TOUR  
How does the Library process over a thousand books each week? (1-hour tours)



## *Tower Collections: a social history*

2.30-4.30pm, tours every 15mins | Meet on 1st Floor balcony | GUIDED TOUR  
What do we really keep in our 17-storey tower? This 30-minute tour allows you to explore our tower collections and experience panoramic views of Cambridge.



## *Library art collection*

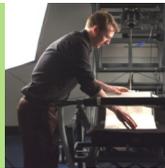
2.30-3pm, 3.30-4pm, 4.30-5pm | Meet on 1st Floor balcony | GUIDED TOUR  
Discover the stories behind some of the Library's portraits and paintings.



# DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES

## *Digitisation for future generations*

2.30-3pm, 3.30-4pm, 4.30-5pm | Meet on 1st Floor balcony | GUIDED TOUR  
Take a tour of our Digitisation studio and find how new technologies are preserving our collections and opening them up to a worldwide audience.



## *Reaching beyond the UL (Office of Scholarly Communication)*

2-5pm | Catalogue Hall, 1st Floor | SLIDE SHOW AND LIVE STREAM  
See how we use digital technologies to share information and engage researchers.



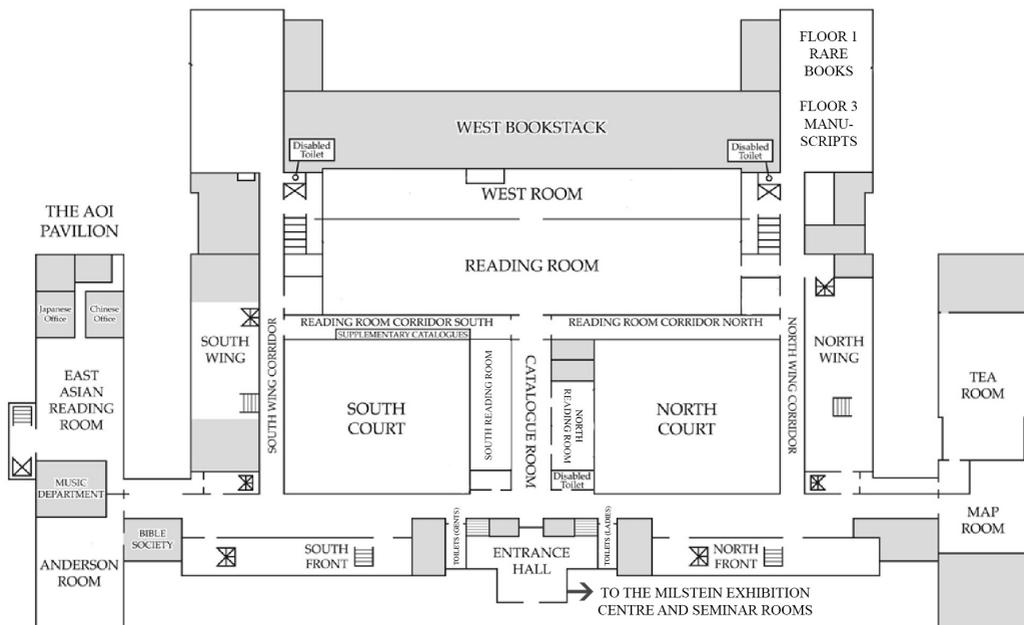
## *Discovering our collections*

2-5pm | 1st Floor balcony | DROP-IN  
Our iDiscover team is on hand to help to answer your Library search queries.



# EXPLORE

Use our map to find your way! Access to the 4th Floor displays are via the staircase (not visible on the map) on the 1st Floor balcony.



## Important information about your visit:

- Please note that this event is for University staff and students and Library readers only – please bring your blue University of Cambridge card or white Library card with you on the day. 18s and over only.
- In compliance with normal Library rules, all visitors to the Library are asked to leave their bags in our secure locker-room before entering the main building.
- The Library will remain open to readers during this event; please respect your fellow Library users and keep noise to a minimum during your visit.
- The behind-the-scenes tours are not pre-bookable before the day, and will operate on a first-come, first-served basis on the day. Bookings for tours from 2pm will be taken on the 1st Floor balcony. Spaces on each tour are limited.
- Some of the tours may not be suitable for wheelchair users or for those with limited mobility.

All enquiries about this event, including information about access, can be directed to [fh322@cam.ac.uk](mailto:fh322@cam.ac.uk).