



Little London Library Guide to Occult Collections

The Lucis Trust Library

This society is also another offshoot of the theosophical movement, created by Alice and Foster Bailey who were both prolific writers on mysticism. In 1923 they created the Arcane School to teach a mixture of esoterism with Christianity. The material available here is mainly written by its creators. Additional materials cover related subjects such as philosophy, mysticism, esoterism and Christianity.

Suite 54, 3 Whitehall Court, London SW1A 2EF
http://www.lucistrust.org/en/arcane_school/library/london_headquarters_library/about

The Society for Psychical Research Library

This library used to house the Harry Price collection. The Society's library is one of the most comprehensive collections in the world to cover psychical research and related topics. Housed in London and Cambridge, it contains over six thousand volumes, plus all the major series of journals dealing with psychical research.

49 Marloes Road, Kensington, London, W8 6LA
<http://www.spr.ac.uk/main/page/spr-libraries-paranormal>

The London Library

The country's largest independent, private subscription library; it has been described as a "kind of temple of Serendipity in the middle of the capital". This library covers multiple subjects, especially good on folklores and religions. While the books on the Library's open shelves date from 1700 onwards (and can be borrowed by members) the whole collection actually dates back as far as 1500. Lots of antiquarian books from politics, history and philosophy, to occultism, astronomy and psychology. The ambience of the place is also curiously appropriate for researches into the field. The majority of the library is in near darkness, with light switches for each aisle and an iron grid floor separating the levels so that it is possible to see several floors both above and below. The place is quite literally a maze.

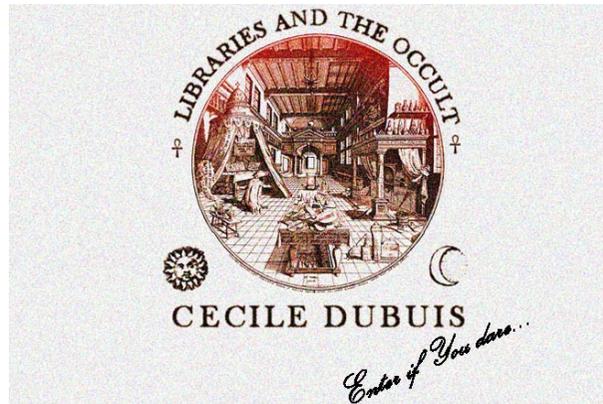
14 St James's Square London, Greater London SW1Y 4LG
<http://www.londonlibrary.co.uk/>



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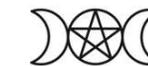
The British Library

Where you can find nearly everything
96 Euston Road, London, NW1 2DB
<http://www.bl.uk>



My dissertation Libraries and the Occult is available on :
www.morbidfrog.co.uk

It was written in 2004 so be aware that most of the data, ideas, access and attitude might be quite different and out of date today.
Contact: morbidfrog@gmail.com



Little London Library Guide to Occult Collections By Morbidfrog

Each library has different rules on access,
so please check their websites before
planning a visit.



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The Harry Price Library of Magical Literature, held at Senate House Library.

Collected by the psychical researcher and writer Harry Price (1881-1948). He built up his library on all aspects of parapsychology and related fields during his lifetime. The material is based on the cultural history of attitudes towards the occult and unique in the UK. Subsequently depositing his collection with Senate House Library in 1936, the Harry Price Library is estimated to consist of around 13,000 items. The books date from 1472 to the twenty-first century. It also includes pamphlets, journals, press cuttings, manuscripts, photographs, slides, ectoplasms, ghost hunting kits and more unusual artefacts.

The library itself is full of ghostly tales, for more info see Sarah Sparkes <http://ghostsofsenatehouse.blogspot.co.uk/>

Senate House Malet St London, Greater London WC1E 7HU
<http://www.senatehouselibrary.ac.uk/>

The Warburg Institute Library

This library has two interesting collections: the Yorke Collection and the open shelves.

Magic and Science is on the fourth floor with great sections on magic, witchcraft, occultism, divination, demons and devils in early modern Europe, renaissance magic manuscripts and scholarly research especially in magical theology, John Dee, occultism and western esoteric tradition.

The Yorke collection is one of the greatest focusing on works by and about Aleister Crowley, the OTO, the Order of the Golden Dawn and other early 20th century occultists.

Gerald Yorke was a friend and associate of Aleister Crowley. His collection comprised books, manuscripts, letters, clothes and magical regalia

The Warburg Institute, University of London, School of Advanced Study

Woburn Square, London, WC1H 0AB.
<http://warburg.sas.ac.uk/library/>



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The Lilian Storey Memorial Library

Run by the Theosophical Society for the benefit of members of the society and for individuals interested in becoming subscribers. The London headquarters contain one of Europe's finest collections of esoteric books available for loan and includes works on Theosophy, Astrology, Mythology, Parapsychology, Yoga and World Religions This was originally Madam Blavatsky's personal collection

50 Gloucester Place, London W1U 8EA
<http://www.theosophicalsociety.org.uk/index.php/study-resources/books/bookslibrary>

The Wellcome Library

"The Wellcome Library collection spans works on numerous subject areas that have impacted on the human condition physically, spiritually and psychologically. The library is full of surprises, even for those with interests outside medical science".

The collection covers the subjects of religion, folklore, witchcraft, magic, astrology, alchemy and much more. Lots of books on Alchemy and famous alchemist Dr John Dee (some of his artefacts can also be found in British Museum).

The Wellcome online digital gallery is also fantastic and even has a little section on the dark arts with some great images of etchings and woodcuts from witches to mandrakes.

183 Euston Road, London, NW1 2BE
<http://wellcomelibrary.org/>

The Swedenborg Library

The library is located at the Society's headquarters in Bloomsbury and was established in 1824. Over the years the library has formed an important record of all Swedenborgian publishing and scholarship both in the United Kingdom and all around the world. The Library is divided into four main sections: the Swedenborg Collection; the Archives; Collateral titles and Periodicals.

Swedenborg House, Bloomsbury, London WC1A 2TH
<http://www.swedenborg.org.uk/library>



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The Library and Museum of Freemasonry

Completed 1932 it is one of the finest listed Art Deco buildings in England. The Library, temple and museum are worth a visit alone. The Library is open for reference use. It contains a comprehensive collection of printed books and manuscripts on every facet of Freemasonry in England as well as material on Freemasonry elsewhere in the world and on subjects associated with Freemasonry or with mystical and esoteric traditions.

Freemasons' Hall, 60 Great Queen Street, London WC2B 5AZ
<http://www.freemasonry.london.museum/library/>

Folklore Society Library & University College London Libraries

The Society was founded in 1878 and has kept its library on deposit at the College since 1911. The library is one of the world's largest collections of folklore and related fields. It contains upwards of 15,000 books, 5,000 pamphlets, and c.100 current periodicals on all branches of folklore throughout the world, including calendar customs, religion and the supernatural, ballads, and ritual drama, with some background material in archaeology and anthropology. There are many rare and early books.

The Anthropology collection (based at the Science Library) also has a good section on all religions, religious beliefs, ritual, ceremonial, magic and witchcraft.

The Main Library also has a good array on books on demonology, bestiary, heresy, witch trials and supernatural in the Middle Ages (found across collection like History, Art & French @ Main Library)

University College London, Gower Street, London, WC1E 6BT
<http://www.ucl.ac.uk/library/main.shtml>
<http://www.ucl.ac.uk/library/special-coll/fls.shtml>

The Anthroposophical Society Library

This society is an offshoot from the theosophical movement. The library contains mainly works by its founders and publications by its members as well as a number of general books relevant to anthroposophy including philosophy, mythology, occultism, freemasonry, alternative technology and sciences.

Rudolf Steiner House, 35 Park Road, London NW1 6XT
<http://www.anthroposophy.org.uk/pages/libraries.php>

