

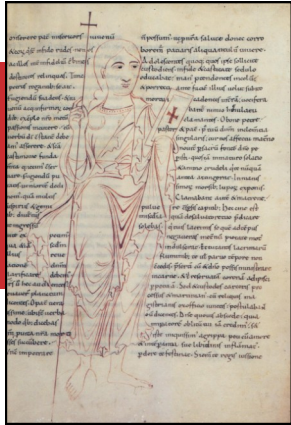


ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE LIBRARY

Highlights through the ages

9th century

Gospels: At over 1,100 years old a set of Gospels, produced in Brittany, is the oldest book in the Library. It came to Canterbury around 100 years later where a picture of St John writing his gospel (right) was added.



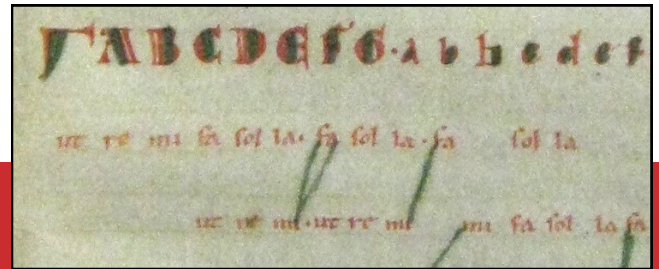
10th century

Cura pastoralis: From the 900s comes this guidebook to the duties of the clergy originally written in 590 by Pope Gregory the Great. This Latin version was produced at St Augustine's Abbey in Canterbury. The frontispiece (left) depicts Christ.

11th century

Guido of Arezzo on Music: Interesting manuscripts from the 11th century include a Latin grammar written in Anglo-Saxon by Aelfric of Eynsham, and this manuscript (right) by Guido of Arezzo who

developed the familiar doh-re-mi mnemonic for remembering musical notes, here in its original form of 'ut-re-mi-fa-sol-la' etc.



12th century

Thorney Computus: The College's most celebrated manuscript (left) is a work on medieval mathematics and science, full of maps, diagrams, tables and alphabets. It was written on the edge of the Fens in Thorney Abbey to calculate the future dates of Easter—which it does up to the year 2612.



13th century

York Bestiary: One of the College's most magnificent manuscripts is this bestiary, or book

of beasts, produced at Holy Trinity Priory in York. There are pictures of each beast, including elephants, dragons, phoenixes, and bees,

together with commentary taken from classical and Christian lore.



14th century

Al-Nisaburi's Commentary on Tusi: The Library holds many fascinating 14th century manuscripts, many of a scientific nature, including a second bestiary, an astronomical treatise written for Charles V of France which contains horoscopes of the Royal family, a practitioner's handbook of surgery with illustrations of medical instruments, and several Arabic manuscripts on topics such as siege warfare, linguistics and astronomy (left).



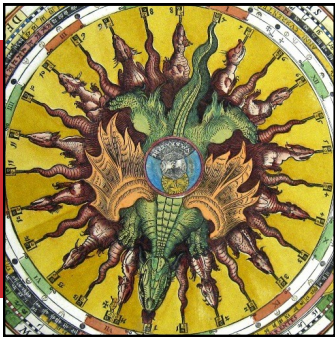


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Highlights through the ages

15th century

Chaucer's Canterbury Tales: As well as manuscripts from the 1400s, including lavish books of hours, the Library holds items from the genesis of European printing. Its oldest printed book is a 1465 edition of Cicero's *De Officiis*, but its most celebrated is its copy of Caxton's 2nd printing of *Canterbury Tales* (1483) with hand-coloured illustrations (right).

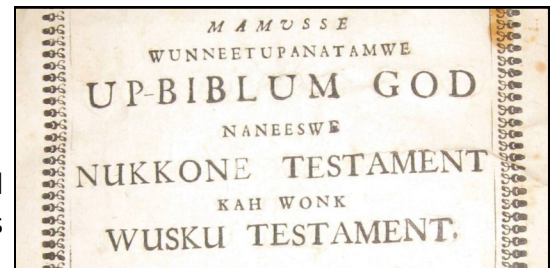


16th century

Apian's Imperial Astronomy: This magnificent book was produced to persuade the Emperor Charles V to make its author Royal astronomer in 1540. Its full colour diagrams include moving parts. Other 16th century books in the Library include early editions by Copernicus and the anatomist Vesalius, as well as Foxe's *Book of Martyrs*, Gesner's books of animals and several atlases.

17th century

Massachusetts Bible: One of the first books printed in what later became the United States was this Bible in the Algonquin language, produced by the missionary John Eliot in 1663. Other 17th century books in the Library are a 2nd Folio of Shakespeare, Hooke's *Micrographia* (on microscopes) as well as first editions of *Paradise Lost* and Kepler's key work: *Astronomia Nova*.

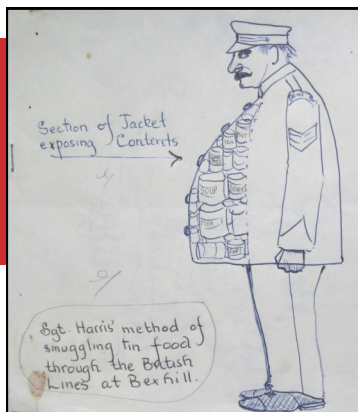
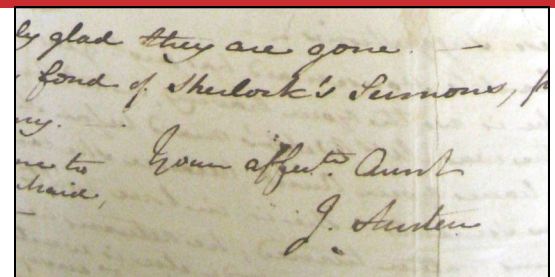


18th century

Hogarth Album: Amongst the Library's 18th century holdings are an album of original Hogarth prints, such as this one depicting the evils of gin (left), Johnson's *Dictionary* and Roche's colossal map of London.

19th century

Jane Austen Letters: The Library holds 19th century printed works in all areas (including first editions of Dickens, early works by Ruskin, etc.) as well as five original letters from Jane Austen offering advice to her niece Anna on how to write a novel.



20th century

Milligan papers: Significant 20th century collections include the archives and library of the poet and author Robert Graves, letters from Philip Larkin, and manuscripts and typescripts of the comic Spike Milligan (left).

21st century

C.T. Lange's Mechachal: The Library still collects contemporary artists books and fine printing. This example from 2011 depicts the market place of Harer in Ethiopia using photographs printed on brightly coloured cloth bought in the market.

