
Edwardian Literature Collection Development Policy

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I. Introduction

The Edwardian Literature Collection at BYU was purchased from San Francisco book dealer David Magee in the 1970s, comprising approximately 2,000 titles by all of the major and many of the minor authors of this period. The Harold B. Lee Library has continued to acquire additional items from this time period to supplement the Victorian Collection. The Edwardian Literature Collection is incorporated into the Rare Book Collection

II. Position Responsible for Collecting Decisions

The Curator of Rare Books is responsible for collecting the material contained in the Edwardian Literature Collection.

III. Scope and Focus of Collecting

The collection seeks to support teaching and research through the Ph.D. level in early 20th century British literature, including popular literature, fiction, poetry, and essays, literary periodicals, and children's literature. Expanding areas of interest include modernist literature and post-Edwardian literature of the First World War.

IV. Priorities and Limitations

a. Priorities

i. Areas of Specialization

The Edwardian Literature collection seeks to collect first editions of major and minor works of early 20th century British Literature.

ii. Major Faculty Research Interests

Current major faculty research interests in early 20th century British literature include Modernism and Modernist short fiction, women authors and readers, the intellectual and cultural history of Great Britain, and the literature of the First World War. Faculty teaching and research interests constantly change across authors and genres of the period.

b. Limitations

The Edwardian Literature Collection is primarily a print collection and time and financial resources will be devoted to developing print holdings. Secondary and reference works

that support the Collection are acquired for the general stacks by the subject librarian for English Literature.

V. General Selection Guidelines

a. Treatment of Subject Depth

Special Collections seeks to maintain and collect for the Edwardian Literature Collection to support undergraduate and graduate-level teaching and research.

b. Specific Delimitations

i. Type

Collected at a research level: First editions and significant editions of major and minor literary authors; literary periodicals.

Collected at a representative level: First editions and significant editions of works related to British cultural history of the Edwardian period.

Excluded: Secondary and reference works.

ii. Physical Format

Collected at a research level: Monographs, serials.

Excluded: Manuscripts, ebooks, print-on-demand.

iii. Date

Collected at a research level: Materials published from 1901-1918 (the reign of Edward VII through the First World War).

Collected at a teaching level: Materials published just prior to or just after the above dates which have been identified by scholars as belonging to the Edwardian period.

iv. Geographical focus

Collected at a research level: Materials published in Great Britain. First editions of Edwardian-era authors which may have been published elsewhere (e.g., the United States, Europe, British colonies).

v. Subject Emphasis

Collected at a research level: Literature (including fiction, drama, poetry, and essays).

Collected at a representative level: Cultural and intellectual history; material culture and printing history.

vi. Languages

Materials in English will primarily be acquired for the Edwardian Collection. Other languages will be acquired if an Edwardian author first published a given text in a language other than English.

VI. Deaccessioning Guidelines

The Curator of Rare Books will make proposals to deaccession materials to the Special Collections Coordinating Committee. Materials may be deaccessioned if they do not comply with the Edwardian Literature Collection collecting policy or if they are duplicates of material already in the collection.

VII. Cooperation with other Collections and Institutions

The Edwardian Collection shares a close relationship with the Victorian collection, which contains British literature published 1832-1901. The English Language & Literature librarian is responsible for collecting duplicate copies or modern editions of works of Edwardian literature.

VIII. Revisions

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