

Victorian Collection

Collection Development Policy

L. Tom Perry Special Collections
Harold B. Lee Library
Brigham Young University

I. Introduction

In 1969 the University administration approved the purchase of the Victorian Collection from bookseller David Magee. Magee's collection was the finest Victorian collection assembled since that of Michael Sadleir and included over 4,200 print and manuscript items. In addition to the Victorian collection, L. Tom Perry Special Collections also houses the private collection of J.F.C. Harrison, a British social historian, which contains several thousand books, pamphlets and serials published in England during the 19th century pertaining to social conditions, history, religion, politics, and government. The Harold B. Lee Library has continued to acquire additional items from this time period to supplement the Victorian Collection, including large donations of Trollopeana and Haggardana.

II. Position Responsible for Collecting Decisions

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

III. Scope and Focus of Collecting

The collection seeks to support teaching and research through the Ph.D. level in the following areas of emphasis:

- 19th century British literature, including popular literature, fiction, poetry, and essays, literary periodicals, street literature, and children's literature.
- 19th century British history, including intellectual, social, and cultural history, material culture, and the history of the book trade.

IV. Priorities and Limitations

a. Priorities

i. Areas of Specialization

The Victorian collection seeks to collect first editions of major and minor works of 19th century British literature and literary history and 19th century British intellectual, cultural, and social history.

ii. Major Faculty Research Interests

Current faculty teaching and research interests include:

- English literature of the Victorian period (faculty research interests constantly change from one author/genre to another)
- Victorian short fiction
- Women authors and readers
- Intellectual and cultural history of Great Britain, 1832-1901
- 19th century religion and religious movements in Great Britain

b. Limitations

Though the Victorian Collection contains numerous manuscript items acquired from David Magee, the Victorian 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 Victorian Collection are acquired for the general stacks by the liaison librarian for English Literature.

V. General Selection Guidelines

a. Treatment of Subject Depth

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

b. Specific Delimitations

i. Type

Collected at a research level: First editions and significant editions of major and minor authors; literary periodicals. First and significant editions of major political, religious, scientific and historical figures in Victorian England; works by or about Queen Victoria.

Collected at a teaching level: Works related to Victorian print culture and the Victorian book; works related to Victorian material and cultural history.

Collected at a representative level: Works related to Victorian social movements.

Excluded: Secondary and reference works.

ii. Physical Format

Collected at a research level: Monographs and serials (including literary periodicals); printed ephemera; pamphlets.

Collected at a teaching level: Photographs; maps and charts; printed games and other items of Victorian material culture.

Collected at a representative level: Realia; original or proof drawings on paper by illustrators of printed books; manuscripts.

iii. Date

The Victorian Collection is comprised of materials published from 1832-1901. Materials published just prior to or just after the above dates which are considered by scholars as belonging to the Victorian period will also be added to the collection.

iv. Geographical focus

Collected at a research level: Materials published in Great Britain; the first editions of Victorian authors which may have been published elsewhere in the world (typically the United States, Germany, or the British Colonies).

v. Subject Emphasis

Collected at a research level: Literature (including fiction, drama, essays, poetry); history; cultural history; women's history.

Collected at a teaching level: Intellectual and social movements; industry; science; religion; material culture.

vi. Languages

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

VI. Deaccessioning Guidelines

In accordance with current deaccession policies, the Curator of Rare Books will make proposals to deaccession materials to the L. Tom Perry Special Collections Coordinating Committee. Materials may be deaccessioned if they do not comply with the Victorian Collection collecting policy or if they are duplicates of material already in the collection.

VII. Cooperation with other Collections and Individuals

The Victorian Collection shares a close relationship with the Edwardian Collection, which covers British literature published in the early 20th century. Manuscripts by Victorian literary authors may be acquired for the Literary Manuscripts collection, in coordination with the Curator of 19th Century Mormon and Western Manuscripts, but these will not be added to the Victorian Collection. Secondary and reference works that support the collection are acquired for the general stacks by the English Language & Literature librarian. This is done with coordination and cooperation on the part of the two librarians.

VIII. Revisions

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