

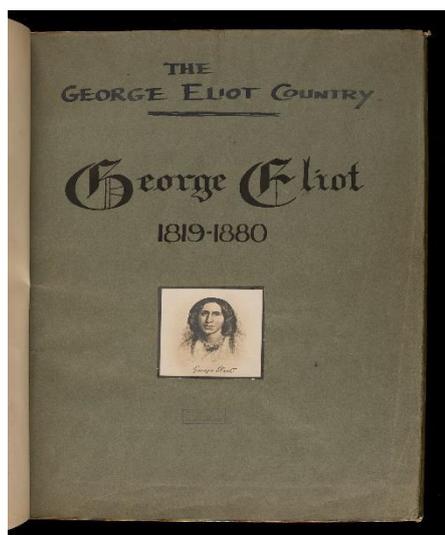
GEORGE ELIOT

Guide to records



Coventry Archives is located in the Herbert Art Gallery and Museum, Jordan Well, Coventry, CV1 5QP.

Admission to both the Reading Room and Research Room is free. Documents and books can be consulted without charge, but a charge is made for photocopying or the taking of digital images. Visitors are required to make an appointment to view original documents in the Research Room. Material in the Reading Room is available without the need of an appointment.



Opening hours: The Coventry Archives Reading and Research Rooms are open, 10.30 am – 3.30pm, Wednesdays – Fridays; the Reading Room is open on alternate Saturdays, 10.30 am – 3.30pm. Please refer to the Herbert website at www.theherbert.org for further details, or telephone on 02476 237583.

Introduction

George Eliot, christened Mary Ann Evans, was born in Nuneaton at the Arbury Estate in 1819 before moving to Griff house in 1820. Throughout her adolescent years she was educated at Misses Franklins School on Warwick Row in Coventry. When she reached 21 her brother married, leaving her and her father to move to Foleshill Road in Coventry, where she became acquainted with the Bray and Hennell families. Evans maintained a longstanding relationship with the Hennell and Bray families, sharing correspondences regularly even when she had moved to London. Eliot also participated in the Intellectual circle the Brays had grown at Rosehill, where thinkers of the time such as Herbert Spencer and Robert Owen frequented. It was here that Eliot became influenced by agnostic ideas and translated works by Feuerbach and Strauss. In 1850 she moved to London in hope of becoming a writer and found employment at the Westminster Review, eventually becoming its foremost writer of material. It was here in her later life that Eliot produced the most prominent of her literary works, including *Adam Bede*, *The Mill on the Floss*, *Silas Marner*, *Romola*, the highly acclaimed *Middlemarch*, and the controversial *Daniel Deronda*. Evans died in 1880 and rests at Highgate cemetery in London where figures such as Karl Marx and Herbert Spencer are also buried. She leaves a great legacy behind her, not only producing works of fiction which are held in the highest regard, but also one of being a liberal thinker certainly by her contemporaries' standards. She maintained a relationship with George Henry Lewes whilst he was still married. She also backed J.S. Mills' campaigns for greater equality for women and investing in schools for girls, to improve female education.

GE: George Eliot Collection

This recently catalogued collection consists of six sub-sections which covers the following areas:

GE/1 George Eliot articles

GE/2 George Eliot letters

GE/3 George Eliot newsletters and news cuttings

GE/4 George Eliot Fellowship pamphlets and ephemera

GE/5 George Eliot sale catalogues

GE/6 George Eliot scrapbooks

Biographical books

George Eliot: A biography, Frederick Karl, 1995, Harper Collins Publishers, London, GM920.E42, Reading Room

George Eliot: A life, 1996, Hamish Hamilton, London, GM920.E42

G.H. Lewes: A life, 1991, Clarendon Press, Oxford, GM801

George Eliot literary works, poems and essays, first edition

Adam Bede, 1859, Harper and Brothers, New York, GM 013.E42

Silas Marner: The Weaver of Raveloe [First edition, Original binding. Copy presented to Caroline Bray by G.H. Lewes, June 1861, inscribed with her handwriting, 1861, William Blackwood and Sons, Edinburgh and London GM 013.E42

Romola, Vol I-III [First edition, original binding, boxed], 1863, Smith, Elder & Co, London, GM 013.E42

Middlemarch: A study of Provincial Life, Vol I-IV [First Edition, Rebound] 1871, William Blackwood and sons, Edinburgh and London, GM 013.E42

The Mill on the Floss, Vol I-III [First Edition, Original Binding] 1860, William Blackwood and Sons, Edinburgh and London, GM 013.E42

Daniel Deronda, Vol I-XIII [First published in eight monthly parts], 1876, William Blackwood and Sons, Edinburgh and London, GM 013.E42

Felix Holt, The Radical, Vol I-III [Boxed First edition – Original Binding], 1866, William Blackwood and Sons, Edinburgh and London, GM 013.E42

Essays by George Eliot from *The Westminster and Foreign Quarterly Review*:
German Wit: Heinrich Heine, 1856; Women in France: Madame de Sable, 1854;
Contemporary Literature of England; McKay's 'Progress of Intellect' Review, 1851;
Vehse's 'Memoirs of the courts of Austria', 1856, Westminster Review & Foreign
Quarterly Review London, Hardback, GM013.E42

The Legend of Jubal and Other Poems [First Edition], George Eliot, 1874, William
Blackwood & Sons, Edinburgh and London, Hardback, GM013.E42

The Spanish Gypsy: A Poem [First Edition- Rebound], George Eliot, 1868, William
Blackwood & Sons, Edinburgh and London, Hardback, GM013.E42

Impressions of Theophrastus Such [First- Inscribed by George Eliot: "Caroline Bray
from the author, Eastbourne, May 29th 1879"], 1879, William Blackwood & Sons,
Edinburgh and London, Hardback, GM013.E42

Essays and Leaves from a Note-Book [First edition- presented to Caroline Bray by
Charles Lee Lewes, February 1884], George Eliot, 1884, William Blackwood & Sons,
Edinburgh and London, Hardback, GM 013.E42

The Essence of Christianity (Trans. Marian Evans), Ludwig Feuerbach, 1854, John
Chapman, London, Hardback, GM 013.E42

Bray family first edition works

Elements of Morality, in Easy Lessons for Home and School Teaching, Caroline Bray,
1883, Longmans, Green and Co, London, Hardback, GM 013.B827

Our duty to Animals, Caroline Bray, 1878, S.W Partridge & Co, Hardback, GM
013.B827

The British Empire: A Sketch of the Geography, Growth, Natural and Political
Features of the United Kingdom, its Colonies and Dependencies, Caroline Bray,
1863, Longmans, Green and Co, London, Hardback, GM 013.B827

The Philosophy of Necessity: Or, the Law of Consequences; As Applicable to
mental, moral and social science: Volume I & II, Charles Bray, 1841, Longmans,
Green and Co, London, Hardback, GM013 B827

The Education of the Feelings or Affections, Charles Bray 1849, Longmans, Green
and Co, London, Hardback, GM013.B827

The Science of Man: A Manuel of Anthropology based on Modern Research,
Charles Bray, 1871, Longmans, Green and Co, London, Hardback, GM013.B827

Hennell family

The Nemesis of Faith [Sara Hennell's copy – inscribed by 'Sara S. Hennell'], James Anthony Froude, 1849, John Chapman, London, Hardback, GM 097.H515

Lights and Shadows in the Life an an Artisan (pref. William Jolly) [Sara Hennell's copy- Inscribed 'S.S. Hennell'], Joseph Gutteridge. 1894, Curtis & Beamish, Coventry, Hardback, GM097.H515

An Inquiry Concerning the Origin of Christianity [First Edition – Sara Hennell's inscribed copy: 'Sara S Hennell from her affectionate brother the author, 1 Dec 1838, Hackney Terrace], Christian Charles Hennell, 1838, Smallfield & Son, London, Hardback, GM013.H515

Christian Theism [First Edition. Inscribed 'Mary Hennell, from her affectionate brother the author. 15 Dec 1839] Christian Charles Hennell, 1839, Smallfield & Son, London, Hardback, GM013.H515

Tale of the Alps: A Romance [Original Manuscript in the author's own handwriting and bound by her at the age of fourteen], 1819, Hardback, GM013.H515

Christianity and Infidelity: An exposition of the Arguments of Both Sides, Sara Sophia Hennell, 1857, Arthur Hall, Virtue and Co., London, Hardback, GM013.H515

Thoughts in Aid of Faith: Gathering chiefly from recent works in theology and philosophy [Original Binding], Sara Sophia Bray, 1860, George Manwaring, London, Hardback, GM013.H515

Present Religion: As A Faith Owing Fellowship with Thought, Part I [inscribed 'Caroline Bray'], 1865, Trubner & Co, London, Hardback, GM013.H515

A memoir of the Late Charles Christian Hennell [Letter from Caroline Bray inserted], Sara Sophia Hennell, 1899, Hardback, HM920.H515

Political critique

Imperialism at home: Race and Victorian Women's fiction, Susan Meyers, 1996, Cornell University Press, Ithica and London, Hardback, GM 801, Reading Room

George Eliot and the British Empire 2002, Cambridge University Press GM909, Reading Room.

George Eliot and Europe, 1997, Scholar Press, Ashgate, Aldershot, GM940, Reading Room

George Eliot and Italy: Literary, Cultural and Political influences from Dante to Risorgimento, Andrew Johnson, 1998, MacMillan, London GM945 reading room

Gendering Orientalism- Race, femininity and representation, Reina Lewis, 1996, Routledge, London GM704.93

George Eliot and Herbert Spencer- Feminism, evolutionism and the reconstruction of gender, Nancy Paxton, 1991, Princeton University Press, GM 801, Reading Room

George Eliot and the Politics of National Inheritance, 1994, Oxford University Press, G801, Reading Room

The Jewish Odyssey of George Eliot 2009, Encounter Books, Gertrude Himmelfarb, New York, GM296, Reading Room

Herbert Art Gallery and Museum also hold a considerable number of museum objects related to Mary Ann Evans [George Eliot]. For more details please look at our online catalogue Coventry collections.