Muniment and Charter Collections

The Library holds many notable muniment collections, principally from north-west England. The majority hail from Cheshire, including the Bromley-Davenport, Brooke of Mere, Cornwall-Legh, Grey (Stamford) of Dunham Massey, Jodrell, Legh of Lyme, Leycester of Toft, Mainwaring, Roundell, Stanley of Alderley, Tatton of Wythenshawe and Warburton of Arley collections. Lancashire is represented by the Clowes Deeds, Ducie Muniments and Legh of Lyme Muniments, Derbyshire by the Bagshawe and Crutchley collections. Among the Beaumont Charters and Phillipps Charters are many important medieval documents, including papal bulls, relating to religious houses in France and Belgium. The latter collection also houses several hundred English secular charters. In addition to discrete collections, the miscellaneous Rylands Charters sequence contains several thousand deeds and charters, acquired from various sources, with wide geographical coverage.

The muniment and charter collections range from the twelfth to the twentieth century. They are major sources not merely for local affairs but also for the study of national political history and of English economic and social development in general. They are significant for studies of land-ownership, agriculture, topography, continuity and change among the gentry and aristocracy, genealogy, women’s history, legal history, diplomatic and sigillography.

Several collections have wider politico-geographical significance, as sources for military, colonial and diplomatic history. The Spring Rice Collection, for example, contains valuable comments on the political and economic situation in Britain, on the administration of the Foreign Office, and on the troubles in Ireland in the 1840s.

The muniment and charter collections are complemented by the Library’s excellent collection of eighteenth- and nineteenth-century published County Histories (p. 161).

Select alphabetical list of resources:
- Arderne Deeds 102
- Astle Deeds 103
Arderne Deeds

Date range: 17th–19th centuries.

Muniments relating to the Arderne family of Alvanley, Cheshire, and the related Done family of Utkinton, Cheshire, and their estates. The documents relate chiefly to Alvanley, Utkinton, Tarporley, Rushton, Eaton, Oulton, Clotton, Kingsley, Norley, Duddon and Stockport. They include title deeds, rentals, maps, enclosure awards, and seventeenth- and eighteenth-century deeds concerning apprentices’ charities. There are numerous marriage settlements and wills from the seventeenth and eighteenth
centuries. A number of items also relate to the Crewe family of Crewe, Cheshire.

Finding aids: unpublished handlist.

Astle Deeds
Date range: 17th–19th centuries.

Muniments of the Astle estate near Chelford, Cheshire. They comprise deeds of conveyance, assignments, surrenders, mortgages, marriage settlements, wills and probate records, certificates of baptism, marriage and burial, and abstracts of title relating to the Astle, Dixon and Parker families. Properties lie in Astle, Snelson, Chelford and Nether Alderley.

Finding aids: unpublished handlist.

Bagshawe Muniments
Date range: 1423–1866.

Archives of the Bagshawes of Ford Hall and the Oaks, Derbyshire, one of the oldest families in the county. Members of the family included the Rev. William Bagshawe (1628–1702), the ‘Apostle of the Peak’, and Colonel Samuel Bagshawe (1713–62), who had a distinguished military career in Gibraltar, Ireland and India. The Bagshawes were related by marriage to two other families: the Caldwells of Castle Caldwell, Co. Fermanagh, Ireland, and the Murray family. Sir James Caldwell, fourth Baronet (c.1722–84), involved himself in the political, social and economic affairs of Britain and Ireland and came into contact with many of the leading literary and social figures of the late eighteenth century. Lord John Murray and Lieutenant General William Murray, formerly Foxlowe (d. 1818), were both distinguished soldiers.

The Bagshawes played a prominent part in local and county affairs within Derbyshire and Yorkshire, and historians of those areas, as well as economic and social historians, will find much of value among the numerous household, business and estate records. There are large numbers of deeds and estate papers for properties in Derbyshire, particularly in Castleton, Chapel-en-le-Frith, Ford, Hope, Norton and Wormhill; and in Ecclesall Bierlow, Fulwood and Sheffield in Yorkshire. The collection also contains important material on military history, particularly on military service in Ireland and India in the mid-eighteenth century and the American War of Independence, and on economic history (e.g. lead mining in Derbyshire during the eighteenth century). There are several volumes of sermons, treatises and journals of the ‘Apostle of the Peak’ and other early Nonconformist ministers. Caldwell family
papers include correspondence of Sir James Caldwell with many leading figures of his day, including George Townshend, Lady Mary Wortley Montagu, Dr Samuel Johnson, Dr John Hawkesworth, David Garrick and Arthur Young.


**Beaumont Charters**

Date range: 12th–17th centuries.

Collection of over one hundred charters relating to abbeys in Normandy, part of a collection assembled by the Abbé de la Rue (1751–1835), the noted Norman scholar. The documents comprise deeds, licences, grants and legal agreements concerning lands belonging to the Abbeys of Notre Dame at Ardenne and Barbery, and to abbeys at Caen, Fécamp, Fontenay-le-Tesson, Gouffern, Troarn and Vignats. Much of the material dates from the twelfth and thirteenth centuries, constituting a significant source for studies of land-holding and the organization of religious houses in medieval France.


**Bellot Papers**

Date range: 18th–19th centuries.

Collection of correspondence, personal papers and legal records relating to the Bellot, Hale, Killer and Thyer families, donated in 1969 by Hugh Hale Bellot, Professor of American History at London University. Among the papers are some sixty items relating to Robert Thyer (1709–81), Librarian of Chetham's Hospital from 1732 to 1763 and editor of *The Genuine Remains in Verse and Prose of Samuel Butler, with Notes* (1759). He was the step-father of Elizabeth Killer, whose grand-daughter Frances married William Henry Bellot in 1847. The Bellot family included several surgeons, practising especially in Stockport. Among Thyer's papers are a protection from arrest which Richard Vaughan, second Earl of Carbery, issued to Samuel Butler in 1667, a transcript of some of the verse remains of Butler, twenty-eight letters from Robert Thyer, a collection of his essays and verses, and papers relating to his wife Silence.

See also the Bellot Printed Collection (p. 215).

Bromley Davenport Muniments

Date range: 12th–20th centuries.

Important family papers of the Bromley Davenport family of Capesthorne near Macclesfield, Cheshire. The collection contains correspondence, family papers, muniments of title (including large numbers of medieval deeds and charters), estate accounts, rentals, surveys and associated documents. As well as the Davenports of Capesthorne, two other branches of the family in Cheshire are also represented, the Davenports of Calveley and the Davenports of Woodford, together with two Warwickshire families, the Bromleys of Baginton and the Throckmortons of Haseley.

The properties represented lie in many counties but primarily in Cheshire (especially in Nether Alderley, Calveley, Capesthorne, Davenport, Gawsworth, Henbury, Heswall, Macclesfield, Marton, Siddington, Somerford, Swettenham, Upton and Woodford), Staffordshire (especially Ellastone and Wootton), Warwickshire (Baginton, Churchover, Finham, Haseley, Hatton, Oxhill, Shrewley and Southam) and Buckinghamshire (Great Marlow). The extensive papers of Edward Davies Davenport (1778-1847) include political and personal correspondence with Thomas Attwood, Richard Cobden, Richard Grosvenor, second Marquis of Westminster, Reginald Heber, Bishop of Calcutta, Harriet Martineau, Sir Charles Napier, Lord John Russell and Sydney Smith. Other material includes the Crimean War diary of William Davenport Bromley, who was attached to British forces as a freelance observer/soldier, and papers relating to Sir William Bromley Davenport's service in the South African War (Boer War), 1899-1902.

Access: post-1918 material may be consulted only with the permission of the depositor.

Brooke of Mere Muniments

Date range: 13th–20th centuries.

Family papers of the Brooke family of Mere Old Hall, near Knutsford, Cheshire. Mere was held by the Mere family until 1652 when the estate was sold to Peter Brooke, younger son of Sir Richard Brooke of Norton. During the eighteenth century the Brookes expanded their estates by purchasing the Frodsham estate at Elton, the Marton estate at Holford, and other properties in Lostock Gralam, Mottram St Andrew and Plumley. In the late eighteenth century Peter Brooke married Maria Langford and thereby inherited plantations on the island of Antigua in the West Indies.

The collection consists of medieval deeds, muniments of title, marriage and family settlements, mortgages, leases, wills, Chancery papers and other legal records, rentals, estate papers and correspondence, primarily concerning properties in Bollington, Dutton, Frodsham, Holford, Lostock Gralam, Mere, Mottram St Andrew, Plumley, Stretton, Thelwall and Walton Superior in Cheshire. There are also papers relating to the sale of estates in Ireland in the 1750s, and records such as accounts, inventories and correspondence concerning the plantations in Antigua in the early nineteenth century.

Finding aids: outline list.

Clowes Deeds

Date range: 13th–19th centuries.

Correspondence, papers and deeds relating to the Clowes and Chetham families, and to the Clowes estates, mainly in south-east Lancashire and particularly Manchester. The collection includes several fine medieval documents relating to the manors of Butterworth and Crompton, east of Rochdale, and Moston and Nuthurst, north-east of Manchester; arbitration awards; marriage settlements; and many letters and papers of the Chetham family.

Finding aids: unpublished handlist.

Cornwall-Legh Muniments

Date range: 13th–19th centuries.

Muniments of the Cornwall-Legh family of High Legh near Knutsford, Cheshire. The collection comprises medieval charters, later deeds and papers relating to the Cornwall-Leghs, the Leghs of East Legh, Cheshire (thirteenth–nineteenth centuries), the Leghs of Swineyard (or Swinehead) in High Legh, Cheshire
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(seventeenth–eighteenth centuries), the Cornwalls of Shropshire (fifteenth–eighteenth centuries), and the Chambres of Plas Chambres, Denbighshire (eighteenth century). Material includes deeds, business and estate correspondence, papers and plans for High Legh, Knutsford, Lymm and Manley in Cheshire, Barton upon Irwell and Openshaw in Lancashire, and Birstall in Yorkshire; and records relating to the manors of Sale (fourteenth–eighteenth centuries) and Thornton-le-Moors (thirteenth–eighteenth centuries) in Cheshire. There are also correspondence and papers relating to the Cheshire militia and magistracy and to Bucklow Hundred in the early nineteenth century.


**Crutchley Muniments**

Date range: 12th–19th centuries.

Muniments of the Coke family of Longford, Derbyshire, and Holkham, Norfolk. The family’s estates lay principally in Derbyshire, Lancashire and Suffolk, and the majority of documents relate to these counties. More than half concern Derbyshire and principally Longford. Other documents relate to the manors of Wherstead, Bourn Hall and Pannington Hall in Suffolk, and estates in south-east Lancashire, notably Reddish, Great and Little Heaton and Crumpsall. There are also documents concerning the former owners of these properties, the families of Longford of Longford, Reddish of Reddish, Hulton, Langley, Prestwich, Browne, Radcliffe and Hall. The collection is particularly rich in manorial records from Longford, Over Haddon, Newton Solney and Hathersage in Derbyshire, Wherestead and Goddalsford (i.e. Gusford Hall) in Suffolk, and Prestwich and Reddish in Lancashire. There are also many fine seals.


**Ducie Muniments**

Date range: 13th–19th centuries.

The Manchester (Strangeways) portion of the muniments of the Earl of Ducie of Tortworth, Gloucestershire was transferred to the John Rylands Library in 1954. The collection contains muniments
Figure 10
Lease of property in Deansgate, Manchester, from James Hulme, gentleman, and Elias Prestwich, esquire, to Thomas Wilmot of Manchester, glover, 1493/4. Ducie Muniments T26.
of title, rentals, plans, legal records, agents’ accounts and correspondence, and allied estate documents concerning the Reynolds, Hartley and Strangeways families of Strangeways near Manchester. Included are fourteenth-century charters, which enable the early street patterns of Manchester to be reconstructed, and records such as Parliamentary Bills and Acts concerning roads, bridges and railways in the area. The documents relate to properties in Manchester (particularly the Millgate, Market Street and Deansgate areas), the neighbouring townships of Cheetham, Gorton and Levenshulme, and the township of Castleton near Rochdale.

Finding aids: unpublished handlist.

Egerton of Tatton Papers
Date range: 14th–19th centuries.
Collection of letters, papers and allied documents belonging to the Egerton family of Tatton, Cheshire. These chiefly relate to Samuel Egerton (1711–80) and his uncle Samuel Hill (1691–1758) of Shenstone Park, Staffordshire. They include Egerton family accounts and receipts, seventeenth–eighteenth centuries; Pickering of Thelwall family correspondence and papers, seventeenth–eighteenth centuries; miscellaneous accounts and receipts, eighteenth century; records of the court leet and view of frankpledge for the manors of Knutsford and Tatton, c.1700–58; and over 100 constables’ presentments for various townships in Bucklow Hundred, early eighteenth century.

Finney of Fulshaw Muniments
Date range: 15th–20th centuries.
Small collection of deeds and documents relating to the Finney family of Fulshaw Hall near Wilmslow, Cheshire. They concern property in Fulshaw, Styal and Wilmslow and the families of Finney, Davenport, Newton, Wilbraham and Worthington. They include deeds of conveyance, mortgages, assignments, leases, settlements, bonds, agreements, wills, and certificates of baptism, marriage and burial.
Finding aids: unpublished handlist.

Grey (Stamford) of Dunham Massey Papers
Date range: 13th–20th centuries.
A very large collection of papers of the Grey family, Earls of Stamford, and their predecessors from Dunham Massey Hall near
Certificate signed by sixty-nine of the principal inhabitants of Cheshire, approving a duck decoy erected on the River Dee by Sir George Booth and Sir William Brereton, 22 January 1632/3. Stamford Papers, EGR4/1/12/14/2. Reproduced by courtesy of the National Trust.
Altrincham, Cheshire. The Grey family inherited Dunham Massey in the mid-eighteenth century from the Booths, Earls of Warrington, who are also represented. The collection contains the personal papers of the Booth and Grey families; title deeds and settlements; important manorial records from the courts leet of the barony of Dunham Massey and the borough of Altrincham, the court leet with court baron for the manor of Bollin cum Norcliffe, (Wilmslow), courts baron for the manors of Dunham Massey, Carrington and Ashton upon Mersey, and Altrincham fair court; household records including eighteenth- and nineteenth-century accounts and inventories, and correspondence relating to the restoration of Dunham Massey Hall; papers relating to local schools and charities; and large quantities of estate papers, principally from the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, including deeds, leases, rentals, valuation books, rent ledgers, cash books, income and expenditure accounts, invoices and vouchers, plans and correspondence files. The deeds and other papers relate to properties in Altrincham, Ashley, Ashton upon Mersey, Bollin Fee (Wilmslow), Bollington, Bowdon, Carrington, Dunham Massey, Hale, Hattersley, Matley, Millington, Partington, Pownall Fee (Wilmslow), Sale, Stayley, Thornton-le-Moors and Timperley in Cheshire, and Ashton-under-Lyne and Warrington in Lancashire.

Among the personal papers of the Booth family are an account roll of Sir Robert Booth as sheriff of Cheshire, c.1445–50; a detailed compendium of family and estate accounts of Sir George Booth, 1648–51/2; personal correspondence and accounts of George Booth, second Earl of Warrington, 1693/4–1758; and papers of his daughter Mary, Countess of Stamford, relating to the construction of the Bridgewater Canal, 1758–67. The personal papers of the fifth and sixth Earls of Stamford contain material relating to the lord lieutenancy of Cheshire, the magistracy and local militia, the defence of the county against possible French invasion and internal security measures in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, including printed matter relating to the Peterloo Massacre of 1819. Among the papers of the sixth Earl of Stamford are colourful letters written by his son while on the Grand Tour in the 1820s. There are also manuscripts of, and papers pertaining to, the naturalist Gilbert White of Selborne (1720–93) and other members of the White family; papers of the Lumsden family concerning service in the East India Company (q.v.) and colonial life and administration before and during the Indian Mutiny; and papers of the Rev. William Grey, a missionary in Newfoundland, Canada, 1849–53.

See also Rylands Charters 3850–4317 (leases for lives in Wilmslow parish, presented to the Library by the tenth Earl of Stamford).
Access: papers of members of the family alive during the twentieth century may be consulted only with the written permission of the National Trust.


**Jodrell Muniments**

Date range: 13th–18th centuries.

Muniments of the Jodrell family of Yeardsley cum Whaley, Cheshire. The collection primarily comprises deeds and allied documents such as grants, final concords, releases, leases, surrenders, wills, marriage agreements, inventories, receipts, bonds, extracts of court rolls and letters of attorney. These relate to properties in Cheshire (particularly Disley Stanley, Kettleshulme, Macclesfield Forest, Taxal and Yeardsley cum Whaley), Derbyshire (Hartington, Hayfield and Makeney), Lancashire (Chatburn), Staffordshire (Marchington, Tunstall and Waterfall), and Yorkshire (Waddington). There are also papers relating to Edmund Jodrell’s two terms as sheriff of Cheshire, 1650–51 and 1670–71.

Finding aids: published handlist, Robert Fawtier, *Hand-List of the Mainwaring and Jodrell Manuscripts at present in the custody of the John Rylands Library* (Manchester, 1923); unpublished outline list of additional material.

**Legh of Lyme Muniments**

Date range: 12th–19th centuries.

Extensive family papers of the Leghs of Lyme Park, Cheshire. These comprise muniments of title, including large numbers of medieval deeds and charters, seventeenth- and eighteenth-century manorial court records, original architect’s plans of Lyme Hall, surveys, wills, abstracts of title, estate correspondence, accounts and other papers. The muniments relate to the Lancashire estates (the manors of Newton and Golborne, and property in Newton-le-Willows, Golborne, Lowton, Haydock, Ashton-in-Makerfield, Ince-in-Makerfield, Warrington, Burtonwood, Poulton and Fearnhead, Bold, Pemberton and Dalton), and the Cheshire estates (with property in Lyme Handley, Disley, Pott Shrigley, Macclesfield, Grappenhall, Norbury, Marple, and Broomedge and Heatley in Lymm).

There is an extensive and important selection of personal correspondence, dating from the sixteenth century onwards, including correspondence with members of the Gerard, Egerton
and Chicheley families, with much material on eighteenth-century Northern politics.

Finding aids: partially listed: calendar of deeds and typescript list of correspondence.

*Leycester of Toft Muniments*

Date range: 13th–19th centuries.

Muniments of the Leycester family of Toft near Knutsford, Cheshire, and the related Gerard family of Crewood in Kingsley, Cheshire. The muniments of title relate chiefly to estates in Cheshire (especially Acton, Chester, Chorley, Cotton Abbotts, Crowton, Kingsley, Knutsford, Mobberley, Northwich, Over Peover, Plumley, Toft and Woodford), with smaller numbers relating to properties in Berkshire (Cookham), Lancashire (Manchester, Speke and Whittle-le-Woods), Lincolnshire (Sotby and Bleasby), Staffordshire (Colwich and Leek) and Flintshire (Hawarden). They include 900 medieval charters, seventeenth- and eighteenth-century manorial court records, estate correspondence and papers. There is extensive family correspondence ranging from the late sixteenth century to the twentieth, roughly half being seventeenth-century.

Finding aids: unpublished lists of correspondence and muniments.

*Mainwaring Manuscripts*

Date range: 12th–19th centuries.

Manuscripts of the Mainwaring family of Peover Hall, Cheshire. The collection contains state papers, diaries, manorial records, rentals, pedigree rolls and household records, as well as a large number of deeds and charters relating to estates in Cheshire and other counties. Some 400 charters predate the reign of Henry VIII, the earliest consisting of charters granted by the Earls of Chester in the twelfth century. Deeds relate to numerous Cheshire townships, but particularly to Allostock, Astle, Baddiley, Goostrey cum Barnshaw, Chelford, Knutsford, Nantwich, Over Peover, Great Warford, Little Warford, Waverton, Wharton, Withington and Worleston.

Finding aids: published handlist, Robert Fawtier, *Hand-List of the Mainwaring and Jodrell Manuscripts at Present in the Custody of the John Rylands Library* (Manchester, 1923); unpublished outline list of additional material. Note that numerous items recorded by Fawtier were removed by the depositor in 1972 and sold at Sotheby’s.
Medici Records

Date range: 11th–18th centuries.

Documents from the archives of the younger branch of the Florentine family of Medici, formerly in the possession of the Marquis Cosimo and the Marquis Averardo de' Medici. They include a grant from Pietro di Pietro Petroni to the church and monastery of St Barnabas of Gamungno, Faenza, in 1085; a papal bull of Pope Pius II to the Archdeacon of Florence concerning the foundation of a canonry in the church of San Lorenzo, 1462; a letter from Pope Leo X to Zanobi de' Medici, 1521; credentials of Francesco de' Medici as envoy of Pope Clement VII to Charles de Bourbon, Count of Saint Pol, 1529; letters from Francesco I, Grand Duke of Tuscany, to Raffaello de' Medici, 1575–77; letters from Ferdinando I, Duke of Florence, to the Marquis Biagio Capizucchi in Avignon and others, 1589–1608; and numerous medieval and post-medieval grants, letters patent, court orders, records of judgements, agreements, correspondence and accounts.


Nicholas Papers

Date range: 14th–18th centuries.

Records forming part of the archives of the Nicholas family of West Horsley, Surrey. They relate chiefly to Sir Edward Nicholas (1593–1669), Secretary of State to Charles I and Charles II, to his sons John and Edward, and to the Nicholas estates in West Horsley, Surrey, and Gillingham, Dorset. There are letters to Sir Edward Nicholas as Secretary of State, 1643–44; account books of Edward Nicholas esq. as Treasurer and General Receiver, 1694–1715; important manorial court rolls for West Horsley, 1385–1709; manorial court records for Gillingham, including a court book, survey, rental, perambulation and accounts, 1469–1725; and other documents relating to property in West Horsley and Gillingham, including deeds of conveyance, mortgages, leases and accounts.


Orford Papers

Date range: 17th–19th centuries.

Collection donated by Mr Lewis H. Orford, a Manchester solicitor and trustee of the John Rylands Library. The collection contains
deeds and personal papers formerly belonging to several families: the Brewis family of Manchester and Buckinghamshire; the Scholes family of Manchester; the Oldham family of Stockport; the Taylor and Town families of Shropshire; branches of the White family in London and Manchester; and the Lees family of Hollingworth, Cheshire. Most of the deeds and other papers relate to properties in Manchester and its environs: Blackley, Cheetham, Broughton, Stockport, Sale, Cheetwood, Salford, Gorton, Levenshulme and Hollingworth. However, there is material for properties further afield: at Ibstone in Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire, Richard’s Castle and Brimfield in Herefordshire, Ludlow and Stanton Lacy in Shropshire, Audley in Staffordshire, and Bethnal Green in Middlesex.

Perhaps the most interesting aspect of the collection, however, is that it contains the residuary papers of Mrs Enriqueta Augustina Rylands, founder of the John Rylands Library. These include the accounts of her executors, papers relating to the memorial monument for the Rylands family, photographs, plans and documents concerning the building of the Library, and deeds and papers relating to properties owned by Mrs Rylands and sold after her death.


**Phillipps Charters**

Date range: 12th–17th centuries.

Assortment of over five hundred charters and other records which once formed part of the collection of Sir Thomas Phillipps (1792–1872), antiquary and bibliophile, at Middle Hill, Broadway in Worcestershire. They were acquired by the Library either directly at the Phillipps sales or through various booksellers. There are numerous medieval charters and other records relating to religious houses and bishoprics throughout France and Belgium, and deeds relating to secular estates, particularly in Tournai. The former include papal bulls of Hadrian IV (1157), Clement III (1191), Gregory IX (1236), Alexander IV (1255), Nicholas V (1451), Paul IV (1556) and Gregory XIII (1572), and briefs of Popes Paul V (1616) and Innocent X (1650). Other notable medieval documents are: the settlement for the unrealized marriage of Isabella (1332–79), daughter of Edward III, and Louis, Count of Flanders (1347); compotus rolls from Norfolk (1277–1576); accounts of royal silver mines near Calstock, Cornwall (1317); and royal wardrobe accounts (1313–14).

In addition, the collection incorporates many medieval charters, such as grants, quitclaims, agreements, bonds and letters of
Figure 12
Bull of Pope Adrian IV, confirming the grant by Theobald, Archbishop of Canterbury and Papal Legate, of the churches of Trulegh and Chilham in Kent, 1157. Phillipps Charters 24.
attorney, for numerous English counties, particularly Derbyshire (especially Ashbourne, Castleton, Swadlincote and Taddington), Durham (Stainton), Huntingdonshire (Stilton), Kent (Charing and Willesborough), Staffordshire (Enville and Whittington), and Yorkshire (Beswick, Lockington and Middleton near Rothwell).


**Pluscarden Charters**

Date range: 1233–1565.

Charters relating to Pluscarden Priory near Elgin, Morayshire. Pluscarden was founded in 1230 by Alexander II, King of Scots, for monks of the Valliscaulian Order, whose mother house at Val-des-Choux in Burgundy had been established for a mere thirty years when it sent its Rule into Scotland. The only other foundations of the Order outside France were at Beauly near Inverness and Ardchattan in Argyll. The collection comprises twelve of the earliest surviving charters of the house, including a confirmation by Andrew, Bishop of Moray, in 1233 of grants made by Alexander II, the King’s second charter of 1236, and a transumpt which purports to summarize all charters granted during the first ten years of the monastery’s existence, among them the lost foundation charter. There are also two precepts of the Abbot and Convent of Kinloss, 1559 and 1565.


**Roundell Muniments**

Date range: 13th–20th centuries, but mainly 18th and 19th.

Muniments relating to the families of Tomkinson, Tollemache and Roundell of Dorfold Hall near Nantwich, Cheshire, and to properties in nine English counties. The collection comprises title deeds, abstracts of deeds, rentals, surveys, valuation books, poll books, tithe books, estate and business correspondence and papers, such as minute books, memoranda books and letter books, and accounts (mainly eighteenth and nineteenth centuries).

The deeds and other documents relate chiefly to Cheshire, and in particular to the townships of Acton, Alpraham, Antrobus, Aston juxta Mondrum, Audlem, Broxton, Burland, Croxton, Davenham, Dodcott cum Wilkesley, Dorfold, Henhull, Hurleston, [Church] Lawton, Nantwich, Stanthorne, Tattenhall, Tiverton, Warmingham, Wettenhall and Wimboldsley. In addition there are
small quantities of documents relating to Lancashire (particularly Westhoughton), Staffordshire (Madeley), Warwickshire (Nuneaton) and other counties.


*Rylands Charters*

Date range: 13th–19th centuries.

A miscellaneous sequence of several thousand deeds, charters and other documents acquired by gift or purchase from various sources. Most counties in England and Wales are represented, with particularly good coverage of Cheshire, Derbyshire, Lancashire and Lincolnshire. Items include charters, deeds of conveyance, settlements, mortgages, leases, wills, rentals, manorial records, accounts and miscellaneous papers. Although documents are numbered consecutively, the separate provenances of collections have been respected. Among the larger collections are:

- a collection of deeds relating to Lancashire (Rylands Charters 285–700);
- deeds relating to Cheshire presented by Lord Stanley of Alderley (Ryl. Ch. 776–913; see p. 120);
- deeds mainly concerning the Salusbury family, acquired with the Thrale-Piozzi Manuscripts (p. 210) from Mrs R.V. Colman (Ryl. Ch. 914–1262);
- deeds chiefly concerning properties in Cheshire, particularly townships on the Wirral such as Higher and Lower Bebington, Bromborough, Eastham, Hooton, Mollington, Storeton and Tranmere, and also properties in Flintshire and Denbighshire, purchased from the Rev. P.G. Langdon (Ryl. Ch. 1263–1942);
- deeds and manorial records relating to the Aston family of Aston by Sutton in Cheshire, acquired from R.H. Linaker esq. (Ryl. Ch. 2012–2130);
- deeds relating to the Hadfield family of Hadfield in Derbyshire (Ryl. Ch. 2245–2477);
- deeds from the Clayton MSS relating to Lincolnshire (Ryl. Ch. 2478–2808);
- deeds relating to the Rochdale and Rossendale areas of Lancashire, particularly Bacup, Brandwood, Haslingden, Newchurch in Rossendale, Rawtenstall, Todmorden and Whitworth, presented by G. Calvert esq. (Ryl. Ch. 2891–2976);
- business and legal papers associated with Sir Robert Clayton (1629–1707), MP for the City of London, and his fellow apprentice and partner, Alderman John Morris (d. 1682) (Ryl. Ch. 3632–3849);
leases from Dean Row and Styal and manorial records relating to
the manor of Bollin cum Norcliffe in Wilmslow, Cheshire,
presented by the tenth Earl of Stamford (Ryl. Ch. 3850–4317);
records of the township of High Legh in Cheshire, including
settlement and removal orders, apprenticeship indentures,
constables' accounts, and records of the overseers of the poor and
surveyors of highways (Ryl. Ch. 4318–4510).

Finding aids: published handlists, Moses Tyson and Frank Taylor,
Hand-List of Charters, Deeds and Similar Documents in the Possession
of the John Rylands Library, 3 vols (Manchester, 1935–75).

Spring Rice Collection
Date range: 19th century.

Over 500 letters and papers of the Spring Rice family were
presented to the Library in 1957 by Mrs Charles Booth of
Ulverscroft, Leicestershire. The bulk, some 300 items, comprises
correspondence of Rt. Hon. Thomas Spring Rice (1790–1866),
first Baron Monteagle of Brandon, and his two sons, Stephen
(1814–65) and Charles (1819–70). Monteagle was Chancellor of
the Exchequer from 1835 to 1839, and Comptroller General from
1839 to 1865. His sons served in the Board of Customs and the
Foreign Office respectively. The letters are varied in content and,
in addition to the information they contain about the family itself,
provide many valuable comments on political and economic events
at home and abroad, and on the troubles in Ireland in the 1840s.
Among the letters is a lengthy epistle from Macaulay to
Monteagle, written in August 1834 from India, dealing with party
politics and parliamentary affairs.

A further 200 letters were exchanged between Monteagle’s
grandsons, Cecil and Stephen Spring Rice, and the latter’s wife
Julia, 1873–1902. Cecil Spring Rice (1859–1918) was a career
diplomat who held posts in America, Japan, Berlin, Persia and
Russia, before serving as Ambassador in Washington from 1913
to 1918.

The collection also contains over 400 letters, papers, newspaper
cuttings and photographs relating to Julia’s father, Sir Peter
Fitzgerald (1808–80), nineteenth Knight of Kerry, and fifty letters
of his son Sir Maurice (1844–1916), twentieth Knight. The
material dates mainly from the 1870s and '80s, when Sir Maurice
was equerry to Prince Arthur, Duke of Connaught. Among the
correspondents are Prince Arthur, Gladstone, Arthur Penrhyn
Stanley, Dean of Westminster, and Lord Lansdowne. The papers
provide useful insights into court and society life, and
contemporary political events.

**Stanley of Alderley Deeds and Papers**

Date range: 13th–19th centuries.

Almost 250 deeds relating to Cheshire were presented to the Library by Lord Stanley of Alderley in April 1927 (Rylands Charters 776–913). Among them are deeds of the Jodrell family and their estates in Yeardsley cum Whaley and Sutton (Ryl. Ch. 776–813), the Tatton of Wythenshawe family and their lands in Northenden (Ryl. Ch. 814–840), and the Winningtons and their property in Northwich and Winnington (Ryl. Ch. 841–913). The latter section includes deeds relating to salt-houses in Northwich in the thirteenth century. The deeds, which range in date from the thirteenth century to the nineteenth, comprise grants, quitclaims, leases, letters of attorney and bonds.

Among the English Manuscripts are boyhood letters and a diary of Arthur Penrhyn Stanley, later Dean of Westminster, 1824–28 (Eng MSS 1089–1090); family and miscellaneous letters addressed to Edward Lyulph Stanley (1839–1925), fourth Lord Stanley, between 1853 and 1874, including a three-page letter written at Balaclava by Augustus Lane Fox (later Pitt-Rivers) in which he describes the fighting in the Crimean War (Eng MSS 1092–1095); a Stanley family household account book, 1784–85 (Eng MS 1096); and a rental of Sir John Thomas Stanley, 1781–85 (Eng MS 1097).

See also the Clinton Papers (p. 177) and the Spring Rice Collection (p. 119).

Finding aids: recorded in published handlists of Rylands Charters (Ryl. Ch. 776–913) and English Manuscripts (English MSS 1089–1097). See also Nancy Mitford, *The Stanleys of Alderley: Their Letters Between the Years 1851–1865* (1939).

**Stapleton Manuscripts**

Date range: 15th–19th centuries, but mainly 17th and 18th.

Correspondence, papers and deeds of the Stapleton family. They relate in particular to Sir William Stapleton, first Baronet (d. 1686), Deputy Governor of Montserrat and Governor of the Leeward Islands, and Sir William Stapleton, fourth Baronet (1698–1740). There is important material relating to the West Indies in the seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries, including
commissions and appointments to offices, public accounts, militia lists, correspondence, grants and leases of land, plantation accounts, plantation inventories, lists of slaves and sugar accounts. There are also Stapleton marriage settlements, title deeds relating to property in Kent and Berkshire (fifteenth–nineteenth centuries), rentals and terriers (sixteenth–eighteenth centuries), manorial court rolls for the manor of Tildens and Tubbins in Marden parish, Kent, and the manors of Shottesbrooke and Clewer in Berkshire (sixteenth–eighteenth centuries), accounts and household records.

Finding aids: unpublished handlist.

**Tabley Muniments**

Date range: 19th century.

The collection consists mainly of the personal papers of the poet John Byrne Leicester Warren (1835–95), third Baron de Tabley, of Tabley near Knutsford, Cheshire. He published under the pseudonyms George F. Preston and William Lancaster and later under his own name. The papers reflect his interests in literature, politics, botany and numismatics and include correspondence with numerous prominent later Victorian figures. Attention should also be drawn to de Tabley's extensive and important collection of armorial bookplates.

There is correspondence with the third Baron de Tabley among the Edward Freeman Papers (p. 278). See also the Tabley Book Collection (p. 32).

Finding aids: preliminary survey list.

**Tatton of Wythenshawe Muniments**

Date range: 13th–19th centuries.

Collection of medieval charters, deeds, estate papers and correspondence of the Tatton family of Wythenshawe, Cheshire. Documents relate chiefly to lands in Cheshire, particularly to Wythenshawe, Northenden, Northen Etchells, Stockport Etchells and Macclesfield, with smaller numbers concerning Aldford, Altrincham, Bowdon, Bredbury, Godley, Great Warford, Hale, Kenworthy, Knutsford, Pownall Fee, Romiley and Werneth, and a handful bearing on properties in Derbyshire, Flintshire, Lancashire and Nottinghamshire. In addition there are seventeenth-century letters and personal papers of the Tatton family, including material relating to the English Civil War.

Finding aids: unpublished handlist.
**Thomson Byrom Collection**

Date range: 17th–18th centuries.

Records of the Byrom family of Kersal and Manchester, whose best known member is John Byrom (1692–1763), author of *Christians Awake*. The collection comprises muniments of title relating to properties in Kersal and Salford and in the Market Place, Shambles and Deansgate areas of Manchester; several seventeenth- and early eighteenth-century wills; a marriage settlement of 1684; and pedigrees of the Byroms of Byrom, the Byroms of Salford and the Byroms of Manchester.


**Warburton of Arley Muniments and Related Collections**

Date range: 12th–19th centuries.

There are three components to the Warburton collections:

The Arley Charters (twelfth–seventeenth centuries) constitute a muniment collection of national importance, noted for the large number of early charters, including charters of the constables of Chester and several monastic examples, and its fine seals. They mainly concern the Dutton and Warburton families and their Cheshire estates in Appleton, Aston by Budworth, Aston by Sutton, Chester, Dutton, Great Budworth, Lower Walton, Lymm, Newton by Chester, Northwich, Poulton, Pulford, Sutton, Thelwall, Warburton, Wincham and Winnington. In addition there are thirteenth- and fourteenth-century deeds relating to Beverley in Yorkshire.

The main, deposited, collection comprises the muniments of the Warburton family of Arley Hall, Cheshire (sixteenth to nineteenth century). It consists of muniments of title, settlements, mortgages, leases, bonds, rentals, manorial records, Acts of Parliament, plans, estate correspondence, papers relating to enclosure, roads in Warburton, Great Budworth church and other churches and schools, Croxton family papers, and an extensive collection of eighteenth-century accounts for the house and estate at Arley and the family residence in London. The deeds and other papers relate to properties in Appleton, Aston by Budworth, Aston by Sutton, Comberbach, Crowley, Higher Whitley, Sutton and Warburton.

The third component consists of papers relating to the navigation of the River Weaver in Cheshire from the 1750s and 1760s, including correspondence of Sir Peter Warburton, accounts, and contemporary official documents.
Finding aids: published calendar of Arley Charters, W. Beamont, *A Calendar of Ancient Family Charters Preserved at Arley Hall, Cheshire* (London, 1866); unpublished manuscript handlist of main collection; River Weaver papers unlisted.

**Wickstead Papers**

Date range: 16th–19th centuries.

Papers of the Wickstead family of Nantwich, Cheshire, comprising over 150 documents relating to properties in the townships of Acton, Chorley, Coole Pilate, Dodcott cum Wilkesley, Haughton, Henhull, Nantwich, Wardle, Wigland, Wolstanwood and Wybunbury in Cheshire. Documents comprise deeds of conveyance, assignments, mortgages, leases, settlements, wills, accounts and correspondence.

Finding aids: unpublished handlist.