Manchester University and Academics’ Papers

The archives of Manchester University and its predecessor institution, Owens College, are important resources for the history of higher education and research. As well as the institutional archives of the University itself, there are papers of numerous former professors and lecturers, notably William Stanley Jevons (Philosophy and Political Economy); Samuel Alexander and Robert Adamson (Philosophy); Sir Lewis Namier, James Tait and T.F. Tout (History); John Strachan (Greek); C.B. Cox (English); Eve Reymond (Egyptology); and Samuel Finer (History of Government). There are also papers of the former Professor of Industrial and Commercial Law and later Vice-Chancellor, Sir William Mansfield Cooper, and of Sir Philip Hartog, secretary to the Victoria University extension scheme. Outside the University, there are papers of the freelance historian Edward Freeman, and a small collection of Sigmund Freud letters. The John Rylands Library Archive is itself a significant resource for studies of book-collecting and bibliography.

See also the History of Science and Medicine (p. 253).

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Robert Adamson Papers
Date range: 1870s–90s.
Papers of Robert Adamson (1852–1902), philosopher, Professor of Logic and Mental and Moral Philosophy, 1876–93, and Professor of Political Economy, 1876–82, at Owens College (later the University of Manchester). Adamson took a prominent role in the administration of the Victoria University, serving as secretary, and later treasurer, of the Board of Studies, and he was an advocate of the admission of women on equal terms with men.
Although unlisted, the papers are sufficiently compact to be readily accessible. They include notebooks and manuscripts on logic and philosophy, and also on the working class and other contemporary social themes. There are also transcriptions of writings by the logician and philosopher, Rudolf Hermann Lotze. Adamson was an innovative thinker and his papers are an important source for studies of the development of philosophy.
Finding aids: unlisted.
Location: JRULM (Main Library).

Samuel Alexander Papers
Date range: 1877–1938.
Papers of Samuel Alexander (1859–1938), Professor of Philosophy at Owens College and later Manchester University, 1893–1924. Manchester’s most distinguished philosopher, he was a pioneer in modernizing the discipline by recognizing the philosophical significance of contemporary developments in psychology, biology and evolutionary theory. Alexander is best known for his theory of ‘emergent evolution’, expounded in his major work, *Space, Time and Deity* (1920), in which he argued that existence is hierarchically ordered, and that through a process of evolution ever higher levels of existence emerge. In later life Alexander broadened his interests to include aesthetics and literature. He was active in the life and politics of the University, and was a keen advocate of women’s suffrage.

Alexander’s papers include large numbers of letters, numerous accounts, receipts and business letters from publishers, research notebooks, pamphlets and offprints, and biographical and obituary material. Correspondents include the philosophers Bertrand Russell and Alfred North Whitehead, the writers A.N. Monkhouse
and C.E. Montague (q.v.), the physicist Ernest Rutherford, and the Zionist pioneer Chaim Weizmann (Alexander supported the campaign for a Jewish homeland in Palestine).


**William Mansfield Cooper Papers**

Date range: 1948–70.

Papers of Sir William Mansfield Cooper (1903–92), Professor of Industrial and Commercial Law at Manchester University, 1949–70, and Vice-Chancellor of the University, 1956–70. His papers relate not only to his distinguished University career, but also to a wide range of external interests, such as the setting up of schools television services by the Independent Television Authority, the Fulbright Commission for fostering Anglo-American academic contacts, and above all the promotion of co-operation on higher education in Europe. There are minutes, reports and other printed matter recording the activities of the Western European Union European Universities Committee, the Standing Conference of Rectors and Vice-Chancellors of the European Universities, and various sections of the Council of Europe, especially the Committee for Higher Education and Research.


Location: JRULM (Main Library).

**Samuel Finer Papers**

Date range: 1948–93.

Papers of Samuel Finer (1915–93), Professor of Government at Manchester University, 1966–74, and Gladstone Professor of Government and Public Administration at Oxford, 1974–82. The collection comprises research notes, background material and drafts for Professor Finer's monumental *The History of Government from the Earliest Times* (Oxford University Press, 1997); and typescript and manuscript drafts and notes of earlier publications; lecture notes; files of research notes and articles on various aspects of the history of government; and offprints and copies of articles and papers by Finer and others. The collection is highly significant for studies of the history of government and historiography.

Finding aids: unpublished accession list.
Edward Freeman Papers
Date range: 1843–95.

Papers of Edward Augustus Freeman (1823–92), freelance historian and journalist. Freeman is best remembered as one of the leading Victorian writers on English medieval history, and his most enduring monument is his six-volume *The History of the Norman Conquest of England* (1867–79). He was also an authority on the ancient world, especially the development of Greek civilization, and was a passionate supporter of modern Greece and the struggle of Orthodox Christians in the Balkans for independence from the Turkish Empire. He had a further interest in architecture, and particularly in ecclesiastical buildings, and his first book was *A History of Architecture* (1849). Freeman made three attempts to obtain a professorship at Oxford before his very belated appointment in 1884 to the Regius Professorship of Modern History.

The archive comprises correspondence, much of which reflects Freeman’s interests in architecture, High Anglicanism, the Orthodox Church, classical and modern Greece, and the Balkans; proof and published copies of Freeman’s printed works; manuscript writings by Freeman, including a virtually complete original manuscript of *The History of the Norman Conquest of England*; scrapbooks containing cuttings, reviews and correspondence; diplomas, honours and decorations awarded to Freeman. There is also a collection of over 6,200 pen-and-ink sketches by Freeman of churches in England, Wales, France, Germany, Italy and Switzerland, many of which are no longer standing. These are an invaluable resource for architectural and art historians.

The correspondence includes seventy-nine letters from the architect Sir George Gilbert Scott; and other letters from Walter Bagehot, economist, political analyst and journalist; Richard William Church, Dean of St Paul’s and friend of Newman; Alexander Fraser, Scottish philosopher and editor of the *North British Review*; Sir Stephen Glynne, MP and antiquary; Walter Farquhar Hook, Dean of Chichester and church historian; Richard Holt Hutton, theologian and journalist; Sir Henry James Sumner Maine, prominent jurist and contributor to the *Saturday Review*; Sir Clements Robert Markham, geographer; Friedrich Max Müller, Sanskrit scholar and student of Eastern religions; Viscount Strangford, eccentric traveller and orientalist; the Rev. Henry Thompson, religious author and classical scholar; and John Byrne Leicester Warren, third Baron de Tabley (*q.v.*), poet, botanist, numismatist and man of letters.

See also the Edward Freeman Printed Collection (p. 165).

Finding aids: published handlist, P. McNiven, ‘Handlist of the Papers of Edward Augustus Freeman in the John Rylands
Sigmund Freud Papers
Date range: c.1911–38.
Collection of correspondence in English between Sigmund Freud and his nephew Sam, the son of his elder half-brother Emanuel who emigrated to England and settled in Manchester. The collection consists of sixty-nine letters from Freud to Sam, 1911–38, and sixty-one copies of replies by Sam, 1914–31, plus four letters from Freud to his niece Pauline, 1931–38, and three letters from Freud’s daughter Anna to her cousin Sam, 1920. The correspondence almost entirely concerns family matters and includes accounts of the difficult conditions in Austria after the First World War.
Finding aids: outline list.

Philip Hartog Papers
Date range: 1899–1904.
Small collection of correspondence and papers of Sir Philip (pe) Joseph Hartog (1864–1947), Assistant Lecturer in Chemistry at Owens College, who was better known for his role as secretary to the Victoria University extension scheme before he was appointed Registrar of the University of London in 1903. Papers include correspondence with William Haldane Gee, C.P. Scott, Alfred Waterhouse and others; printed matter relating to the debate concerning the creation of the Victoria University of Manchester, including articles, reports, newspaper cuttings, minutes, draft charters and a copy of the Owens College Act 1899; and reviews of Hartog’s book, The Owens College, Manchester (Manchester, 1900).
Location: JRULM (Main Library).

Jevons Family Papers
Date range: 1799–1959.
Papers of the Jevons family, especially William Stanley Jevons (1835–82), Professor of Logic, Mental and Moral Philosophy, and
A view of Sydney Harbour, from an album of pioneering photographs taken by William Stanley Jevons between 1853 and 1858, while he was employed as assayer at the Sydney mint. Jevons Archive, JA33/1/2, p. 69.
Political Economy at Owens College, Manchester, 1866–76, and Professor of Political Economy at University College, London, 1876–80. William Stanley Jevons was a true polymath, whose research spanned many disciplines. His outstanding contributions were in the fields of economics and logic (he has been described as the founder of mathematical economics), but his published writings also encompassed chemistry, meteorology, geology, astronomy, geometry, physiology, sociology and the philosophy of science.

W.S. Jevons’s papers comprise over 600 letters from family, relations, colleagues and academic associates, including Charles Babbage, mathematician and inventor of the Difference Engine calculating machine; Walter Bagehot, economist, political analyst and journalist; George Bentham, botanist; George Boole, mathematician and logician; John Bright, reforming orator and statesman; William Ewart Gladstone; Robert Harley, mathematician; Sir John Herschel, astronomer and chemist; Alfred Marshall, economist; James Martineau, the Unitarian divine; the philosopher and economist John Stuart Mill; Henry Enfield Roscoe (q.v.), Professor of Chemistry at Owens College, 1857–86; and Alfred Lord Tennyson. There are also diaries, notebooks and photograph albums recording Jevons’s activities and career in Australia, when he was employed as assayer at the Sydney mint and also carried out detailed social surveys of the city’s slums, 1854–59; research notes; and manuscript drafts and copies of his many printed works.

There are papers relating to about forty other members of the Jevons family, including material relating to William Stanley Jevons’s father, Thomas Jevons (1791–1855), a businessman and inventor; the latter’s eldest daughter Lucy Ann (1830–1910); Harriet Ann (1838–1910), wife of William Stanley Jevons; and their son Herbert Stanley Jevons (1875–1955); and to another twenty members of the related Roscoe, Taylor, Boyce and Scott families.


Lewis Namier Papers

Date range: c.1920–62.

Papers of Sir Lewis Bernstein Namier (1888–1960), prominent historian and Professor of History at Manchester University,
1931–53. Namier was born in Poland to non-practising Jewish parents, and moved to England in his late teens, entering Balliol College, Oxford, in 1908. He took British nationality in 1913. After spending several years in the business and diplomatic worlds, he settled down to a full-time academic career in the mid-1920s, with a particular interest in British parliamentary history. Two major works, *The Structure of Politics at the Accession of George III* (1929) and *England in the Age of the American Revolution* (1930), established him in the front rank of British historians.

The archive contains notes and drafts of *The Structure of Politics*, but it chiefly consists of post-war material relating to the *History of Parliament* series (Namier was responsible for the period 1754–90) and his biography of Charles Townshend. There is also some correspondence, and there are items connected with Lady Julia Namier's biography of her husband, including appreciations and obituaries.

Namier also features in the *Manchester Guardian* Archive (p. 150).

Finding aids: unpublished handlist.

**John Strachan Papers**

Date range: c.1885–1907.

Papers of John Strachan (1862–1907), Hulme Professor of Greek, 1885–1907, and Professor of Sanskrit and Comparative Religion, 1890–1907, in Owens College and later the University of Manchester. Strachan is best remembered as a leading figure in the revival of Celtic studies. His collection of manuscript notebooks contains information on philosophy, the classics, and the Irish Gaelic language.

See also the Strachan Book Collection (p. 31).

Finding aids: unlisted.

Location: JRULM (Main Library).

**James Tait Papers**

Date range: c.1881–1944.

Papers of James Tait (1863–1944), Professor of Ancient and Medieval History at the University of Manchester, 1902–19. Like T.F. Tout, James Tait was a prominent member of the 'Manchester History School'. Indeed, after gaining a first in modern history at Oxford, he spent his entire academic career in Manchester. His publications included *Medieval Manchester and the Beginnings of Lancashire* (1904) and *The Medieval English Borough*
(1936), and he also edited several important medieval texts. He served as the first president of the English Place-Name Society from 1923 until 1932. Tait’s papers include correspondence, original manuscripts, notebooks and printed matter.

Finding aids: provisional list of correspondence only.
Location: JRULM (Main Library).

**T.F. Tout Papers**

Date range: c.1890–1935.

Papers of Thomas Frederick Tout (1855–1929), Professor of Medieval and Modern History at Owens College and later the University of Manchester, 1890–1925. Tout was, with James Tait, one of the two leading figures of the ‘Manchester History School’ and is best known for his *Chapters in the Administrative History of Medieval England* (6 vols, 1920–31), *The Political History of England, 1216–1377* (1905), and *The Place of the Reign of Edward II in English History* (1914). He was actively involved in the life and running of the University and his papers contain a wealth of information on general academic affairs as well as his own historical research.

Tout’s papers include notebooks, drafts of many historical works, newspaper cuttings, photographs, and a large quantity of correspondence. Correspondents include the historians V.H. Galbraith, R.L. Poole, F.M. Powicke and James Tait, the philosopher Samuel Alexander (q.v.), Winston Churchill and C.P. Scott, editor of the *Manchester Guardian*. There are many letters from Tout’s former pupils serving in the First World War, recording their experiences. There is also considerable family correspondence, including over 120 letters to Tout from his wife Mary.

The collection also contains several hundred letters and papers preserved by Mary Tout, who was herself an historian and a campaigner for the development of women’s education. Her role in the University Women’s Federation is well documented. Altogether the collection has significance for the history of higher education, the history of historical research and teaching, women’s studies, particularly in relation to education, and military history.

Additional material was generously donated in 1998 by Mr Tom Sharp, grandson of T.F. Tout and Mary Tout. This comprises further papers of his grandparents, and papers of Herbert Tout (1904–97), their son, who worked on the Bristol Social Survey during the late 1930s. This study recorded in minute detail social conditions, housing standards and the cost of living in the city.

Location: JRULM (Main Library).

*Moses Tyson Papers*

Date range: 1897–1969.

A small collection of papers of Moses Tyson (1897–1969), Keeper of Western Manuscripts at the John Rylands Library, 1927–35, Librarian of Manchester University, 1935–65, and subsequently Librarian Emeritus. There is material relating to his career as librarian and historian, as well as personal correspondence and a number of documents and photographs concerning his family and his wartime service.

Finding aids: provisional outline list.

Location: JRULM (Main Library).

*University of Manchester Archives*

Date range: 1851 to present.

The origins of Manchester University can be traced back to 1845 when the Manchester merchant John Owens (1790–1846) bequeathed almost £100,000 for the foundation of 'an institution for providing or aiding the means of instructing and improving young persons of the male sex (and being of an age not less than fourteen years) in such branches of learning and science as were then and might be ... taught in the English Universities'. Thus Owens College was established in 1851 in Richard Cobden's house on Quay Street. The College was affiliated to the University of London, and students who successfully completed a two-year course at Manchester had the opportunity to take external London degrees. Owens College moved to its present site on Oxford Road in 1873. A separate college for women was opened in Brunswick Street in 1877 and in 1883 the Department for Women was established as part of Owens College. The success of the College led to a campaign, from about 1876 onwards, for it to be accorded university status. However, conservative suspicions within the established universities, and misgivings among similar colleges about the elevation of Owens College, led to the compromise which became the Victoria University. From 1880 to 1884 Owens College was the sole constituent of this federal university of northern England, to be joined in 1884 and 1887 by Liverpool and Leeds respectively. By the turn of the century there was pressure again for the establishment of an independent University of Manchester. In 1903 the federal university was disbanded and
Owens College became the Victoria University of Manchester. The Faculty of Technology was established in 1905 as the University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology (UMIST). UMIST became a fully independent institution in 1994.

The archives largely derive from the central administration of the University; comparatively little material from academic departments has survived. One of the most accessible sources for the history of the University is the set of printed Calendars, from 1862 onwards, which include lists of staff, graduates and students, syllabuses, details of fees, prizes and fellowships, and examination results.

Other records include the printed Reports of the Council to the Court of Governors, 1872 to the present, containing financial data and information on teaching and research; minutes and working papers of the Council and Senate, and of Council committees; records of the Vice-Chancellor's Department (correspondence, papers relating to university funding, newscuttings, VCs' engagement diaries, texts of articles and speeches by VCs); Registrar's Department correspondence; printed material relating to the history of Owens College and the University; printed material relating to individual departments and institutions of the University; general University publications; copies of articles and lectures by staff; declaration books containing personal details of newly-enrolled students; student registers; sets of examination papers (incorporated in the Calendar from 1862 to 1911); minute books of the students' union; student newspapers, magazines and other publications and ephemera concerning student politics; photographs and newscuttings.

The archives are important in charting the development of one of the earliest 'red-brick' universities. They are an invaluable source for studies of the history of higher education generally, issues such as the campaign to achieve equal access for women to higher education, trends in academic research and teaching, and student militancy.

Finding aids: outline handlists.

Location: JRULM (Main Library).

**John Rylands Library Archive**

Date range: 1890 to present.

The John Rylands Library was founded by Mrs Enriqueta Augustina Rylands as a memorial to her husband, who died in December 1888 leaving a fortune of some £2.5 million. John Rylands had developed the family firm of Rylands & Sons (see
p. 137) into one of the largest and most profitable cotton manufacturing concerns in Britain. Mrs Rylands employed the architect Basil Champneys to design a building in the neo-Gothic style. Construction began in 1890 and the Library opened to the public on 1 January 1900. Mrs Rylands's original intention had been to create a primarily theological library, but her purchases of the Spencer Collection of printed books in 1892, and the Crawford Collection of Western, Near Eastern and Far Eastern manuscripts in 1901, transformed the Library into a scholarly institution of international status. The Library was administered as an independent institution by a Council of Governors and a Board of Trustees. In 1972 the John Rylands Library merged with the Library of Manchester University to form the John Rylands University Library of Manchester, the third largest academic library in the United Kingdom. The original John Rylands Library building now houses the Special Collections Division of the JRULM.

The archives of the John Rylands Library are substantial and comprehensive. They include specifications, plans, accounts and correspondence concerning the original construction of the library (including correspondence between Mrs Rylands and Basil Champneys) and subsequent alterations and enlargements to the building; minute books of the Trustees, Governors, Book Committee and other committees; annual reports and statements of account; ledgers, cash books, petty cash books, wages books, invoices and other financial records; book and manuscript accession registers; letter-books; correspondence with readers, scholars, other institutions and suppliers; applications for readers' tickets; visitors' books; material relating to publications and exhibitions; newspaper cuttings books; and legal papers. As well as illuminating the history of the Library, the archive contains material of interest for wider studies in art history, architectural history, bibliography and nineteenth-century book-collecting.

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