



The Yorkshire Archaeological & Historical Society

For everyone interested in Yorkshire's past

YAHS Collections: a guide to access

The library and archive collections of the Society are looked after on our behalf by the University of Leeds in the Brotherton Library. Anyone may use the archives in Special Collections, as a visitor (details of all library facilities at <https://library.leeds.ac.uk>). Full members of YAHS can also borrow up to 10 items from any of the Brotherton's lending collections. This is subject to their usual recall and renewal rules. If you are not a full member of YAHS but are a member of a section or affiliated society, you can use the library on a reference-only basis. In either case, to obtain a reader's card, contact the Honorary Membership Secretary, who will issue you with a letter enabling you to apply to the library (membership@yahs.org.uk).

Library books:

Our non-reference library books are now included in the Brotherton's catalogue, which can be accessed online at <https://library.leeds.ac.uk>. You can search for either author or title. Those of our books of which the University did not previously have a copy are currently shelved together on Floor 1, Main Building. Books which were already in the Brotherton's catalogue have been flagged for retention as part of our library, but are still shelved in their original places, mainly in the 'Yorkshire' section on Floor 2, Main Building.

Our older (pre-1850) or unique library books are included in the same catalogue but now available for reference only in Special Collections, along with the Society's archives. Our journals and pamphlet collections are currently being catalogued, and details of how to access these will be supplied in due course.

Archives:

The YAHS archives are now available as part of the Brotherton's Special Collections, situated on Floor 4, Main Building. For a full guide to the Special Collections of the Brotherton go to https://library.leeds.ac.uk/info/1500/special_collections, where you will find a short description of the contents of each collection. In many cases you will also be able to see a digitised copy of our original paper lists (of varying ages and quality) by clicking on a link. The online guide is searchable by place, name, etc, but does not provide comprehensive indexes to all the material. For an overview of the YAHS collections see https://library.leeds.ac.uk/special-collections/collection/1176/yorkshire_archaeological_and_historical_society_collections.

In order to access the archives or printed reference material you will need to follow the Brotherton's guidance on planning your visit. It is necessary to give at least three days' notice of what you wish to look at (in practice it is wise to give longer notice, in case material has to be brought from a different store). You can do this on the website, <https://library.leeds.ac.uk/info/1504/using-collections/78/plan-a-visit>.

There is space in Special Collections for groups to work together in addition to the quiet area for private study. Mention when booking that you would like to work as a group. When you arrive you will need to put your possessions into one of the lockers provided, and use only pencil to write. There are also toilets available.

If you wish to order photocopies or digital photographs of material, or to request permission to publish, you will find details on the website.

If you are planning to request the loan of any item for exhibition, please note that it is essential to give at least six months' notice, so that a proper assessment can be made of the item's condition, and of the proposed display space. The Society is always happy to consider such requests, but we must also ensure that all proper precautions are taken to safeguard the collections for the future.

We hope you will enjoy using the collections

Sylvia Thomas
Honorary Collections Liaison Officer

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